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# Success fuelled by determination.

shared by Syaza Nazura

Syaza's school life suffered a huge setback when she was transferred to a private international school. But her determination to prove herself brought her success.

After achieving 5As for my UPSR in 2006, I was accepted into one of the top all-girls boarding school in Malaysia. I've spent three years in Sekolah Seri Puteri (SSP), Cyberjaya, and as a result of the teachers' commitment and my hard work, I managed to clinch 8As for my PMR. Life in SSP couldn't be any better. I have friends who loved me, my beloved basketball team, and teachers who are determined to help us succeed no matter what.

Things changed in 2010. My parents moved me to a private international school in Negeri Sembilan. I was forced to part with my friends. When I first entered the new school, it was a whole new experience. There were less than 30 of us who were sitting for SPM in 2011. The other students in our year were taking O-Levels. Most of the students there were international students or local students who were taking the international stream. I was in shock. I was put to a test far more than what I have been expecting. Though I wasn't the only Muslim in the class, I was the only one who wore the hijab. Because of that one piece of clothing, I was sometimes teased by my classmates.

Whenever they were talking about hanging out or doing class activities, they would sometimes leave me aside. I found it hard to adapt to the new environment. Out of the 29 students in my class, there were only a few of us who are actually serious about our studies. The rest of the class were, well, not so serious. Our class was even labeled as the worst SPM class by the deputy principal. Our teachers were at their wits end with us. It seemed like everyone gave up on us.

Unlike the previous SPM class of 2010, the school did not expect much of our SPM results. My Chemistry teacher on one of his last classes with us, said "If I can even get two As from this class, I can go and party already." That showed how low the expectation was. I was determined to prove them wrong. I was determined to prove to everyone that I could succeed. I was determined to prove to the teachers that all the time and energy that they put in were not wasted. I was determined to prove to myself that I could still make it to the top, even if I am no longer in SSP.

SPM came and passed, and March 21, 2012 came. It was the day all SPM 2011 candidates feared, the day our results would be coming out. I couldn't describe the fear I felt for the past few days coming up to that particular day, but all I can say is, it was worth it. The happiness I felt as I looked at my slip for the first time, the tears of joy I brought to my parents, family and teachers, the sense of satisfaction of finally being able to prove myself, and the feeling of being the first ever in the school to score 9A+ for

SPM. The pain that I went through after the move, the pools of tears that I shed every other week and the sleepless nights I spent alone studying in the surau. It was all worth it.

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and it is the privilege of wisdom to listen.

”

— Oliver Wendell Holmes

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