

DUX Speech – Shiyao Han
Spoken at High Achievers Assembly in February 2023

Hello teachers, guests and students, it's my honour and pleasure to be here today, I thank the school for giving me the opportunity to share my VCE experience and give advice to the years below me.

I went into last year with the mindset that I had to devote all my time to VCE and study all day every day, and now that I have finished, I can confidently tell you that I didn't do that because it is impossible, and all that mindset had done was making my rest time less relaxing and made me less productive. So, as generic as it is, I want to advise all of you to manage your time wisely by creating and following a reasonable schedule that has both time to study and time off. Another tip, is something that I have gotten from my English language teacher Ms. Giles and that is to use the VCE study design. The study design has summaries of most of the content you learn in the subject, so you should read through it and try to borrow keywords that VCAA uses and mimic the ways VCAA describes concepts.

This next advice is more like a special message, a special message to the Year 12 chemistry class. In the last year you've probably heard a lot of people complaining about how hard it is, and I have to admit, I myself was one of the people complaining. However now that I've finished, I understand why it felt so hard, and one of the biggest tips I can give you is to focus on the checkpoint questions instead of the textbook questions, because the checkpoint questions have much more depth and are closer to the questions you would encounter in the exam. Another thing about chemistry, is that it started off very hard, but it does get easier as you move to Unit 4. So, do not give up.

And before I go, I would like to thank my all teachers, without you I couldn't have achieved what I have achieved today. I would like to thank Mr. Blackhall, who has been my teacher and learning mentor for almost 4 years, and I just want to thank him for being an awesome person and an excellent physics teacher. And I would also like to thank Dr. Keast and Ms. Motoki. In the past two years, I have been doing VCE Specialist online and if you are familiar with online learning, you would know how bad it can be, but in the last year Dr. Keast volunteered himself to be our specialist teacher and we would have a meeting with him every Friday lunch, talking about our progress and he would answer any question we would have. Ms. Motoki on the other hand managed our SAC schedules and regularly checked up on us and made sure we had access to things that other students had access to like the Knox revision sessions.

In the end, I want to wish the class of 2023 all the best I hope all of you can get into your dream course. Thank you.