Transition – They all talk about it but how easy is it?

There are those times in life when we leave behind familiarity to take on new experiences, challenges and opportunities. Transitioning from school into the ‘other is full of excitement, uncertainty and challenges - some tips for successful transition are:

**Tip 1:** The ‘talking heads’ presentations during career information sessions provide valuable information, so pay attention – some of it won’t make sense or seem relevant while you are still at school ... but it will later on down the track

**Tip 2:** Remember that you will start off as the ‘little fish in a very big pond’ until you establish yourself again. Be mindful of the different attitudes, ways of doing things, generational differences that present themselves. Everyone has the right to an opinion but remember opinions require mutual respect and positive communication ... this can start with you.

**Tip 3:** Ask questions both at school and when you are out in the ‘other world’. ... remember that no question is a trivial question and ‘smart’ people always ask.

**Tip 4:** Naturally, it’s important to listen to others but think for yourself – deciding on your career direction is not a group decision, it’s your decision ... be true to yourself and consider the career direction that is most appropriate and achievable for you.

**Tip 5:** Smart people ask for support and help when faced with education, budgeting, personal or living challenges ... there is no shame or loss of face attached to receiving assistance.

**Tip 6:** It is vital to do your research and keep researching career directions, options, appropriate and achievable pathways, scholarship opportunities, job opportunities, internships, overseas study opportunities, financial support options etc

**Tip 7:** Transition is real ... It takes time to feel comfortable in the ‘other world’ ... the world outside school. You will be learning heaps of new, personal, life and career skills and when developing any new skill, practice makes perfect. Be patient with yourself, acknowledge small issues and take timely and considered action before they become big problems.

**Tip 8:** If your career choice requires you to build a reputation and/or industry experience before you can earn enough to support yourself (ie sport, music, acting, and writing), start building a portfolio before leaving school by volunteering, joining amateur groups and/or performances. While you are building your reputation and/or portfolio consider other career options you can pursue while you are waiting to ‘be discovered’.

**Tip 9:** One’s career decision at the end of Year 12 is not usually for life no matter how sure you are at the time. If your career choice doesn’t turn out like you expected don’t be afraid to make a change after considered thought, thorough research and consultation with people who can support you in making a timely and appropriate career change.

**Tip 10:** Networking is one of your most powerful tools ... and it’s not all about which school you went to. Adopt a ‘have a chat’ approach to everyone you meet, your fellow students, trainers, lecturers, boss, friend's parents, parent’s friends, sporting and/or cultural groups, even ‘randoms’ (being mindful of personal safety). You will come across as confident, hone up your communication skills and you never know who knows who.

**Words of wisdom** ... think twice and do and/or say once, make the most of your efforts, look out for opportunities but above all enjoy the journey.

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