

Ishaan Kanodia – Speaker 2021

Good evening Mr Ng, parents, teachers and distinguished guests. My name is Ishaan Kanodia and I would like to thank Northshore for all the wonderful opportunities it has provided me with, that eventually led to me being accepted in Perth Modern School and receiving a scholarship to Christ Church Grammar School. Before I begin, I would like to applaud all of you here today, it means you have persevered through tough times and through hard work, have managed success.

I first came to north shore in year 4 and at the time I really didn't want to be there. Waking up early on a Saturday morning to spend 3 hours doing tuition that was harder than my schoolwork, this seemed really dull. To add to that, we got homework, to a ten-year-old all of this was seemed to be a nightmare. But after a few weeks I remembered getting my homework back and on it was a B+. This was much better than the Cs I'd been getting. Up until that point, I could barely understand the topics, even after our teacher explained them in class. But at that moment, something shifted inside me, this wasn't torture, it was actually fun. North Shore helped me develop pattern recognition, problem solving and critical thinking skills, skills that would come in really handy for standardised testing and just life in general.

The teachers at north shore are passionate about what they teach and are all around sincere and hard-working people. They always give constructive and detailed feedback and visually show what you need to improve. They drive you to put in 200% of your effort in all of your tasks. This makes it that much more satisfying when you get a certificate because you knew that you worked hard for it. Over time, as you collect more and more certificates, you can strive for higher and higher awards. You change from the mentality of just trying to get the 20-certificate trophy, to truly believing you can get one of the king 75 certificate trophies. When I first went up to the giant trophy, it looked daunting compared to the others. But as I got more and more certificates, the dream looked like a reality. I remembered one day I was counting my certificates, 76. I immediately rushed to the front counter and traded them in, that day I looked back on everything I had done at north shore, this was the first big achievement. It felt even more satisfying then winning the trophy for the best in the term as this was a 2-year endeavour where the end result took a long time to reach. This gave me motivation when I needed it most, because right after I received that, it was the gruelling holiday program. For the last week of the summer holidays, you would spend the whole day doing practice tests and extra homework that was due the next day. It was safe to say this was a challenge. But somehow, I made it out better than I came in, this seemed to be a recurring theme at north shore.

I would like to thank my parents who helped and guided me along this journey at north shore, they have been truly supportive and wouldn't be here without them. The path you take at North Shore is like the one taken to climb a mountain range. The journey is long and it often hard to see where it ends, there are numerous ups and downs and many unexpected challenges. But once you come out the other side you surprise yourself with what you achieved and you come out as a stronger person.

Thank You`