

Laureate Address – Minh Tam Vu Tran - 19th February 2018

Ok.

So, I've never really been one to lecture others or anything in the realms of constructive advice... if anything, I've mostly been the one receiving it. And if I could attribute any of my success to one thing, it might just be that: listening.

Listening to teachers, and other people in general. It will be one of the primary ways you will learn; both in and outside of school. Make listening an active task. It should be something that requires conscious effort, because there will be *a lot* of information to take in during year 12. Your teachers are here for your education, and are available to help you. And this was something I should have done more often. Ask questions. Your teachers will give you all the resources for you to succeed, so listen and learn.

Finding your motivation to succeed will be crucial at school and for the years beyond. Develop a passion for learning. Your attitude to school and study can be your strength or your weakness. My point is, year 12 is an amazing feat of discipline and self-control... Knowing your motivation and drive will give you the strength mentally to overcome the challenges ahead.

Don't make my mistake and only expect perfection. We are human, and mistakes are a part of the learning process. Worry less about chasing perfection, and more about chasing your potential. Be confident in your ability to improve and succeed. I'm not

sure if any of you guys have done any assignments yet. But, know that you can turn a semester around from C's to B's or B's to A's if you really wanted to. I know because I've made it happen myself. Rebound from setbacks and take every opportunity to improve yourself.

To be standing here right now, I have my family, teachers, and friends to ~~blame~~ thank. I want to thank my mum and dad, for their support and for the countless sacrifices they've made for me to be here.

To all of my teachers from reception, I may never truly grasp or fully appreciate the amount of work put in for my success, but thank you.

I want to thank my chemistry teacher Mrs Hearn (even though she is no longer here), especially for drilling key words, acronyms, and extended responses into our heads.

I also want to thank my physics teacher, Mr Dobrijevic, for everything from his thorough approach to teaching, to his light-hearted humour. It made memorising qualitative questions a bit more bearable.

And finally, I want to thank my maths teacher, Mrs Frost. It's been an incredible 5 years journeying into the wacky world of mathematics, and on behalf of the accelerated and specs boys, I would like to thank you for your support and guidance, and for being immensely patient with us.

And I won't forget about my homegroup and religion teacher, Mr Ngeno. It must be strange for you to hear me talk more in these couple of minutes than I have for the entirety of the past 5 years, but I would never be given this horrid speech-giving

opportunity without your help...so thank you - and by that, I mean thanks for scaling up my religion.

Year 12's. Work hard, because sadly, there is no other way to do it. But always remember to take time away from study. Live your life in balance. Make your time here count, because it'll be one of the greatest years of your life. I wish you all the best.

Thank you.