



Where are they now?

Jess Clemans

Age: 21

Pre-school: Vaucluse Montessori Pre-school, Bronte & Bondi

Primary: Montessori East Primary School

Secondary: Reddam House

Tertiary: Currently at UNSW studying Psychology

ME Alumni: How was your transition to Reddam House after Montessori East?

Jess Clemans: Socially it was really easy. In terms of homework and exams it was challenging. I was bad at doing assignments at home! I just had to get used to it and I did, because that's the way the HSC system works. I don't think the HSC system is the best way of testing intelligence.

MEA: What are you doing now?

JC: I'm in my second year of a Bachelor of Psychology. I started at UNSW doing Information Systems, but found it really dry. I had been a prefect at Reddam with responsibility for IT. Now I love studying Psychology and am majoring in Human Resources. After graduating I'd like to do post-grad Commerce. I'm trying to keep my study interesting, and also to be employable. Outside of my full-time uni course, I'm pretty social and active. I like sport, and I work two days a week for McGrath Realty.

MEA: What do you value most about your Montessori experience, and how has it influenced the person you are today?

JC: Montessori makes people self-reliant and motivated. There are great character traits in the all people I know through Montessori; kindness and a quiet confidence. I have a relationship with people from Montessori that is unlike that with other people. It's a respect, acceptance, and just knowing they are good people. If I bump into someone from Montessori I'll always stop and say hello and talk, and that's not necessarily the case with other people. I think Montessori is great socially, and I've never had a better lot of teachers than my Montessori teachers. Some teachers stick with you through your whole life, and Raji is still the best teacher I've ever had. The teachers at Montessori have a great community mindedness and there is always a goodness and empathy.

MEA: Do you have a memory of Montessori you'd like to share?

JC: Yes, I loved it when Raji used to hose us down on very hot days at Vaucluse.