Vanessa – You should embrace your ability. You should do what you need to do and shock people. Like, I do that every day I feel like. I love learning. I love being around people. I love interacting. I love the people here because they're so supportive, I love the kids here.

Michael, Vanessa’s teacher – Vanessa is just a breath of fresh air around the school, she's someone who the staff and all the students look up to. Every morning she'll be greeting you with a big hello. You never generally see her walking on her own, she's always helping other students, directing them where to go to, she's a real asset to our school.

Vanessa – I like making people happy, I like making people know that if you think you can't do it, you can't do it. But if you think you can, you can.

Michael – Student leadership and also adopting a student-lead teaching strategy is really important. Because whenever you give the students a voice and the ability to have a say in the direction of their learning, what seems to happen is the engagement follows. I know from having discussions with Vanessa and other students, they just feel empowered and extremely happy with the responsibility of making decisions and changing things that perhaps they think could be better in school.

Vanessa – I will get there, and that's what other people have to keep on saying to themselves is, I will get there, and I will move where I want to move, and I will go where I want to go.