*\*Introduction music plays\**

**Sarah:** Hi everyone, and welcome to the 7th episode of the VSV Voices, and the final episode of this year. My name’s Sarah, and I’ll be hosting this episode. We’re going to do something slightly different today. In this episode, we have collated various videos for you to enjoy.

*\*Music plays\**

**Sarah:** The start and the end of the school year are full of transitions, which can be really scary. Maria, who is a year 11 SRC member has made a wonderful video, showing how transitions are not always as scary as they seem.

**Maria:** Hi everyone, my name’s Maria and I’m in year 11. This is my second year at VSV, so I know exactly what it’s like to transition from year 10 to year 11 at VSV.

Before I started VCE, I - probably like many of you now - had this idea that VCE is this absolute nightmare. *\*Chuckles\**. When I thought of VCE, I thought of endless all nighters, cramming last minute knowledge into my brain before a huge SAC. I thought of not having any kind of social life, any hobbies, or any life outside of school really. I thought that VCE was my one and only gateway to achieving my academic goals, and that my career somehow depended on one tiny score I’d get at the end of high school. Well, let me tell you with absolute certainty, that is not the case.

Speaking from experience, year 11 was honestly kind of fun. Now that we got to study what we actually wanted to study, I generally enjoyed learning the subjects I picked. For me, that meant dropping maths, which was a huge achievement for me, I even burned all my maths homework in celebration. And studying arts, humanities, and social science subjects instead. But of course, this freedom looks different to everyone. So, as you can probably tell, year 11 is a very freeing and exciting time to learn what you actually want to learn. Getting to choose - pretty much - all of your subjects was the best part about year 11 for me, it meant that I was more motivated and eager to learn. Choosing subjects is a little intimidating for me at the end of year 10. I wanted to study subjects that I was interested in, but I also had to keep in mind things like scaling, workload, and any prerequisite subjects that I might need for some uni courses.

Keeping all those things in mind made it hard to find a balance between all my subjects, not to mention the huge variety of subjects that VSV offers, making it near impossible to choose just four to six subjects. But alas, I had to choose my subjects eventually. Keeping all those things in mind, and with the help of my family, I managed to pick my subjects. Yay! I browsed the VSV website to look at any subjects that I was interested in, because goodness knows you can’t study a subject that you hate. It might seem like common sense, but you’d be surprised to see how many students pick subjects purely because of scaling or prerequisite subjects. Even if you don’t know what you want to do after high school, I think picking subjects that you’ll enjoy is the most important thing to consider. You’ll probably be studying these subjects for the next few years, so you’ll want to make sure that you enjoy them. Which will, you know, in return lead to good grades. Plus the motivation to study increases heaps when you actually want to learn more about your subjects. And trust me, you’ll need plenty of motivation.

Sure scaling is something to consider if you’re hoping to get a high ATAR, but even if your ATAR is lower than you’d hoped, it’s not the end of the world. One tiny little number does not determine your career. If your ATAR wasn’t what you’d hoped, there are plenty of alternate pathways to get into the course or career that you want. So, don’t even worry about that. Even now while you’re still at school, there’s no need to worry about anything, really. You’ll be in good hands here at VSV. Your teachers will be your heroes. They’ll be one of your main sources of help with whatever you may be struggling with.

Now that I think about it, year 11 isn’t actually too different from year 10. I mean, of course there are still the weekly submissions. You’ve still got your learning advisor, your teachers. They’re all still the same. Even the workload is only like a tiny bit more this year. The only main difference between year 10 and year 11 is how dramatised everything is. Sure it’s only to prepare yourself for the craziness of year 12, but that’s about how dramatic it gets. Year 11 is basically a free trial for year 12. Your year 11 SAC’s, your tests, they have zero impact on your ATAR. So, if you’re worrying about year 11, don’t. There’s no reason to. Year 11 is just a time to explore your interests without having to worry about your ATAR. We are at VSV after all, the most flexible school in the state.

Your VCE is what you make it. Everyone’s experiences are all different and unique. If you want to make it stressful and full on, by all means, lay it on! But if you just want to pass, you can definitely just do that too. I’m not saying to slack off either, passing takes plenty of effort as well. I just wanted to reassure you that this short period of time isn’t going to determine the rest of your life. It’s the opposite, you know. It’s a time to explore your interests and have fun, without worrying about your ATAR. That’s not to say that year 11 is easy, in any way. You know, some days you’ll have tasks that you’ll have no idea how to do, some days you’ll just be unmotivated. And I dealt with all those things and worse, and I survived. I survived by keeping in touch with family, teachers, and classmates. I looked after myself. I waited until that spark of inspiration hit me to start working again, and if it didn’t, then I got help. It’s as simple as that. There’s no need to over dramatise or complexify year 11 or VCE for that matter.

In other words, VCE isn’t as bad as everyone says. VSV’s a really great place to do your VCE. Now that you can choose your subjects, you control what and how you study. Year 11 is definitely something not to worry about, and even practising - something as simple as common sense - will bring you a long way to achieving your academic success. You’ve got this.

*\*Music plays\**

**Sarah:** Here is a collection of videos made by various SRC members, talking about their experience this year.

I’m Sarah. My role is Vice President. I’m also editor of the VSV Voices podcast, and coordinator of the SRC promotion video. The SRC has definitely been a big learning experience for me this year. I’ve learnt how to initiate Student Voice, Agency and Leadership, and what this looks like in practise. SVAL means empowering students to advocate for themselves and have a say about their education. It also means working with other people in order to improve our school environment and implementing suggestions of students. I’ve really enjoyed being a part of the SRC this year, learning the many practical sides to leadership, and seeing celebrations that happen after SVAL is successfully demonstrated.

**Gemma:** Hi there, I’m Gemma. This year's SRC Secretary, and co-writer of the SRC segment of the VSV eNewsletter. This year with the SRC has not only been a rewarding experience, however, an educational one. It is fair to say that everyone in the SRC has gained some form of leadership skills and experience. And within my role, I learnt invaluable secretarial and administration skills. Some of this year's highlights include the SRC segment of VSV’s eNewsletter, VSV Voices podcast, participation in curriculum day, and the year 7-10 connect week sessions, where we sought feedback from students and teachers to promote SVAL. To me, SVAL is encouraging leadership experience within schools so that student voices are projected. Next year, I look forward to seeing more interaction between students and teachers, as well as the role of VSV parents, guardians, carers, and supervisors in SVAL. Thank you.

**Jamie:** This year during the SRC, I’ve been presented with many opportunities. Going to leadership conferences, attending weekly meetings, and being a part of the school newsletter. As part of the eNewsletter project, I have collaborated with other students in organising and publishing written articles under scheduled deadlines. This experience has been challenging, rewarding, and fun. Watching the SRC grow - in both numbers and reach -, is something I’ve enjoyed this year. And looking ahead, I see it continuing to advance into a constant in the VSV community. Giving voice and opportunity to many students.

**Arohan:** I decided to join the SRC because I wanted to experience the feeling of being part of a VSV students group. The SRC has helped me collaborate with other students, while completing different projects and tasks. Even though I am the youngest member in the SRC, the senior members did not hesitate to give me the opportunity to edit and put together the SRC promotional video when I asked for it. This made me more confident, and I felt that my voice was heard. Everyone in the SRC is kind and encouraging, so it has been a very rewarding and enriching experience for me to be a part of.

**Maria:** Hi everyone, my name’s Maria, and I’m in the Student Representative Council. This year, we made progress! Not only did we develop our projects like our podcast and our newsletter, but we expanded our horizons. We spoke at different conferences and events throughout the year, and made brilliant episodes, articles, speeches, presentations, and more. Giving SRC members a chance to develop their skills as leaders. That is what Student Voice and leadership is about, giving students a chance to make real change. Next year, I hope we continue to achieve great things and grow as leaders in this really awesome school community.

*\*Music plays\**

**Sarah:** Thank you for joining us in all our episodes this year. We hope you enjoyed them, and wish you the best with your transitions. Remember, if you’re struggling with a change, talk to a trusted adult, learning advisor, or the wellbeing team. Have a great holidays, and see you next year!

*\*Outro music plays\**