



Meet The Graduate – Belinda Dennis

Video Transcript

This transcript is of Edition #08 – How can students and colleagues help me be a great teacher?

Music to start		
Question 1:	[Visual]	Introduce yourself and tell us where you work
Belinda:	00:09	Hi, I'm Belinda Dennis. I'm from Bendigo senior and I teach year 11 and 12 psychology
Question 2:	[Visual]	How did you first day go?
Belinda:	00:20	My first day of teaching went very quickly, very overwhelming in a way. It was just go, go, go from class to class to class. The best thing about it was that I was prepared. I knew exactly what I needed to do for each lesson. I pretty much spent the lesson and getting to know my students, which was the best thing I could've done.
Question 3:	[Visual]	What were your expectations about starting and what was different?
Belinda:	00:37	I was surprised by how much administration there was. I didn't expect to spend two hours of my day, every day on my emails and replying to things and chasing up students. Whereas that's a big part of my job as well. Not just my in-class teaching.
Question 4:	[Visual]	What has been the best thing in school so far?
Belinda:	01:00	Yesterday we had a Bendigo education plan day, so all the seven to 10 schools came and met with us, Year 11 and 12 school. We all got to meet with the other teachers from the schools, so other psychology teaches who teach year 10 psych and things

		like that. So, really good to collaborate with other teachers and understand what they do in their schools.
Question 5:	[Visual]	What is the best thing that has happened in the classroom?
Belinda:	02:14	So, seeing my students all achieve their own goals. So whether it's short term goals or long term. Um, I had a student, he'd go into the military all day. So that's incredibly exciting. Just seeing my students, whether it's pick up their pen and start a subject or start a class for the first time that year or achieving really good grades on S.A.C.s and things like that. It's really good to see them achieve their own goals and it'll be exciting to see the goals that they achieve this year.
Question 6:	[Visual]	What has been a challenge and how did you overcome it?
Belinda:	01:55	I think the biggest challenge is creating that work life balance. So, knowing when to switch off when you get home, after school, particularly every teacher knows that it's hard to switch off when you get home. You're always thinking about your students or what work you need to be doing or what you're going to do tomorrow and should be planning of lessons. So, learning how to create that balance and to switch off. When I go home.
Question 7:	[Visual]	What DET resources have you found useful in your practice?
Belinda:	02:22	I've been using the HITS in my classroom teaching and in the near future I really want to start looking into practice principles a lot more than I already have done, so.
Question 8:	[Visual]	If you could go back in time, what would you tell your first day self?
Belinda:	02:41	I would tell myself that to believe in myself and know that it's all going to be okay, I feel more than capable of doing what I'm doing now. The first few days I was unsure of myself, and I think I would tell myself that I'm going to love it more than I expected. I knew I was going to love teaching, but the excitement I get to go to school on Monday is bigger than I thought was ever going to experience. So, I would tell myself that I'm going to love it.

Music to End