



ST ANDREW'S  
CATHEDRAL  
SCHOOL  
FOUNDED 1885



# Academic excellence

Celebrating our students' achievements in the 2020 Higher School Certificate and International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme

2020  
Results



heart  
mind  
life



# 2020 cohort achieved our strongest results ever

The 2020 HSC and International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) results are the best in the school's history, surpassing last year's high tide mark, which surpassed the previous year's high tide mark!

The evidence for the results being the best in the school's history is based on:

1. The ATARs. One third of student ATARs were above 90, that is in the top 10 per cent of available ATARs.
2. The destination surveys of these graduates indicate that nearly 93 per cent have been admitted to their first choice course at their first choice university. This is far in excess of anything we've previously seen. Additionally, most of those who did not achieve their first choice have been admitted to their second choice at the same or another university, wherein the second choice was often very similar to the first and may, in time, through adjustment within the university, articulate into their first choice. These were spread mostly across Sydney's major metropolitan universities and included a very diverse range of cognate disciplines.
3. The average ATAR of the top 10 per cent of HSC students was a wonderful 96.76. The average ATAR of the top 20 per cent of our HSC students was an equally splendid 89.

In terms of individual subjects, Design and Technology, Japanese, Visual Arts, Music, Mathematics Extension 2, Chemistry, Physics, English Extension 1, Software Design and Development, and Studies of Religion 1 were particularly outstanding.

Seven of our students were nominated for the state-wide showcases in their subjects. One of our all-rounders was only 15. He came in the top 1 per cent of all American university entrants (when he was in Year 7!).

Joint Duxes were Matthew Catanzariti and Freya Leach, with an ATAR of 99.75.

A stunning 68 per cent of our IB Diploma students achieved an ATAR above 90. The average ATAR of the top 10 per cent of IBDP students was 99.49, the average ATAR of the top 50 per cent was 97.3 and 37 per cent of our IBDP students gained ATARs above 95.

Standout results at the top of the range were seen in IBDP Business Management, Mathematics, Music, Chemistry, Philosophy, Theatre, French, Japanese, Global Politics, History, Psychology and Biology.

Our staff are particularly delighted with these results, and equally delighted with those students who have not made published honours lists but who have achieved personal bests and/or have overcome adverse life circumstances to achieve competitive outcomes which establish productive pathways for their future.



**Dr John Collier**  
*Head of St Andrew's Cathedral School*



Main picture:  
Zach Andrews excelled in  
Business Management and  
Design Technology in the  
IB Diploma Programme.

# Snapshot of our Year 12 2020 HSC and IB Diploma academic results

From a cohort of 149 students:

17%

Achieved an ATAR of 95 or higher  
(Top 5% of ATARS available in NSW)

34%

Achieved an ATAR of 90 or higher  
(Top 10% of ATARS available in NSW)

60%

Achieved an ATAR of 80 or higher  
(Top 20% of ATARS available in NSW)

*Please note: IB Diploma marks are converted on a fixed scale to an ATAR. HSC students are asked to provide their ATAR to the school.*

Our highest overall achievers by ATAR include:

Matthew Catanzariti 99.75	Freya Leach 99.75	Scarlett Scott 99.55	Elizabeth Adamson 99.2
Caitlyn MacDonald 99.2	Luka Petrovic 99.2	Sofia Sabados 99.2	Hugo Sebesta 99.2
Natalie Newman 99.2	Jonathan Yim 99.2	Jamie Christoforou 99	Josh Quail 98.6
James Thwaites 98.2	Jessica Luff 98.05	Lauren Ibrahim 98.05	Jamison O'Brien 97.95

# HSC Highlights

# 96.76

Average ATAR for the top 10%  
of our HSC students

## 99 students (66% of the Year 12 cohort) studied the Higher School Certificate in 2020.

Our HSC Dux is Jamie Christoforou. Students listed in NSW's top 10 in a subject were Alex Misoyannis in Design and Technology, who placed sixth, and Jamie Christoforou who placed second in Modern Greek Beginners. Our top-ranked HSC subjects were Design and Technology,

Music 2 and Music Extension 1, where 100% of students achieved a Band 6! Other impressive results came in English Ext 1, Mathematics Ext 1, Chemistry, Visual Arts and Software Design and Development, where more than 40% of students achieved a Band 6.

## Top achievers

Name	ATAR
Jamie Christoforou	99.00
Joshua Quail	98.60
James Thwaites	98.20
Jamison O'Brien	97.95
Leo Denham	97.10
Alex Misoyannis	96.30
Zachariah Ahmed	96.15
Sally Williams	95.10
Amy Zhu	94.90
Jennifer Roskov	94.30
Ashlyn Rees	94.05

## Other highlights

Mathematics accelerant **Samuel Price** scored Band 6s for *Mathematics Advanced*, *Mathematics Extension 1* and *Mathematics Extension 2*.

**Joshua Quail** was accelerated two years and was only 15 years old at the time of completing his exams.

A special mention to **Lars Frissel-Thomas**, who achieved a Band 6 in the two-unit Hospitality course, along with an Excellence Award, through the TVET (TAFE) pathway.

## HSC All Rounders (Band 6s in 10 or more units of study)

Jamie Christoforou 99.00 | Joshua Quail 98.60  
James Thwaites 98.20 | Jamison O'Brien 97.95

103

The number of Band 6 results achieved  
by students for attaining a mark of 90  
or above in one or more courses.

88.75



The average ATAR of the top  
50% of our HSC students.

## Students received 7 Showcase nominations for their HSC major works

### HSC Drama – Onstage:

Alex Coulton for her performance item,  
*You may always call me Gwendolyn*

Geneva Sampson for her performance item, *Abigail*

### HSC Music 1 – Encore:

Madison Whitham for Composition

### HSC Design and Technology – Shape:

Olivia Hayes – ThrowSMART javelin (measures and  
records the distance and pitch of a javelin throw)

Victoria Barlow – Fuel Pump Aid for petrol stations

Harry Carson – Wooden Walker Bike that converts into a pedal bike

Alex Misoyannis – Domestic smart parcel box (informs  
the user when the parcel has been delivered and gives couriers  
access via a unique tracking number)



# IB Diploma Highlights

# 99.49

Average ATAR for  
top 10% of students

50 students (34% of the Year 12 cohort) studied the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme in 2020, one of our largest IB Diploma cohorts to date.

The IB Diploma duxes are Matthew Catanzariti and Freya Leach, whose Diploma scores of 44 equated to an ATAR of 99.75.

## Top achievers

Name	IB Diploma Score / ATAR
Matthew Catanzariti	44/45 / 99.75
Freya Leach	44/45 / 99.75
Scarlett Scott	43/45 / 99.55
Elizabeth Adamson	42/45 / 99.2
Luka Petrovic	42/45 / 99.2
Caitlyn MacDonald	42/45 / 99.2
Sofia Sabados	42/45 / 99.2
Hugo Sebesta	42/45 / 99.2
Natalie Newman	42/45 / 99.2
Jonathan Yim	42/45 / 99.2
Jessica Luff	40/45 / 98.05
Lauren Ibrahim	40/45 / 98.05
Daniel Magee	39/45 / 97.3
Matthew Butler	38/45 / 96.45
Name withheld by request	38/45 / 96.45
Sarah Yap	38/45 / 96.45
Zachary Andrews	37/45 / 95.45
Joshua Di Mattina-Bevan	37/45 / 95.45

## Subject highlights

Outstanding results were achieved by students in the following subjects:

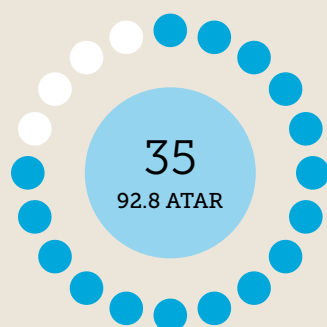
- **Business Management** (100% achieved a Grade 6 or 7, with 53% of students achieving Grade 7s),
- **Chemistry** (50% achieved a Grade 7),
- **Environmental Systems and Societies** (26% achieved a Grade 7),
- **Literature** (24% achieved a Grade 7),
- **Mathematics Higher Level** (75% achieved a Grade 7),
- **Music** (100% achieved a Grade 6 or 7, with 50% achieving Grade 7s),
- **Philosophy** (60% achieved a Grade 7),
- **Theatre** (100% achieved a Grade 6 or 7).

High performing classes with more than 50% of students achieving Grade 6s and 7s were: **French B, Japanese ab initio, Global Politics, History, Psychology, Environmental Systems and Societies, Biology, and Design Technology.**

Students achieved 46 Grade 7s across 24 subjects.

24% of students achieved Grade As (the top grade) in both the **Extended Essay** and **Theory of Knowledge** subjects.

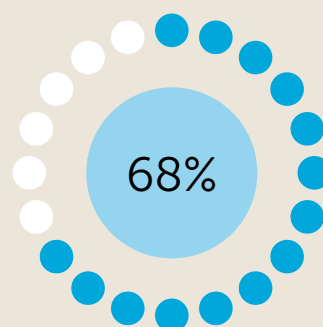
Scarlett Scott achieved full marks for her **Philosophy** Extended Essay and the TOK Presentation.



Median  
IB Diploma score.



Average ATAR of the top 50%  
of our IB Diploma students.



IB Diploma students  
who achieved ATARs  
of 90 or above.

# University offers in 2021

The majority of our 2020 Year 12 cohort were accepted into their preferred courses of study and their preferred universities. The breadth of career choices and university destinations reflects the diverse student population we have at St Andrew's Cathedral School.

Post-school destinations for our 2020 HSC and IBDP cohort were:

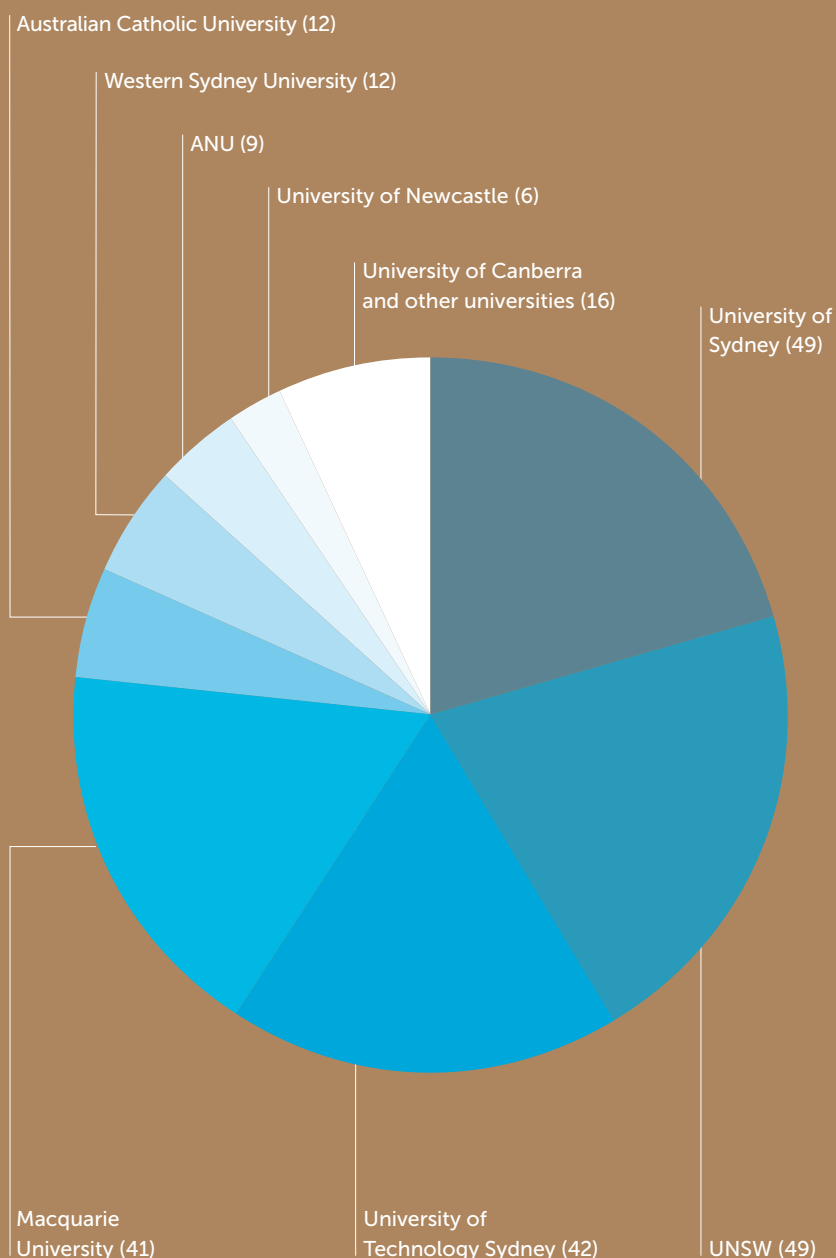
- University degree programs: 136 students
- Vocational education programs: 8 students
- University pathway programs: 3 students
- TAFE (Cert / Diploma): 8 students
- Private College (Diploma): 8 students
- Apprenticeships: 5 students
- Non-disclosure: 1 student

## Areas of tertiary study offered

Faculty Area	No. of offers made
Commerce	40
Health	40
Humanities/Arts	32
Science	23
Media	21
Law	18
IT	14
Social Sciences	10
Engineering	11
Performance Studies	8
Design/Architecture	12
Education	7
Town/City Planning	5
Aviation	4

## University destinations

(Based on offers made to SACS students at 4 February 2021)



## English

### HSC Summary

99% of HSC Advanced English students achieved a mark in the top three performance bands (Bands 4, 5 and 6).

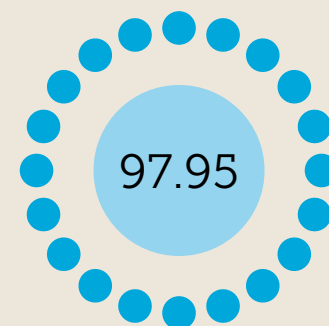
92% of HSC Extension 1 students achieved a mark in the top two performance bands (E3 and E4).

81% of HSC Extension 2 students achieved a mark in the top two performance bands (E3 or E4).

### IBDP Summary

71% of IBDP Literature Higher Level and Standard Level students achieved a mark in the top two grades (Grades 6 or 7).

42% of IBDP Language and Literature HL students achieved a mark in the second top grade (Grade 6).



ATAR

## Jamison O'Brien

### HSC



#### What's been the best thing about your time at SACS?

When I came here from another school, I discovered an environment which was much better for learning. Teachers pushed me to prosper and work hard. It wasn't toxic or competitive. I was taught to try my best and reach my potential – but it was never the end of the world if I didn't.

#### What advice would you give your Year 11 self about to enter Year 12?

Don't stress out so much about little tasks. They're all steps to improve yourself.

#### What future plans do you have?

I wanted to go to Melbourne Uni, though I may not be able to go in 2021. I want to study Political Science and Law. That really interests me. I'd love to travel too.

#### Do you feel you've grown a lot this year?

Definitely. I've been really pushed to reach my potential. Even though quarantine and COVID-19 wasn't great, I think it did teach me to be much more independent. It was a good year.

#### What subjects did you study?

Extension 1 and 2 English, English Advanced, Drama, Legal Studies, Modern History, Studies of Religion 2.

#### Did you have a favourite subject?

Probably Extension 2, since the major work is fully your own and you get to do what you want! I did a critical analysis of post-modern fiction from an existentialist nihilistic paradigm. I studied *American Psycho* and *Fight Club*.

#### What did you learn from that major work?

I think it was really helpful going into the tertiary environment as we were required to produce a university-style essay. It taught me a lot about how to write well, structure well and find your own authoritative voice.

#### What were the highlights and lowlights of 2020 for you?

I feel like I have become closer to a lot of people because the Year 12 stress really bonds you! The low point would be the quarantine due to COVID-19 – it was pretty stressful. But I think it was also good because you have to force yourself to manage it.

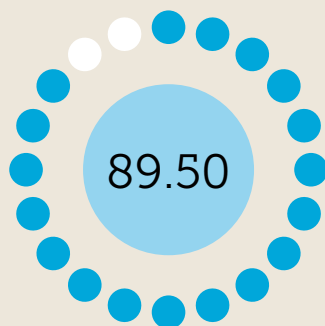
# Business Studies

## HSC Summary

33% of Business Studies students achieved a mark in the top two performance bands.

## IBDP Summary

100% of IBDP Business Management students achieved a mark in the top two grades (Grades 6 and 7). This includes 60% of students achieving the top grade, a Grade 7.



**Zara Rashid**

**HSC**



### What subjects did you study?

Four-unit English, General Mathematics, PDHPE, Business Studies, Legal Studies. My favourite subject was Business Studies because my teacher was really good and the content was fascinating. That motivated me to do well.

### Has that influenced what tertiary study you want to do?

Yes. I'm thinking of doing something to do with business after school – Commerce or Law. I was accepted into ANU early on, which is really exciting. It's a huge relief to have that early offer and have a secure spot.

### What has learning been like at SACS?

I really like the culture. I went to another school for two years and I discovered such a different culture when I came here. There's not a whole lot of pressure from teachers and I feel very well supported. You can ask for help at any time and teachers are willing to help you.

### What did you find most challenging in 2020?

I found that motivation during online learning was really hard. You were at home all the time and it was really tiring. What did help was going to the library – a different

study space was really good. Studying in other places around the house also worked well. Coming back into school was nice and everyone was excited to work.

### What were some of the biggest factors in your academic success?

The teachers' enthusiasm was really helpful. I used to be pretty bad at English – I was tested for dyslexia – but in Year 10 a teacher worked really hard with me to improve my work and that's when I improved.

### What would be your advice to your Year 11 self?

I would say to start your notes earlier. Revise content at the end of each topic, as annoying as it sounds. Also, help your friends, and prepare well for the trial exams.



# Mathematics

## HSC Summary

100% of HSC Mathematics Extension 2 students achieved a mark in the top two performance bands (Bands 5 or 6).

80% of HSC Mathematics Extension 1 students achieved a mark in the top two performance bands (Bands 5 or 6).

## IBDP Summary

76% of IBDP Mathematics Higher Level students achieved a mark in the top grade (Band 7).

Caitlyn MacDonald achieved 96% in Mathematics Standard Level.



**Caitlyn Macdonald**  
IB Diploma



### What was your favourite IBDP subject?

It was probably a tie between Biology and Chemistry. I want to study Medicine, and they have a lot of relevance for my career and interests. It's awesome when you see something in everyday life and you understand how it works. That's special.

### Why Medicine?

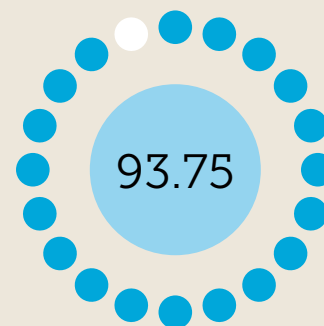
I am really interested in the subject itself and understanding how we work as people, as well as being able to fix the problems of people that doctors don't necessarily understand. I think part of my interest in this area developed from experiencing some medical and genetic disorders amongst my friends.

### How would you describe learning at SACS?

I think it is very much driven by your engagement and interest. There's a lot of opportunity to find out more about the things you're interested in, and also have a broad education about many things and subjects, especially with the IBDP.

### What has Year 12 been like for you?

Remote learning was interesting – for me, I actually found it kind of fun. I'm quite introverted so being at home meant that I could work at my own pace across the whole week, but it did get a bit tedious towards the end.



**Ethan Snaidero**  
HSC



### What subjects did you study?

Mathematics Adv, English Adv, Biology, Economics, Legal Studies. My favourite was Biology because it just comes very naturally to me and I enjoyed the class.

### How would you describe learning at SACS?

SACS has definitely been a very positive experience. There's a great focus on learning because the teachers care about students and they can identify what each student needs. It's so helpful having teachers who are willing to look at essays and work outside of class time. I haven't experienced that at other schools.

### If you could give one piece of advice to your Year 11 self, what would it be?

You could work harder! Don't cruise – you have a lot more potential, so use it.

### Do you have any post-school plans?

I would like to go to ANU in Canberra and study a Bachelor of Commerce.

# Science

## HSC Summary

50% of HSC Chemistry students achieved a mark in the top two performance bands (Bands 5 or 6).

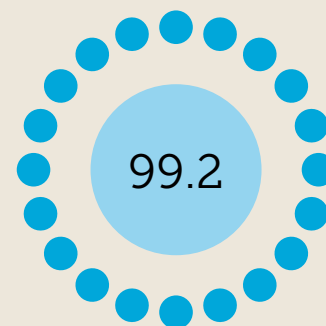
50% of HSC Biology students achieved a mark in the top two performance bands (Bands 5 or 6).

## IBDP Summary

80% of IBDP Biology Higher Level and Standard Level students achieved a mark in the top two grades (Grade 6 or 7).

50% of IBDP Chemistry Higher Level and Standard Level students achieved a mark in the top grade (Grade 7).

53% of IBDP Environmental Systems and Societies students achieved a mark in the top two grades (Grade 6 or 7).



ATAR

**Hugo Sebesta**

IB Diploma



**How do you feel about all you've completed over the last two years?**

Very proud. Particularly with the Extended Essay I ended up producing. It took a lot of work and was a huge effort. I made good progress in all my subjects – I improved a lot.

**What do you want to do in 2021?**

I want to go to university – probably UNSW – and continue to study Physics, with a Bachelor of Science and a Bachelor of Engineering, but I really don't know where I'll be. Since the IBDP forces you to study a variety of subjects, like Literature and Philosophy, my mind has been opened up a lot and I'd really like to continue to study those things as much as I can. I want to keep learning for as long as I can in a broad range of areas.

**What subjects did you study?**

Higher Level Mathematics, Physics, Music, Standard Level French, Philosophy and Literature. My favourite was Physics. I've always wanted to do Physics and it's been great and my teacher was really supportive. I ended up doing my IBDP Extended Essay in Physics, so I had a lot of exposure to it and learnt heaps.

**What did you find challenging this year?**

It's been hard to stay motivated with everything, particularly keeping in a routine of doing work daily. That's been the biggest thing.

**What's one piece of advice you'd give to your Year 11 self?**

Just do what your teacher tells you! If I really did all they asked, I would do exceptionally well. They tend to ask for a lot, but if you do it all, you can do very well. They know what's best.



# Charlotte's passion for research nurtured

Charlotte Owens was thrilled to be the first SACS student to study the new Science Extension HSC course. She says the course has been foundational in furthering both her passion for, and knowledge of, scientific inquiry.

"The theory and ideas behind science is fascinating in this course," she said. "It asks things like, 'what is science, or is there objective knowledge?' and deals with rationalism and empiricism."

The subject is similar to other HSC Extension subjects, including History Extension (which Charlotte also completed), and has two major aspects: a theoretical study about the 'why' of science, and an in-depth research project which sees students form a research question, create a hypothesis and carry out research to develop a scientific response. For Charlotte, that's the perfect subject. "When I found out about Extension courses, I was so excited," she said.

"I genuinely loved the course. I'm proud that I completed it.

"Charlotte's teacher, Mr Stephen Foster, said she relished the opportunity SACS gave her to do an in-depth research project: "She has done this magnificent piece of research over a long period of time, involving a degree of sophistication, and she's been able to demonstrate a whole range of skills that the two-unit subjects are unable to extract."

Charlotte explored the correlation between colour and memory. She was inspired by the fact that, as someone with red hair, she seems to be very hard to forget! She found that: "The colour blue had the greatest positive effect on performance, whilst the results from red were more correlated to self-confidence. Females out-performed males for all three colours, despite their lower self-rating in confidence. The findings indicate that colour has a significant impact on the performance of secondary students in their ability to recall information."

Part of these findings were based on research conducted on Year 11 students, assessing their capacity to remember various numbers with different colour varieties.

Mr Foster hopes this project is just the beginning for Charlotte's scientific research. "I'd love to think that this course has provided a bit of a spark for Charlotte to get involved in research," he said.

*Charlotte was delighted to be offered her first choice university course – a Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Business double degree at the University of Technology Sydney in 2021.*





# History and Human Society and its Environment

## HSC Summary

100% of HSC Studies of Religion 1 students achieved a mark in the top two performance bands (Bands 5 and 6).

66% of HSC History Extension students achieved a mark in the top two performance bands (E3 and E4).

57% of HSC Ancient History students achieved a mark in the top two performance bands (Bands 5 and 6).

67% of HSC Legal Studies students achieved a mark in the top two performance bands (Bands 5 and 6).

## IBDP Summary

79% of IBDP Global Politics Higher Level and Standard Level students achieved a mark in the top two grades (Grade 6 or 7).

56% of IBDP History Higher Level and Standard Level students achieved a mark in the top two grades (Grade 6 or 7).

60% of IBDP Philosophy Higher Level and Standard Level students achieved a mark in the top grade (Grade 7).

70% of IBDP Psychology Higher Level and Standard Level students achieved a mark in the top two grades (Grade 6 or 7).

26% of IBDP Environmental Systems and Societies Standard Level students achieved a Grade 7 mark.

## Daniel Magee IB Diploma



### How would you describe your academic experience at SACS?

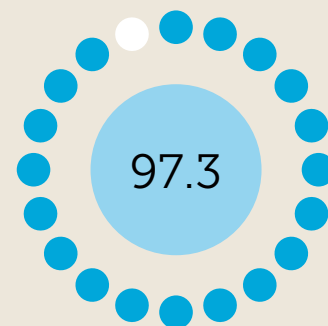
I found that teachers really do go the extra mile in helping you understand. They're very open to questions. That's what you want – to be able to ask a question in a safe environment. I've always felt I can ask things and not feel self-conscious about it. Also, I harassed my teachers a lot... I often ask for extra work or feedback or time to clarify something. I've been at SACS since Kindergarten, so finishing Year 12 is a big thing. But I'm excited for the future.

### What subjects did you study and why?

Higher Level History, Literature, Theatre and Standard Level Mathematics, ESS and French B. I chose those HL subjects because I love writing – in my final two days of exams, I wrote six essays! They're things that really interest me and make me more creative. History is a very interesting subject but has a lot of content.

### What was the most challenging thing for you this year?

The main problem with remote learning was that everything became quite disproportionate. Waking up 20 minutes before class was amazing, though. But I think gearing up for the final exams



ATAR

was the biggest challenge. I needed to be truly organised and find things at a moment's notice.

### What are you looking forward to?

A lot of people are waiting for this year to be over – I understand that – but I'm also taking everything a step at a time, day by day. You're not going to be in this position again: it's a lot of fun. I feel like this is the last year that time will be linear. We're all working towards something. After that, it sort of keeps going around. However, 2020 will have the most weight in my memory.

### What are your plans for next year and beyond?

I'd like to go to university and study History, and continue to study what has interested me at school.

### Do you have a philosophy on the type of person you'd like to be?

I like that question. At the beginning of this year, the previous Year 12 cohort told us that you should be thinking about who you are and the way you act. The type of person you are now is who you are going to be for the majority of your adult life! I took that to heart and resolved to think more about who I was. I started reading quite a lot of philosophy, too. Looking at that has made me realise that the person I want to be is someone who treats everyone with fairness. While that sounds generic, understanding what that means in your day-to-day-life can be a challenge. So I want to be someone who is striving for that.

# Design, Visual Arts and Digital Technology

## HSC Summary

100% of HSC Visual Arts students achieved a mark in the top two performance bands (Bands 5 or 6).

100% of HSC Design and Technology students achieved a mark in the top band (Band 6).

## IBDP Summary

71% of IBDP Visual Arts Higher Level students achieved a mark in the top two grades (Grades 6 and 7).

75% of IBDP Design Technology Higher Level students achieved the second top grade (Grade 6).

## Sarah Yap IB Diploma

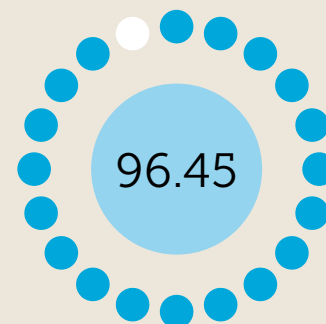


### How would you describe SACS learning over the last two years?

Learning was fun and challenging at the same time. The IB Diploma is very rigorous with the assessments and everything we do. It's been fun since I could collaborate with my friends and get stuff done. My teachers have been really helpful in getting resources and providing us with things we couldn't necessarily find ourselves. Even though it's been really challenging, it's been rewarding – getting the results makes the hard work worth it.

### What's been the best part of your learning experience?

What's so special is that everyone at SACS is super supportive. You're not left in the dark. If there's a problem, your teachers will get out there and help you. So that's the best part. Help is the best thing that can happen to you.



ATAR

### What did you study?

Higher Level Language and Literature, Business and Biology, and Standard Level Chemistry, Chinese B and Mathematics. My favourite would be Business. It was very interesting, and gave me lots of insight into business and how it operates in the real world.

### What are you planning to do next year?

I'm planning to do a double degree in Commerce and Computer Science.

### If you could give one piece of advice to your Year 11 self, what would it be?

Don't slack off! It will be hard but be consistent and do your study notes on time. It's always worth it. Be consistent and do everything your teacher tells you.

### How did you manage to stay on top of all your work?

I definitely learned from experience that once you fall behind, it's hard to get back on track. So I had a study plan and steadily worked through everything I needed to do.





Olivia Hayes  
HSC



**What do you put your academic success down to?**

I think it was motivation for me. Years 9 and 10 were pretty terrible years academically. But in Years 11 and 12 everything completely changed. I'm not a naturally smart person compared to a lot of other people, but I put in a lot of effort. Ever since I started putting effort in, the results have been coming out! I also give a lot of credit to the teachers: I'd go up to them constantly and ask them to read things or answer my questions. So my teachers definitely helped a lot, but it was also a two-way street – they would help me a lot but I would need to do the work.

**What were some of the main challenges you experienced this year?**

I think maintaining effort over an extended period of time was hard. I lost motivation every now and then, but my teachers were able to help me focus.

**You were also on the leadership team. How did you manage balancing everything?**

I had a weekly schedule and I'd organise that to fit in meetings and my work and preparation.

# Olivia soars to new heights

## Olivia Hayes' major work in Design and Technology was selected among the final works to be displayed in the HSC Shape 2020 exhibition.

Olivia mixed her passion as a javelin thrower with her HSC major work and came up with a unique 'smart javelin' called ThrowSMART that not only measures the distance thrown but also the angle and speed of the javelin after it has been launched.

ThrowSMART overcomes one of the major challenges for all javelin throwers – measuring the distances achieved in a training session.

"We waste so much time measuring each throw manually with a tape measure, and we are measuring more than 40 throws in a training session, so I really thought there should be a better way," Olivia explained. "I also was concerned about the safety aspect of walking onto the javelin sector to measure our throws when there are often many other athletes training, so I wondered how I could solve this."

The process of making the ThrowSMART was quite a challenge. Olivia explains:

"There were two different factors – one part was the electronic configuration of the GPS device, which ended up being quite complex and I had to go and consult with JayCar and take lessons on how to do that. The second part was attaching the electronic component inside the javelin, because the inside is hollow so I had to figure out how to stop it moving up and down. Also, the javelin width is ridiculously small, so the electronic component needed to be

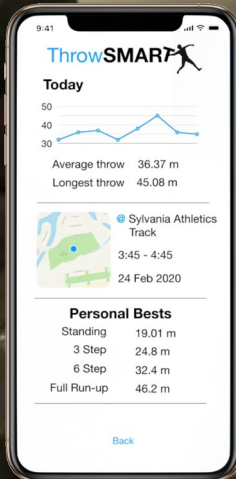
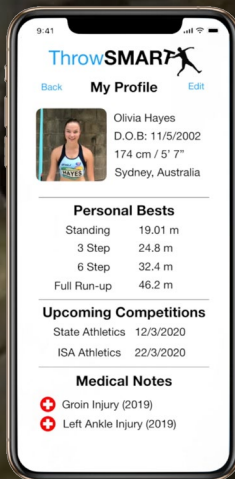
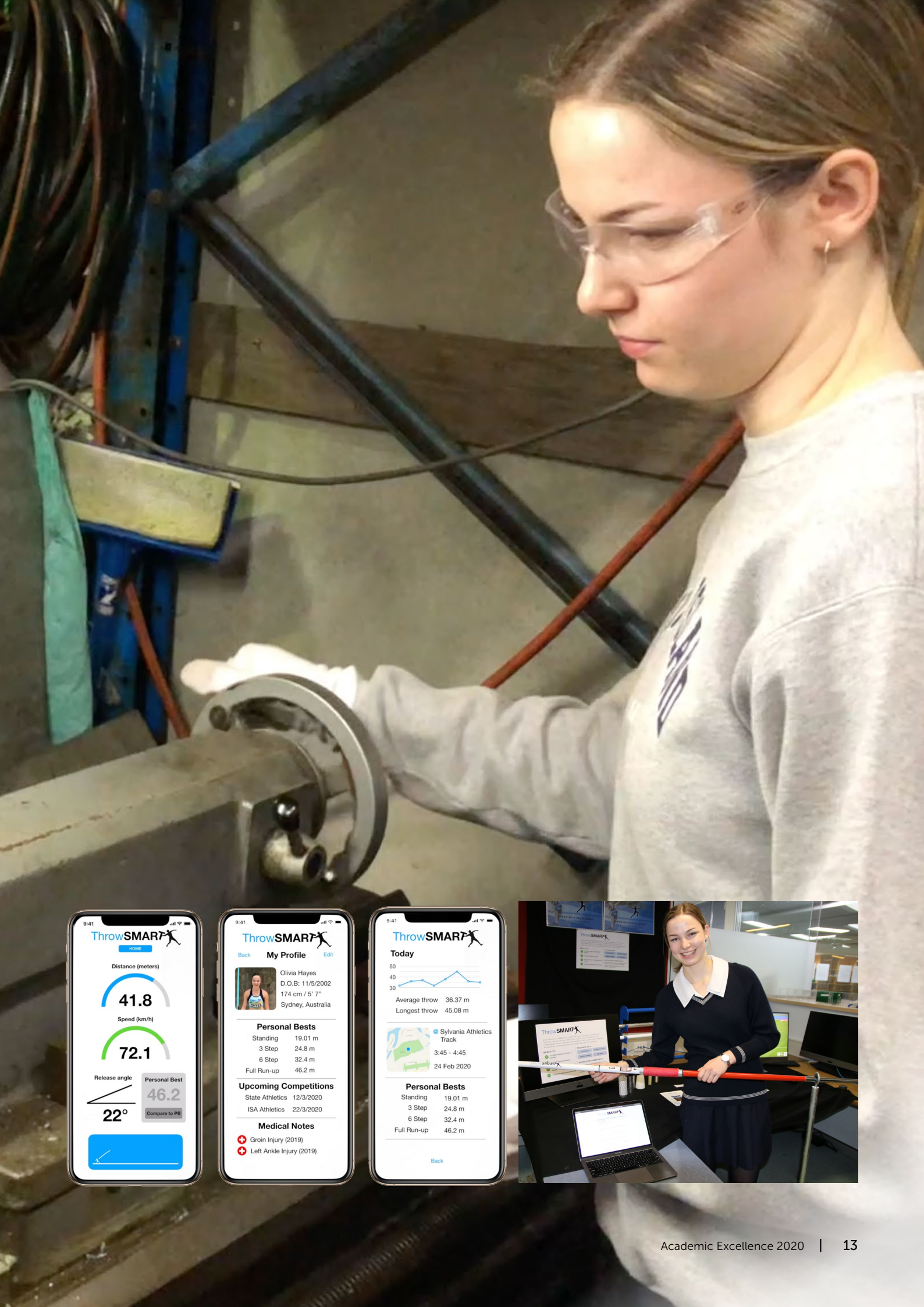
small too. Initially the electronics were 1mm bigger than the diameter of the javelin so I had to make a new compartment within the javelin."

Olivia got some helpful advice from JayCar Electronics and her grandfather, but all the research, design and physical creation of the product fell to her. "My grandfather helped supply all the machinery and tools I needed," she said. "The electronic technology side of the design was completely new to me so it took me probably 10 months of research and trials to bring it all together."

The final piece of the design was to add a Bluetooth connection to the javelin and create an app to read and download all the data. "What I wanted the GPS to measure was the distance, angle and speed of a javelin throw. I had to make sure the electronics inside the javelin connected to an app on your phone, otherwise it would have been pointless, as you want to be able to read the results instantly," Olivia explained. "So all I had to do was attach a bluetooth piece to the technology to connect it easily to a phone, and now all the measurements pop up instantly on a phone."

*In 2021, Olivia plans to study Sport and Exercise Science at UTS, but after receiving her HSC results, is also looking at including a design element.*







## Music and Drama

### HSC Summary

100% of HSC Music 2 students achieved a mark in the top two performance bands (Bands 5 and 6).

100% of HSC Music Extension students achieved a mark in the top performance Band – E4.

100% of HSC Drama students achieved a mark in the top three performance bands (Bands 4, 5 and 6).

### IBDP Summary

100% of IBDP Music students achieved a mark in the top two grades (Grades 6 and 7).

100% of IBDP Theatre students achieved a mark in the top two grades (Grades 6 and 7).

### Natalie Newman IB Diploma



99.2

ATAR

#### What subjects did you study?

Higher Level Chemistry, Mathematics and Psychology, and Standard Level Spanish B, Literature and Music. My favourite was Mathematics – my teachers made it really interesting.

#### What were some of the biggest challenges you faced and how did you deal with them?

Originally I didn't really know how to study, so I didn't start taking notes early enough. So I really pushed myself to get it done for each subject. On top of that, dealing with deadlines and lots of assessments was a challenge... there was a lot to take on.

#### What contributed to your academic success?

The subjects I do best in are the subjects where I have the best teachers, and also that I enjoy the most! So if there are ways to study for a subject that are fun, I do my best in those.

#### If you were to give advice to your Year 11 self, what would you say?

Study! At times it can be painful but you will look back on it and be so grateful you did spend that time working hard earlier on. It will pay off.

#### What would you like to do post-school?

I'd like to go to study Mathematics and Science at university. Overall, I'd like to keep learning and also give back a lot because I think the most important thing in my life is giving back to others and helping others because I know I have come from such a place of privilege.

#### What type of person do you want to be in the future?

Someone who helps others a lot and doesn't think about themselves all the time. I want to do work that I will look back on and be proud of.



Our musicians continue to achieve at the highest level in both the performance and academic component of the subject. All IB Diploma and HSC students reached marks in the top two performance grades and bands.



**Main picture:**  
IB Diploma Music students  
Angelina Farag, Nick Overton,  
Luka Petrovic, Andrew Lowe,  
Hugo Sebesta, (back) Natalie  
Newman, Rory McClelland  
(front), who all achieved  
Band 6s and 7s in the subject.

**Inset, from left to right –**  
HSC Music 1 students:  
Sophia Mekertichian, Jamie  
Dunne, Madison Whitam;  
HSC Music 2 students:  
Ruth McKay, Alexandra Coulton





**Jamie Christoforou**  
HSC

## Languages

### HSC Summary

50% of HSC Japanese Beginners students achieved a mark in the top two performance bands (Bands 5 and 6).

66% of HSC French Continuers students achieved a mark in the top two performance bands (Bands 5 or 6).

### IBDP Summary

100% of IBDP Chinese B Standard Level students achieved the second top grade (Grade 6).

64% of IBDP French B Standard Level students achieved a mark in the top two grades (Grades 6 and 7).

50% of IBDP Japanese ab initio Standard Level students achieved a mark in the top two grades (Grades 6 and 7).

39% of IBDP Spanish ab initio Standard Level students achieved a mark in the top two grades (Grades 6 or 7).

40% of IBDP Spanish B Standard Level students achieved a mark in the top two grades (Grades 6 or 7).



#### What subjects did you study?

Four-unit English, Legal Studies, three-unit Mathematics and Modern Greek Beginners. I really like English – it's always been my favourite. But Legal Studies has been fascinating too.

#### What was your English Extension 2 major work on?

It's about contemporary Greek literature. I investigated how the Greek financial crisis has disoriented the archetype of masculinity that presided in Homeric epics. The new Greek identity is fraught with crises and that has largely displaced their sense of self. It took a while to come up with a concept. It was very challenging at the beginning, but once you find your way, it is incredibly rewarding.

#### Are you proud of what you've done over the last two years?

Yes, I'm really proud! I've put in a lot of effort and the success really comes from how much effort you put in. It doesn't rely on how smart you are, but how much work you do, how much you rely on your teachers and take advantage of everything SACS offers academically. I went to the Mathematics help every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon after school, which really helped me as the teachers were great. Mathematics Extension

was definitely my hardest subject, so I've used the after-school programs a lot.

#### Has there been a highlight for you over the last two years?

Getting marks back was always exciting. I think completing English Extension 2 was a highlight. That was the hardest thing to start off. It took a lot of perseverance to not give up.

#### What did you do when you hit a wall and couldn't work out how to proceed?

I made time with lots of teachers and spoke with all the English teachers to see what people thought of my idea. So that helped me to hone in on a concept. The best way is just to start writing; put something on the page and you can work with it, so that's what helped me: just getting a first draft of something down, and then improving it as you go.

#### If you could give one piece of advice to your Year 11 self, what would it be?

I think you've got to have a clear schedule. Focus on having a constant study routine, with lots of balance for family time and fun things. That's what helps you succeed! You don't want to burn out.



**Matthew Catanzariti**  
IB Diploma



**How do you feel about being joint IBDP Dux?**

It's a pretty good feeling. I'm really proud of all the hard work I put in.

**What advice would you give current IBDP students?**

Be consistent with the work you do, and what you study. Put in 100 per cent effort every day. You never know whether one mark may lift you from a Six to a Seven. So every single bit of effort made a difference.

**What's next for you in 2021?**

I am currently enrolled in a Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Advanced Studies as a Dalyell Scholar at Sydney University. So I probably will do that degree. I did get an offer for a Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Laws so I am considering that too. I'm majoring in Applied Medical Science and Neuroscience.



**Freya Leach**  
IB Diploma



**What did you study?**

Higher Level Philosophy, Global Politics and Literature, and Standard Level Mathematics, French and Environmental Systems and Societies. My favourite was Philosophy – I really liked thinking about the nature of things themselves and in all our other subjects we think about the subject, but in Philosophy we explore the very foundational underpinnings of that subject.

**What advice would you give to Year 11, Freya?**

Start early, but go through the syllabus in detail. Make sure you see how each thing you're learning links to the syllabus, and that you have checked off every single part of it.

**What do you put your academic success down to?**

My main key is consistency, but I also tried to not let study become my life. I do care about how I do academically, but it's not the only thing that drives me. Keeping it in perspective has taken a lot of the pressure off and has made studying an enjoyable process for me.

**What is a challenge you've had over the last two years, and how did you overcome it?**

A challenge would be managing time... I was School Captain, playing Firsts Hockey, Firsts Basketball, doing Cru, various other co-curricular things. My schedules didn't always work and it at times felt like it was all too hard!

**What's been the best thing from the last two years of school?**

Being challenged intellectually, and personally, to persevere and develop grit. The IBDP isn't easy and doesn't come naturally – it's a lot of hard work.

**What are you up to now?**

This year I'm taking part in a cadetship at UBS (the investment banking company) as a security analyst, while studying Commerce and Law at Sydney University.

# St Andrew's Cathedral School:

St Andrew's Cathedral School is a coeducational K-12 Anglican school, located in the heart of Sydney's CBD.

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