

To my Edwins Brothers,

It only seems like yesterday that I hung up my Blue and Gold, yet it was almost a year ago, that I experienced the same challenging period that is the coming months for you. It is one of the most emotional times you'll experience, with exams and graduation looming, however you will look back fondly on the conclusion of your high schooling years. I have been asked to impart some advice to you to help navigate this period of your lives, however if you feel that you have a system that works best, you do you.

It's not too late!!!

If you're like me, you are probably regretting watching every single episode of *"The Fresh Prince of Bel Air"*, not once, but twice, throughout the schooling year, and it feels like there is a mountain of knowledge you haven't learnt and a whole lot of study you haven't done. It may feel like you're drowning, and are not confident about how you'll manage exams, however there is still time! It is clichéd, but you can still achieve your academic goals. It's all a matter of using what's remaining of the time you have left to blitz the areas of knowledge that will be on the exams and ensuring you are doing the best you can.

Holidays

Use these holidays wisely. For those doing a VCE language, I'm sure a large part of these holidays will be spent preparing for the oral, as was mine, however for the rest of you lucky souls, you're looking at two weeks of perfect study time. Look at the study guides for each subject and make sure you have some semblance of knowledge about each key area of learning. For example, during Legal Studies last year, I made notes under each heading of the listed areas in the study guide. The same can be applied for most subjects. At the very minimum, at least you have some basic knowledge written in your own words that you can take into practice exams. If you have the time, do at least one to three practice exams before the actual school one. It may come as a surprise to you, but your teachers are actually right about approaching the trial exams as you would real exams. I was underprepared for trial exams and my results reflected this, particularly my English result. Once you've received your trial result back, make sure you read the feedback and talk with your best friends (your teachers) to highlight areas of improvement.

Exam Period

Once the exam period is on you, ensure that you at least feel half comfortable with what's required. I tried to do at least 7-8 practice exams for each subject. It's important to be focused, but not overly anxious about exams because too much stress will not help you. Utilise your teachers' feedback and form study groups to collaborate your knowledge. Please do take some time to relax and unwind and ensure you're maintaining your health.

Beyond exams

It is important to remember that the ATAR is just a number and isn't a definition of character. Life isn't like a prison where you'll only be referred to as number 74 or 96 or 53. However, as Malcolm X once said, "education is the passport to our future", and it is important to work towards receiving the result which enables you to pursue your passion. The last week of school is an important and emotional time, soak it all in and reflect on your experiences at this wonderful college. There is a big scary world outside of De La, as surprising as it seems, and you'll appreciate your schooling years a lot more when you finally leave. When results and offers come out, speak to your family, teachers and careers advisor on your best possible course of action.

I wish the very best of luck to all of you. With the calibre of gentlemen that reside within Edwins I'm sure you will all kill it. I hope to see you on the other side.

Kind Regards,

Sri.