



AUCKLAND GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Founded 1869

28 August 2004

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

RE: "Shape Your Destiny" Seminar

In August this year I engaged Darren Pereira, of Success Integrated, to present his "Shape Your Destiny" seminar to our Year 12 cohort of over 500 boys. To cope with such a large number of students Darren gave two seminars on consecutive days. This still meant that he was presenting to over 250 students in each session. Throughout both sessions he had the complete attention and co-operation of the boys. He achieved this through a combination of his high-energy presentation skills, effective use of audio-visual techniques and engaging learning strategies.

Darren is an enthusiastic, articulate and empathetic presenter. He quickly established a rapport with the boys. By initially sharing his own life experiences with his audience he established his credibility and sincerity. Darren's high-energy presentation itself energises his audience. His discerning selection and use of music and DJ not only added a sense of mood, and subtly communicated or reinforced important ideas and messages, it also made the seminar fun, especially when the boys were out of their seats dancing. The range of learning activities employed by Darren certainly had an impact. The boys were particularly interested in the notion of peak state performance and physically anchoring their ideas and feelings.

Much of the 'content' of Darren's seminar can be, and in many schools is, delivered in normal classroom sessions, but with limited results. Analysing the feedback forms completed by the boys and talking to many of them after the seminar, it became clear to me that the large majority of our students found the seminar fun and, more importantly, worthwhile. They felt that they had a much clearer perception of their personal strengths and values and had identified direction and goals for their future career and life. This is precisely what I had hoped Darren would achieve with our students and therefore I feel there is no question that engaging him was a worthwhile investment for the school.

I warmly recommend Darren Pereira and his "Shape Your Destiny" seminar.

Yours faithfully,

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