

Hello, distinguished staff, parents and students.

I want to firstly thank the people responsible for my success over the years. Without them, I would not be where I am today. I want to show gratitude towards my parents, who have supported me, pushed me, and craved me into the person that I am now. They never gave up on me, even when I felt like giving up. I would also like to thank North Shore and its staff, especially Shaxx for pushing me to a level I never thought was possible. Shaxx has been my teacher and mentor since year 11 and without him I wouldn't have got a 99 ATAR. I remember when I received my ATAR score at around 3 in the after afternoon. At 3:02 I was on the phone with Shaxx. I have never had a teacher as great and as awesome as Shaxx and I don't think I ever will.

A bit about me. My name is Taranvir Kular. I achieved an ATAR of 99.15, placing me in the top 0.85% of all participants in Australia. I have been a North Shore student since year 3 and am now a teacher at North Shore, trying to inspire students just like my teachers inspired me.

When I started North Shore in Year 3, I was by far not the smartest person in class. I struggled. The first couple of years were not easy, I had never seen problems of that style or that level and all I could do at the time was simple arithmetic.

But I didn't give up. My parents made sure of that. They spent so much time outside of class, making sure I understood each and every problem and that I understood the concepts.

There is a famous quote by Kevin Dyrant.

“Hard work beats talent, when talent fails to work hard”.

If you're doing well now then, that's great, keep working hard and you will keep doing well. If you're not doing well, then don't give up. There is always a chance and it's not over till YOU decide it's over.

And the best way to improve is to not just blindly copy down the answer, or blindly follow a series of steps that will give you the answer. It is to UNDERSTAND the concepts. That is why you come to North Shore. You come to learn and enrich your UNDERSTANDING. What you're doing now, you are building a base. A foundation. A foundation for all the work and concepts you will learn in your future years, not just in year 11 and 12 but beyond that as well. If you understand what you do at North Shore, school and your tests will become much much easier. I know, I've done it, I've experienced it.

One final word of advice.

Don't chase success, strive for excellence. Success will automatically follow.

Thank you.