



Siena
Catholic College



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Parents of teenage boys would know that it is often difficult to get more than a monosyllabic grunt in response to any question about a day at school. However, recently, one of my sons came home from school and told my wife and I, without prompting, that he had had that funny Indian guy again. Being a teacher at the school, I was aware that the Darren Pereria show was in town, so I was interested to hear what he had to say-

- he was funny,
- he got us pumped up,
- kids had to be involved,
- the loud music got us going and
- he talked about stuff that was interesting.

"What stuff?"

"Well, last year, when we were picking subjects for senior, he told us to do what we loved and then we would love what we do. This year, he gave us a strategy for achieving our goals."

Now if that was all he got from two sessions with Darren I was a happy parent!

As a parent, I also took the opportunity to attend the Parent Information evening. Again, informative and entertaining with clear messages. Darren reminds parents carefully that while so much has changed since they were teenagers, some things have not. Good nutrition, rest and the need to belong. This complemented the student presentation and gave my wife and I and our son, a safe conversation and a common academic direction.

Darren has visited our school on several occasions and worked with Year 10 and Yr 11 students. They were more than *presentations* as Darren's enthusiasm is contagious and even the toughest nuts are drawn into the sessions. He uses personal, interesting, entertaining, funny stories to teach skills and strategies. My favourite is the Lleyton Hewitt *com'on* story. Only Darren can tell this one.

I am sure that Darren has many presentations available and that he can tailor one to match any need. We use ***Shape Your Destiny*** to complement our Year 10 subject selection process and ***Study Skills for Success*** at the beginning of the year to motivate and assist Year 11 students with senior study demands.

I am sure that most schools have programs that aim to help students make informed and correct decisions. Darren's presentations will complement and enhance these. They will energise and engage students and give them the opportunity to take an active role in decision making.

Bill Kelly

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