

A case study in Education & Accelerated Development

STRATEGY + EXECUTION

Despite sending his daughter, Rebekah, to one of the most prestigious private institutions in the country, Mark was frustrated by the lack of support his daughter was receiving. A seasoned business executive, Mark understood the importance of strategy and getting things done but he was willing to admit he knew nothing about education. Rebekah's eleventh hour was quickly approaching, when a family friend shared how Kalibrate-ED had changed their lives, Mark didn't hesitate to call.



THE CHALLENGE

Confronted with the intense schedule of Year 12 International Baccalaureate' (IB) Diploma Program, household tensions were boiling. Mark just wanted to know his daughter was doing well. To Mark, Rebekah procrastinated and avoided study, spent too much time on social media and with friends. She lacked a strong work ethic and was falling behind. He also felt he had let her down in some way but trying to fix things himself just made things worse.

Conversely, Rebekah struggled with motivation and the workload commitment asked of her. Overwhelmed by content and deadlines with little guidance from her teachers, and less from Mark, Rebekah was unable to prioritise because she could not understand how it all fit together.

Rebekah stayed up late to finish schoolwork, only to be told she was not putting in enough effort. Yet no one showed her what to do or how to improve. She was falling behind, barely prepared for exams, and handing in assignments at the last minute. Rebekah recognised she had weak essay and analytical skills but the little feedback she did receive was vague and failed to show her how to improve. Her teachers repeated the textbook, rather than explain the concepts. The multiple tutors Mark had recruited only introduced confusion and made matters worse.

Exhausted from multiple tutoring sessions every day, Rebekah became so overwhelmed that she lost what little motivation she had. In a seemingly hopeless situation, she wondered whether all her efforts would amount to anything.



KALIBRATING A STRATEGY + EXECUTION

Kalibrate-ED listened to Mark and Rebekah and found that they really wanted the same thing: clear direction and actionable steps that led to tangible results.

Twelve months later, we asked Rebekah to reflect on her journey.

"To be honest, at first, I really didn't want another tutor. I seemed to have had more tutors than subjects. Where was I going to find time to fit in another one? Turns out, choosing to work with Kalibrate-ED was the best decision my dad and I could have made. My strategy advisor, Ki Yan, was extremely different to the other educators I'd worked with. Firstly, she worked on my mindset as to what I wanted out of life and then showed me pathways to those goals. No other teacher or tutor had done this. Then, she not only explained every subject in plain English, but reorganized my schoolwork, tutors, and extra-curricular activities. Soon, I was going to bed again at a reasonable hour. I was more confident in the work I submitted and became more involved in class discussions.

Ki Yan is more of a mentor and trusted advisor. Any tutor can be smart, but she had this real human insight that helped me improve and achieve my goals. She gave me a realistic breakdown of how much work was required to reach certain grades. This really helped me take ownership of my own life. She understood but never judged. I made lots of mistakes and was often frustrated, but she never criticised. She'd just work with me until I got it. I'm pretty stubborn but I think this is what made me trust her and gradually change my ways. I now see my stubbornness as an attribute that won't let me give up on a task I know is achievable.

I know she and Dad spoke often but she never kept any of this from me. It actually helped us understand each other's expectations. Ki Yan always called me out if I didn't do my work (which happened a lot in the beginning...) but then she investigated why I had trouble. At first, this surprised me. Why? Because in the past, never had someone cared about what I needed or what was going through my head when I struggled. I'd never had things explained in the way I needed. I learned it is ok not to know something, but that there is no excuse for not asking for help. I also learned that nobody should ever be belittled or judged by the questions they ask.

Ki Yan was also a great support network when school or my personal life got tough and the stress piled up. She made our sessions enjoyable. It didn't feel like it was something I had to do, or as if I was with a teacher. It's hard to explain how, but she made me enthusiastic in my approach to studying. By the end of it, she rebuilt my motivation to learn as well as providing some extra tools for life. Going into university, I found myself suddenly a lot more motivated to do my work and get good marks. I finally understand why my Dad always pushed me to do well, it was less about school and more about my life and what I wanted out of it. Since HSC, Kalibrate-ED has also helped me prepare for internships and interviews."

WAS IT WORTH IT?

Today, Rebekah is at Macquarie University studying her course of choice— a double degree Bachelor of Commerce and Psychology and hopes to be interning with Macquarie Bank’s business unit.

We asked Rebekah the ultimate question: was it worth it?

“Absolutely! It was hard work, but my skills improved enormously, particularly in English (HL) enabling me to write stronger arguments with greater analytical detail. After only a few sessions, I could see improvement in my assessment grades as well as my homework.

I’d scored very poorly in Business Studies (HL) early on in my final year. If I didn’t achieve at least a Band 4 in my Finals, I would have failed the IB altogether. I had access to a tutor but it was Ki Yan’s simple but thorough explanations of business concepts that helped me exceeded even my dad’s expectations and attained a Band 5 (almost a Band 6). Similarly, Ki Yan helped me in ESS by streamlining my notes and structuring stronger responses. My previous marks were around Band 3. With Ki Yan’s help I averaged Band 5-6. Notably, Ki Yan all but replaced my Research Project supervisor, helping plan and refine my Extended Essay which helped me gain 2 bonus ATAR points.

Ki Yan basically gave me what my teachers and my tutors could not do, and then on top of this gave me added organisational and life skills. Without her help, I could not have attained the 90+ ATAR I wanted and quite possibly would have failed the IB altogether. I was a bit of a late-starter because I just didn’t know what I want or what was out there. I could have missed out entirely but because of my Dad’s decision, Ki Yan was able to help me make up lost ground. Now I’m readier than ever to take on the next challenge.”

