



Meet The Graduate – Melissa McNamb

Video Transcript

This transcript is of Edition #04 – How do we care for each other?

Music to start		
Question 1:	[Visual]	Introduce yourself and tell us where you work
Melissa:	00:09	My name is Melissa. I am a second-grade teacher. I teach Drama, English and Health and I work at Canterbury Girls Secondary College.
Question 2:	[Visual]	How did your first day go?
Melissa:	00:23	So my first day was actually a PD day, which was really good cause I got to come in and meet all the other staff members and my mentor who was amazing and supported me throughout the year. My first teaching day, I think I was actually terrified, but it was really good and I did very quickly become comfortable with the students and getting to know them in the classroom space
Question 3:	[Visual]	What were your expectations about starting and what was different?
Melissa:	00:51	I think one of the big things for me was I had to get over my idea of what my teachers were like at school. Because from memory you know, there was a big difference there and a distance I should say and since becoming a teacher, I found that I can put a lot more personality and fun into the classroom and I don't have to be sort of scary, ominous figure. And it makes the classes a lot more fun, get to know the students and they're more relaxed in the environment.

Question 4:	[Visual]	What has been the best thing in school so far?
Melissa:	01:23	I think some of the best things are the opportunities that you have to get to know kids outside the classroom. So through excursions, camps, sports days, cause we kind of get to know their personalities outside of the learning environment you can create these memories with them, joke around and then that feeds back into your classroom rapport. I also enjoy how much we're encouraged to get involved in the house system as a drama teacher I love any opportunity to dress up and wear shiny, sparkly things. So, it's been fantastic.
Question 5:	[Visual]	What is the best thing that has happened in the classroom?
Melissa:	02:14	Last year I got the opportunity to do some team teaching, which was really good. It's fantastic to have that kind of support with another teacher for that subject. It was a music theatre subject and we put on a production of beauty and the beast. So the girls did the costumes, they played all the roles, they did the set design and props and there was that mad rush at the end to get it all done. But watching them transform from kind of going, oh yeah, we're doing this subject. For a bit of fun to putting in and making lots of effort into turning out this really good production that their hearts and souls were in with this, just absolutely gorgeous. I loved it.
Question 6:	[Visual]	What has been a challenge and how did you overcome it?
Melissa:	02:45	I think one of the biggest challenges that you face as a graduate teacher is getting your head around the workload. I mean, you study for it, you learn all the theory, you do placements, and then when you get into full time teaching position and you'd also doing your VIT it's a lot. It is. It's a lot and you shouldn't talk it down. You should accept that it's a lot and you should acknowledge what you need as well. So, something I know about myself is I require sleep, regular sleep patterns. So very early on I made sure that I got to sleep at a reasonable time and woke up at a reasonable time. Something else that helped with that, with working out how I work. I work really well in the mornings at

school when it's very quiet for other people get here, but by the end of the day, I'm absolutely dead. So, I would make the effort to go to bed early, get up early, come to school early and get as much work done as possible. If I didn't get all my marking down on the day that I wanted to, it was kind of better to let that go, get a good night's sleep and continue marking the next day with a clear head, then beat myself up, give myself sleep deprivation and then affect my teaching because of it

Question 7: [Visual] If you could go back in time, what would you tell your first day self?

Melissa: 04:05 It's going to be okay. The good days far outweigh the bad days. It's a lot of learning. It's continual learning, but that's good.

Music to End