



# AUCKLAND GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Founded 1869

11 March 2014

## TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

RE: Study Skills for Success

Darren Pereira of Success Integrated has been presenting his 'Shape Your Destiny' seminar to our Year 12 cohort of students since 2003. This seminar is designed to make students aware of their personal strengths and values and to identify directions and goals for their future career and life. Over the last decade, literally thousands of Grammar students have both enjoyed and benefitted from his high-energy presentation skills, effective use of audio-visual techniques and engaging learning strategies.

Three years ago, we asked Darren to present his Study Skills for Success seminar to our Year 11 students. I chose to provide this opportunity to students in Year 11 because this is the first of three years in the senior school when a major and critical focus is gaining qualifications through both national and international examinations. Study Skills for Success is a study skills programme with a difference. It combines study skills with motivation and resiliency strategies, to give senior school students the tools needed to maximise their academic results. The Study Skills for Success seminar includes a wide range of study tips and methodologies as well as promoting the important character traits required to apply these skills for optimum success.

Much of the 'content' of Darren's seminar can be, and in many schools is, delivered in normal classroom sessions, but with limited impact and results. Analysing the feedback forms completed by the boys and talking with many of them after the seminar, it became clear to me that the vast majority of our students found the seminar fun and, more importantly, worthwhile. When asked what they had gained from the seminar, common responses included, an understanding of the principles and processes that contribute to effective learning, a 'tool-kit' of effective time-management and study strategies and the confidence and motivation to overcome obstacles and stay focussed on achieving academic goals. This is precisely what I had hoped Darren would achieve with our students and, therefore, I feel there is no question that engaging him was a worthwhile investment for the school

I warmly recommend Darren Pereira and his Study Skills for Success seminar.

Yours faithfully,

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