



Moama Anglican Grammar School

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To Whom It May Concern,

Our students were immediately captivated by Darren's remarkable combination of enthusiasm, expertise and warmth. He immediately connected with the students, not only challenging them to strive for their best, but teaching them practical study strategies to BE their best. The students were inspired by Darren's B.E.S.T acronym (belief, excellence, study, toughness) which particularly reinforced the connection between *seeing*, *believing* and *achieving* and having the *fortitude* to keep going, *especially* when it gets tough. The science of memory, the importance of repetition and saying things out loud, writing and reviewing notes, studying in chunks, and teaching what you know to others as a means of consolidating learning were other key messages the students noted. Kinesthetic learners were both fascinated and relieved to learn of the 'walk and talk' strategy. And, contrary to their preferred music style, many students have since spoken of their intentional experimentation with Baroque music while studying to induce relaxed alertness and increase recall. 'Spirulina' has become a 'buzz word' in the Year 12 Study Room!

It has been interesting to note that some students have since emailed Darren and/or accessed further information from his Facebook page; testimony to their appreciation for this presentation and their desire to consolidate their own key learning. In Pastoral Care class, teachers have encouraged students' to use Darren's 'Habit Formation Tracker', the Study/Homework Plan and model for how to take effective notes. Also, Darren's Time Management strategy has been shared with other HSC teachers.

Undoubtedly, participating in Darren's Study Skills presentation was highly motivating for our students, rousing their determination and enthusiasm to succeed. His knowledge of HOW to study and his fervour definitely heightened our students' interest in and commitment to their studies and enhanced their experience of Year 12 camp.

DJ Benny was also a great hit with our students, sharing his expertise with them and showing interest in theirs. Our students appreciated the opportunity to 'spin' with Benny and discuss the music industry with him.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Darren, Benny and Paula for their professionalism. As a company, they have been delightful to work with! We look forward to working with them again in 2015.

Yours sincerely

Libby Barnes

Libby Barnes
Head of Pastoral Care

Guy Evans

Guy Evans
Principal