



# EDITION 12: HOW DO WE CELEBRATE SUCCESS?

## *Transcript*

Ben Pisani & Lauren Santalucia

Ben:	<a href="#">00:03</a>	Hi, welcome to the graduate teacher learning series podcast channel, I'm Ben and I will be hosting this session in this podcast series. We will be talking to graduate teachers, mentors and experts about a variety of different topics that relate to each editions framing question. We will also get the graduates and mentors to share some reflections on their practices that may assist you in yours. In each podcast, the graduates and mentors will be asked the same questions so you can hear the different perspectives on each topic. Okay, sit back and relax and let's get into this edition of the graduate teacher learning series podcast, talking to a graduate teacher
Ben:	<a href="#">00:51</a>	Hi, thanks for being part of this podcast. Can you please introduce yourself and tell us a little about where you are working and some of your experiences?
Lauren:	<a href="#">01:08</a>	I'm Lauren Santalucia and I work at Melba College, which is a government secondary school. I'm a media teacher and I teach year nine and VCE, but I also teach year seven humanities and English too.
Ben:	<a href="#">01:27</a>	In this first section of the podcast our discussion will focus on the framing questions for this edition. What do you think makes a great teacher?
Lauren:	<a href="#">01:35</a>	I think a great teacher is somebody that is passionate about what they teach. Also, somebody that is caring and understanding about the students and about the school community. Also, they obviously need to know their content, so

willing to learn about the world and from the students because the students have a lot to offer as well. And also, you need to be organized because there's so many things that happen in a teacher's day that you never know what might happen. So, you need to be able to, to change things at last minute.

Ben: [02:13](#)

Looking back over your year, what are the top five achievements that you are proud of?

Lauren: [02:17](#)

I'm proud of the connections I've made with my students. I think in a lot of my classes I've created engaging and interesting learning environments. I'm also proud of the work I've done with my year 12 media class, especially with their productions. They have to make their own films and things like that. So, when you actually see what they've done, you kind of get blown away by some of the work that they produce. I also taught my year nines about sound design, which is something that I've had a fair bit of experience in. And just seeing the way that they receive that knowledge and then they go off and watch films on their own and then they come back to me and say, oh, miss, you know, I, I saw this in it and you can see that they're actually interested in the content that we're learning about. I'm also proud that I had my first home group. And, it was, it was actually really interesting to have that and the connections that you have with those students because you see them every morning and you kind of check in with them and you know, later than, throughout this year, every time that they see me, they want to tell me things about their home life. And, and it's just building personal connections. I also had to teach English and that's not really something that I had a lot of experience in, but I actually really enjoyed it and we were even teaching a film text this, this term and that was really interesting. And also, I guess I'm really proud of just having my own classroom and creating my own teaching environment. And obviously when you're on placement you kind of do that, but because you've got the placement teacher that that's with you, you don't really get to do things your own way. So, it was nice just having that freedom and having your own teacher identity, I guess. So, the, they're the things I guess I'm proud of

Ben: [04:15](#)

Success. What does it look like in the classroom and how do you celebrate it?

<p>Lauren: <a href="#">04:20</a></p>	<p>I think success is when you as a teacher and the students are all working together collaboratively, so everyone feels included in the classroom, everyone understands what's going on, but also it creates a really great dynamic and in some way you're, you're learning from each other and everyone can put their thoughts in and it's a creative environment, but also its achieving goals. And I celebrate this through, through the school, by acknowledging these achievements and making students feel like they've reached their goals, but also making them feel, feel special that they've been able to gain this new knowledge and also help the classmates around them to do better.</p>
<p>Ben: <a href="#">05:12</a></p>	<p>moving forward, what changes are you going to make to your practice based on the experiences that you have had this year to improve student learning outcomes?</p>
<p>Lauren: <a href="#">05:20</a></p>	<p>One thing that I probably need to change is to follow through with discipline. I think especially when you're a first-year teacher, you're probably a bit more lenient with work because you want to be more understanding. You still have, without saying that teachers aren't human, but yeah, you kind of have more understanding of the human aspects of, of people and you kind of see it more from a learners perspective because you've just come out of uni, so you're still got that learner in you. And I guess as a teacher you're always learning, but you kind of see it from their point of view and you don't want to be like, no, you know, these has to be in today and punishing them when it's just kind of something that you, you just don't want to be that person straight away in, especially in your first year. I guess every teacher wants to connect with their students. And in that way, I guess I kind of was probably a bit more lenient with things, so probably be a bit more, more strict with that but I think that just takes practice and a bit of confidence and after teaching for a year, I definitely have a lot more confidence in the classroom. And obviously, yeah, once you get to know your students, I think it's easier to kind of know where they're at with work. So, yeah.</p>
<p>Ben: <a href="#">06:40</a></p>	<p>What advice do you have for graduates out there?</p>
<p>Lauren: <a href="#">06:51</a></p>	<p>My advice would be to really build your teacher identity. So, shape your teaching around others, teachers that inspire you especially, because as, as learners and just as people, we often had teachers that really influenced us because that's why we</p>

maybe became teachers. So, remember what they did that made you want to get into this profession and kind of build your teacher identity around that. Also, you obviously know your content, so once you know your content and you're passionate about it, you can then engage those learners and then it's pretty easy from there because it's something that you're interested in and something that you care about, and then once the students see that, then they want to care about it too. So yeah, that would be my advice.

Ben: [07:39](#) What are your time management tips?

Lauren: [07:49](#) So, my time tips would be to try and get as much work done at work when you can. I try to separate my personal life and my work life because otherwise, especially with teaching, it's a 24 seven job and you're always thinking about something at home on the weekends and any marking or work that you need to do. So, timewise, try and get as much done in your, in your free periods as you can. If you have to stay back, just get it done. Otherwise you'd just be thinking about it constantly. Also, I try to follow my unit timeline as closely as I can just to keep tracking with that, so you kind of know where you're at. And obviously just checking in with other teachers just to see where they are at in their unit plan, especially with subjects such as Humanities and English where you have to kind of be on that timeline. So, yeah

Ben: [08:46](#) What department resources have you found to be particularly useful in your classroom practice as a teacher?

Lauren: [08:59](#) Okay, so I thought that the HITS were very useful for my teaching, especially setting goals for students. So, understanding what they want to achieve from the subject and then building the content around that. With my year 12 media class, we shared worked examples of previous year's work so then they can understand and begin thinking cause it's that's all about ideas and we have the opportunity to give feedback in in that class as well because as they progress and make their folios and their productions, I can then give them advice along the way. And I would talk to students one on one about how they're going and where they can improve. So just making sure that you allow that time for feedback. I would also make sure that you take time to check in with every student and see how they're going, see how their progress is going, but also just their

wellbeing and making sure that they're okay, especially in year 12 they can get very stressed. With seven classes, we do a lot of collaborative learning and group work so they can work together to build ideas because sometimes just having their own ideas, original ideas can be very difficult. We recently studied a film in English, and I got them to analyze different characters and understand the themes and that's some, some group work, we also did debating, which was another example of group work. Also just questioning of their work and get them to begin critical thinking, which I think is important in the early years of education

Ben: [10:42](#) In a new career it can sometimes be difficult to ask for help. Who should graduates turn to?

Lauren: [10:48](#) I think graduating should turn to the mentor teacher firstly because they can offer a lot of advice and they're kind of a friend that you have instantly when you work somewhere. I'm pretty lucky where I work because I'm part of a really great team that supported me. So, I speak to my domain leaders, so I've got a group in the Humanities and English and we all teach year seven, so we can all talk together about that. Also, there's another media teacher that I speak to about all of my media questions or concerns. Also where we work, we have a little arts office and I really enjoy being in there because it's all different creative people from music and drama and art and just all these different subjects, but because we're all creative, we all just kind of, you know, laugh at recess and lunch and we kind of talk about things and we talk about our work, but it's nice just, you know, being able to talk to people about the work, but also just having a bit of downtime with them and just getting to know the colleagues that you work with. I think that's really important.

Ben: [11:58](#) And finally give us your words of wisdom,

Lauren: [12:08](#) So my words of wisdom I guess would be to know your content mostly, because then you know, you can feel very overwhelmed if you're not really sure what you're doing. So, try not to be overwhelmed and know that it's okay to make mistakes. We are human, so as long as we reflect back on each class and make changes, we can only become more confident and better teachers in the future.

Ben:

[12:32](#)

And that's it for the graduate teacher learning series podcast. Thank you to our guests for sharing their experiences and thank you for listening. We'll see you next time. Bye for now.