Mrs Thompson: Welcome Waterford College students to the first session of our 2019 study camp. Our first session today will feature two of our top performing students from last year who will talk about their experience doing VCE last year and give you some tips about what you can do to achieve your best this year. I have the great pleasure of introducing Huong Tran who will be studying Veterinary Science this year and Carol Ambrosio who will be studying Physiotherapy. Welcome back girls!

Carol: Thanks, Mrs Thompson!

Huong: Yeah thanks, Mrs T. Do you know what’s weird Carol: last year we were sitting in the same spot as these students, listening to a talk like this.

Carol: Yeah, I know, it’s pretty weird. I didn’t think I’d be up here.

Huong: Well, guys. last year, when we were sitting where you are now, the students who spoke to us had some really good messages and I thought I might start with one of them that made a big impact on me. Your goal should be to make the most of your opportunities in the last year of school. This mightn’t seem like such an earth shattering thing to say, but it kinda is. You guys will be setting goals over the next few days, and when you set goals, you like, often think of what score you want to get or what course you want to get into at the end of the year. Your ATAR is important, but it’s not everything. There’s so many things you can do in Year 12. You can really participate in class and have great discussions; you can do the production, help out with student committees, play sport, be part of the group that organises the formal. I think I’m forgetting some things...

Carol: Yeah, you can do the Kokoda trail at the end of the year, join lunch time clubs...

Carol and Huong: ...like the Shrek appreciation society!!!

Carol: ...There’s lots of stuff. The point is the girls who spoke to us last year didn’t just study all the time and get stressed out about their marks. Their goal was to enjoy the year. Not by partying and getting drunk...

Huong: No...definitely not that...

Carol: But by doing some of the great stuff that Waterford College offers. And they had fun. Kids who enjoy what school has to offer enjoy school. And then they do well in lots of ways. Last year, after Huong and I heard the two girls speak to us, we decided to do a few things we’d never done before. We did the production and we joined the girls volleyball team....[laughs]...ah...we were so bad at volleyball.

Huong: We even coached the Year 7s - and we didn’t know what we were doing. But it was so much fun.

Carol: Yeah. Year 7s are cool. And we decided that we’d talk to kids in class that we didn’t normally talk to.

Huong: That was so much fun! Look around you, guys - there’s nearly 120 kids in Year 12. Lots of them you’ve probably never talked to. And class can be so much more fun when you actually talk!

A Ticking Mind Resource
Carol: O.k, what else did we have to talk about, Huong?

Huong: Ah...study...study. Remember, Mrs T said we had to talk about some study skills stuff.

Carol: Oh yeah, study. So Huong and I tried to do something fun each day and we tried to also do some study each day. The best advice I got last year was to make a checklist of study goals. It was actually Mrs Thompson who taught us this one.

Huong: Yeah, she's the best. Make sure you listen to her, guys.

Carol: Anyway, Mrs Thompson taught us that once a week we should make a list of stuff that we wanted to get better at for each subject. Like I need to get better at writing paragraphs in English or...or...help me out Huong...

Huong: Or I need to remember the different types of genes...I always found that tricky. Or what was something from Psych...

Carol: Circadian phase disorder...remember that? Well, the point is, list the things you need to remember or you're not getting. Put them in a checklist and then figure out when you're going to study for them and how.

Huong: Yeah, so you might say you going to use a word list from your English textbook to help with writing a paragraph and you'll make a poster to help remember the types of genes.

Carol: Mrs Thompson said write it, say it, draw it - that was a good trick.

Huong: And when you do your study - you tick off the thing you did from your checklist.

Carol: It seems simple saying it like this, but it really worked.

Huong: It really did. It's was great for keeping me organised.

Carol: So I guess, all up, we want to say take the opportunities you have at Waterford College to make this a fun year. This school is really great - so do some of the great things.

Huong: And make study checklists - they sound nerdy, but they work. Good luck!