****Expo 2016 — Research Project in the SACE****

**Now I wanted to talk to you about that Research Project. This person who’s making the quote he says there’s one real skill at school, more powerful than anything else. Ok, it’s how to learn.**

**Really important makes a lot of sense especially now and we in schools and in education have to be able to force that out of you, that capacity to be able to do that. We have to value it and we need you to value it and understand and appreciate how powerful it is. So when you’re thinking about that preparing for life, there’s a couple of things.**

**Martin Westwell who’s a Strategic Professor of Science at Flinders University. He says – and I think he took this from Piaget – being prepared for life, learning and work is knowing what to do when you don’t know what to do.**

**And it’s really important when you’re doing a test, you’re sitting there and you get a question that you don’t understand. Who’s ever felt like that? Good. Your first thing is to, I don’t know how to do this. But then your second thought is ‘actually yeah I do, what do I know about this? How might I get that down? Then what don’t I know next? And how might I go about finding it?’ And you get a way of turning yourself from being uncomfortable to being comfortable. It’s a really important feeling but that’s of being an empowered learner.**

**The second part is about being able to adapt. Being able to do that is very powerful. It’s an important skill to have.**

**And the last one, it’s never a bad thing to be passionate. Choose a topic you’re passionate about, enjoy it, and make the most of it and in your Research Project that’s your chance because in Biology we’re going to tell you exactly what you learn; same in maths; same in English. But in the Research Project you’re telling us what you’re passionate about. Don’t waste it about something you’re not passionate about, there’s plenty of time to do that. Pick something that you really think is important to you. So this is the whole point of it. The idea that you would be able to follow your passion, to show us that you can learn, to be better as a learner.**

**Every person I’ve ever spoken to who has done the Research Project at the end of it doesn’t need feedback from anybody else. They’ll say to you ‘You know what? I’ve found this hard, this really good and if I’ve had my time again I’d do this’ and I say to them ‘that’s great because you’re going to get that time again’. That is the power of it. Now for us in the SACE Board it’s our chance to certify that you actually can do those things, just like that you’re literate, just like you’re numerate. So it’s an opportunity to say ‘Yes you’re eligible for your qualification because you’ve shown us that you can do this to the standard required’.**

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