

Andy Mak – Speech (2022)

Good evening National Managing Director Anson Mak, WA Principal Bill Ng, Deputy Principal Iris Ng, Campus Directors, distinguished guests, winners, teachers and staff members,

On behalf of North Shore Coaching College, I welcome you all to this wonderful presentation ceremony. It has been three years since I last attended the WA presentation ceremony and I am grateful to be able to celebrate with you tonight. I feel very honoured and excited when we can all get together to celebrate the academic success of some of our finest students.

To all our award recipients tonight, I urge you to value every second, every minute, every hour, every day and every year. The next 10, 20 years will be your golden era. Your brain can digest, absorb and remember lots of knowledge. Do not waste too much time in playing computer games or watching TV. They are enticing and exciting but they are also time thieves and destroyers. Next time when you are free, pick up a book to read instead of picking up the computer game.

Australia and in fact the whole world have been going through a very difficult period in the last two and a half years, thanks to the once in a hundred years pandemic, COVID-19. I vividly remember in early January 2020 when Australia still had no COVID-19 cases, the virus was already rampant in China and Hong Kong. Schools and even the entire city had to be closed to curb the spread. I was pondering what would happen if the virus did come to Australia? Would North Shore need to close? If so, it would be a huge blow to the progress of our students. Fearing the worst, I made a bold, risky yet correct decision and that is to prepare North Shore for online learning. I assembled an elite team of teachers and IT professionals, working 7 days a week for two months to set up the North Shore online learning environment which include Zoom lessons, recorded lessons, homework help, homework submission, marking and retrieval. When the virus finally came to Australia in March 2020, we endured months of lockdown with schools closed but North Shore was well-prepared to offer the North Shore Online Learning portal to our students to ensure their learning would not be interrupted. What an achievement!

Life is full of ups and downs. While I was celebrating the success of the North Shore online learning, my wife Mrs Mak, one of our founders, tragically passed away in May 2020. I was very depressed but quickly realized that life moves on. I am proud to have set up the North Shore Coaching College Charity Foundation in memory of Mrs Demi Mak. Investment income from the funds in the Foundation has been supporting charity works since 2021. To date we have supported charity organisations such as CanRevive Foundation – which provides direct support and counselling services to cancer patients and their

families, and St Edmund's College in the form of supporting the education and wellbeing of students with disabilities via a Bursary. Mrs Mak was a capable businesswoman and a fearless leader, who supported worthy causes throughout her life.

Despite our setbacks in life, North Shore continues to innovate and forge ahead in educating more and more students. This year we rolled out our NAPLAN adaptive testing platform and we continue to look for new ways to prepare our students for upcoming exams, report performance and to improve learning. This complements our long standing track record of working with universities and Governments in leading edge educational projects.

In my many years of running the North Shore, there is one thing we must never forget, and that is to say thank you. To all our award winners tonight, while you should be very proud of your own success, you should also be aware of those facilitators who have been looking after you, encouraging you, supporting you, providing you with all necessities of life and giving you every opportunity to excel. Guess who? Get it? Your parents, your mums and dads!! Students, when you see your parents after the conclusion of this presentation ceremony, please run to them, hug them and say loudly to them: "thank you my mum and dad, thank you, I love you".

North Shore Coaching College was established in 1991 in Sydney. Western Australia campuses started nine years later and continue to grow from strength to strength. I would like to express my thanks to Mr Bill Ng, Mrs Iris Ng and the entire WA North Shore team for their hard work, commitment and dedication to delivering and achieving our goal: Tuition that Works! to thousands of students each year. I would also like to thank my family for their tireless support.

Congratulations everyone and stay safe!