



Minal Patel - Started 1992 and finished in 1999

Dear fellow Manorians,

I recently experienced something that I am compelled to share with you! It left me feeling inspired, motivated and excited for the future. Not just my future, but also the future of the students at PMHS. A social enterprise called WOW Talks collaborated with PMHS and organized for 4 speakers to address the Year 10 and 11 students and talk about their passion for their career, and how and why they had chosen their career path. It sounds pretty generic, right? But these speakers weren't the unreachable, dreamy job folks, who seem a million miles from our everyday lives; these speakers were everyday people who simply loved what they did for a living. Ordinary people, who looked forward to Monday mornings, and had an extraordinary zest for life.

There were 4 speakers, a Math teacher currently teaching at PMHS, a digital artist, a musician and singer, and a co founder and creator of a software product. Every speaker was moving and inspiring in a unique way. Some had taken a traditional education path, leading to a related profession, and then taken a U-turn to seek the excitement, fulfillment and passion that they felt was missing from their work. Others had resisted parental and community pressure to pursue a particular path and taken a 'risk' for their passion and interest. Each speaker had a remarkable story to share. We the audience, were filled with positive emotion. It was refreshing to hear of the many choices that are continually available to us, a relief to be told we could change our minds if we were not happy or excited by our choices, motivating to know that there are careers that lay outside of the traditional educational framework, and inspiring to believe that there are 'regular' people all around us who can't wait to wake up in the morning to do the thing they love.

Reflecting on this evening, I wondered how differently many lives may have been affected if previous generations had been fortunate enough to hear the stories of these interesting strangers. As each speaker left the audience with a thought-provoking question, I want to ask you, 'what will you do to inspire a young student at PMHS'?



Photograph above featuring members of Alumni Association; Zara Fejani, Alex Kempson, Mina Bahadur, Ahir Shah and Wilfred Obeng, all of whom spoke at our second WOW talk and inspired all who attended.