

Academic *excellence*



HSC & IB Diploma Programme

CELEBRATING OUR STUDENTS'
ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2022



ST ANDREW'S
CATHEDRAL SCHOOL

Congratulations Class of 2022 – our time together was too short. However, it was a great privilege to know you and lead you. Remember, this is your time; now go with God.



Our 2022 cohort demonstrated consistent focus to achieve outstanding results.

The 2022 cohort, who studied for the HSC and International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP), achieved the best outcomes in the school's history. **These were my first set of graduates as Head of School, and I could not be prouder of this superb group of students.**

What you will find in the following pages will be some summary statistics that give you an indication of overall performance. For example:

1. A quarter of the year group achieved an ATAR of 95 or above and almost 10% achieved an ATAR of 99 or above.
2. First preferences for courses and universities were made to almost all students with a significant rise in the number of students choosing Health and Medical Sciences and Education for their on-ward track.

However, more importantly, what you will find in the following pages is a unique insight into the life, interests and character of a handful of our students.

You will read that our overall Dux, Kai Thomas, was also heavily involved in our sport and theatre programmes. Deeply impacted by a combination of his Philosophy and Literature teachers who taught him a new way of thinking and seeing the world, one of Kai's quotations that will linger in your mind long after you finish the document is this:

"It really is the magic of the school. Its an environment with no toxicity, no judgment and it's a place where people are encouraged."

Meanwhile, our HSC Dux will point you towards the humility and grounded nature of our students. Surprised to be the Dux, and even more surprised to top the State in German, Benjamin Clarke puts his success down to his deep faith and his consistent hard work. Also inspired by his teachers, he desires to pursue teaching in Germany as a graduate.

Miriam Scholl and Vanessa Thill will give you insight into the impact that the STEM subjects have had on their passions and interests in engineering and mathematics. However, these girls too, exemplify the opportunity given to students at St Andrew's Cathedral School to ask existential questions.

Then there's the interior world of Angela Bajic, who attributes coming to St Andrew's as the catalyst that re-ignited her learning, and Nick Langford programming into the future. The outdoors pursuits of Arianne Teo Soucy inspired her to build products that genuinely change the world, while Harriet Maclean's appreciation of the SACS community was heart-warming: *"It's strong, community-based and loving. It's been really nice to come in and feel so welcomed."* Each story is at once moving and hope-filled – please linger a while on each page, appreciating each unique journey.

These students are not numbers on a page, but flesh and blood unique human beings, each one gifted for a different purpose in our diverse world. You can read of Zara Lum's understanding of the formation of gender identity, Iris Crennan's deep reflections on authorial choices,

Carysse Evans' insights into the motif of the forest and Songtham Setthasit's unravelling and threading together of the impact of family and food traditions on society and identity. The intellectual, emotional, social and spiritual journey that our students have been on in these last years is the magic that is captured in these pages.

Congratulations Class of 2022 – our time together was too short. However, it was a great privilege to know you and lead you. Remember, this is your time; go with God.

Dr Julie McGonigle
Head of St Andrew's Cathedral School



HSC graduate Georgia Taplin performs *Astonishing* at Showcase.

Snapshot of our Year 12 2022 HSC and IB Diploma academic results

From a cohort of 168 students

24%

38%

60%

Achieved an ATAR of 95 or higher
Top 5% of ATARs available in NSW

Achieved an ATAR of 90 or higher
Top 10% of ATARs available in NSW

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 were:

99.95
Kai Thomas

99.8
Ella Fleming

99.8
Jamie Sullivan

99.75
Sofia Brassington

99.75
Hugo Johnson

99.75
Nicholas Langford

99.55
Harriet McClean

99.55
Arianne Teo-Soucy

99.0
Benjamin Clark

98.95
Cristina Zekert

98.75
Miriam Sholl

98.7
Olivia Bishara

98.7
Ryan Langley

98.7
Jeremy Tran

98.55
Andrew Amos

98.55
Per Eberhardt

98.55
Grace Gay

98.55
Samantha Panchenko

98.55
Samuel Riedel

98.4
Louis Vahl

97.95
Vanessa Thill

97.9
Zoe Hayes

97.9
Saffron Little

97.9
Iris Crennan

97.85
Angela Bajic

HSC HIGHLIGHTS

97

AVERAGE ATAR FOR
TOP 10% OF STUDENTS

115 students (69% of the Year 12 cohort) studied the NSW Higher School Certificate in 2022.

Benjamin Clark was our HSC Dux, with an ATAR of 99.0. He finished first in the state in German Continuers. Other students who finished in the top 10 in a subject were Bronte Critchley (Studies of Religion 1) and Georgia Taplin (Business Studies).

Subjects where our students all achieved Band 5s or 6s were: Design and Technology, English Extension 2, History Extension, Music 1, Music 2, Music Extension, Visual Arts, French Continuers, French Extension, German Continuers, Italian Continuers, Spanish Continuers, Spanish Extension.

TOP ACHIEVERS

NAME	ATAR	NAME	ATAR
Benjamin Clark	99.00	Name withheld	93.80
Miriam Sholl	98.75	Nathan Deng	92.95
Vanessa Thill	97.95	Max Margarian	92.15
Angela Bajic	97.85	Lucia Bromwich	91.65
Peng Lin	97.65	Callum Treanor	91.25
Eriko Miyagawa	97.45	Zach Kaplan	91.20
Abigail Gillman	96.8	Oliver Kwong	91.10
Name withheld	96.65	Name withheld	91.05
Jack Lanchester	96.35	Holly Hughes [estimate]	90.65
Georgia Taplin	96.15	Name withheld	90.55
Finley Ellis	95.00	Ricky Ma	90.40
Samuel Smith	94.20	Emma Spark	90.25

HSC ALL ROUNDERS
(BAND 6s IN 10 OR MORE UNITS OF STUDY)

Angela Bajic 97.85

THERE WERE 4 SHOWCASE NOMINATIONS FOR MAJOR WORKS, WITH TWO SELECTIONS – CARYSSE EVANS (ART EXPRESS) AND SONGTHAM SETTHASIT (ART EXPRESS).

NOMINATIONS INCLUDED:

HSC Visual Art – Art Express:

Carysse Evans for The Life of the Forest (Virtual Exhibition VX, The Armory, Sydney Olympic Park)

Songtham Setthasit for The Thread to the Heart is woven through the Stomach (The Armory, Sydney Olympic Park, Hawkesbury Regional Art Gallery)

HSC Industrial Design – InTech:

Rory Matheson for his Rocking horse

HSC Music 2 – Encore:

Eriko Miyagawa on piano



Video

Watch part of Eriko Miyagawa’s Encore piece at Showcase 2023.

IB DIPLOMA HIGHLIGHTS

99.8

AVERAGE ATAR FOR
TOP 10% OF STUDENTS

St Andrew’s Cathedral School’s exceptional results in 2022 saw 72% of our students achieving a Diploma score of 35 and above, which equates to an ATAR of 93 and above. Our dux is Kai Thomas who achieved a perfect score of 45 out of 45.



MEDIAN
IB DIPLOMA SCORE



17% OF IB DIPLOMA
STUDENTS



IB DIPLOMA STUDENTS
WHO ACHIEVED ATARS
OF 90 OR ABOVE

TOP ACHIEVERS

NAME	IB SCORE / ATAR	NAME	IB SCORE / ATAR
Kai Thomas	45 / 99.95	Jacqueline Areni, Evelyn Groves	39 / 97.1
Ella Fleming, James Sullivan	44 / 99.8	Katie Tyo, Name withheld	38 / 96.25
Sofia Brassington, Hugo Johnson, Nicholas Langford, Name withheld	44 / 99.75	Kate Cottier	38 / 96.0
Harriet McClean, Arianne Teo-Soucy	43 / 99.55	Larissa Kuskoff, Name withheld	37 / 95.45
Cristina Zekert	42 / 98.95	Oscar Pain	37 / 94.9
Olivia Bishara, Ryan Langley, Jeremy Tran	41 / 98.7	Name withheld, Name withheld	36 / 94.25
Andrew Amos, Per Eberhardt, Grace Gay, Samantha Panchenko, Samuel Riedel, Name withheld	41 / 98.55	Jenna Rees, Name withheld, Name withheld	36 / 93.9
Louis Vahl	41 / 98.4	Laetitia Bartho-Wilcher	36 / 93.6
Iris Crennan, Zoe Hayes, Saffron Little	40 / 97.9	Hutch Rongluengaram	35 / 92.3
		Name withheld	34 / 91.3
		Finn Hercus, Name withheld	34 / 90.85

SUBJECT HIGHLIGHTS

The following individual Standard Level and Higher Level courses saw 100% of students achieve grade 7s or a grade 6 or 7:

- Computer Science HL (100% grade 7)
 - Computer Science SL (100% grade 7)
 - Indonesian AB SL (100% grade 7)*
 - Japanese B SL (100% grade 7)*
 - Music HL (100% grade 7)
 - Music SL (100% grade 7)
 - Philosophy SL (100% grade 7)
 - Physics HL (100% grade 7)
 - Visual Arts SL (100% grade 7)
 - Dutch B SL (100% grade 6 or 7)*
 - Business Management HL (100% grade 7)
- Business Management SL (100% grade 6 and 7)
 - English Literature SL (100% grade 6 and 7)
 - German Language and Lit HL (100% grade 6 and 7)*
 - Global Politics HL (100% grade 6 and 7)
 - History SL (100% grade 6 and 7)
 - Philosophy HL (100% grade 6 and 7)
 - Sports Ex Science HL (100% grade 6 and 7)
 - Theatre HL (100% grade 6 and 7)

Students achieved 104 grade 7s across 28 subjects.

Per Eberhardt achieved a Bilingual Diploma (German and English).

There were 23 grade As achieved in the Extended Essay and Theory of Knowledge components.

A total of 32% of all grades by all students were the top grade 7.

* These courses were studied externally.

Tertiary offers in 2023

The majority of our 2022 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.

OUR 176 HSC AND IBDP GRADUATES IN 2022 HAVE BEEN OFFERED TERTIARY PLACES AS FOLLOWS:

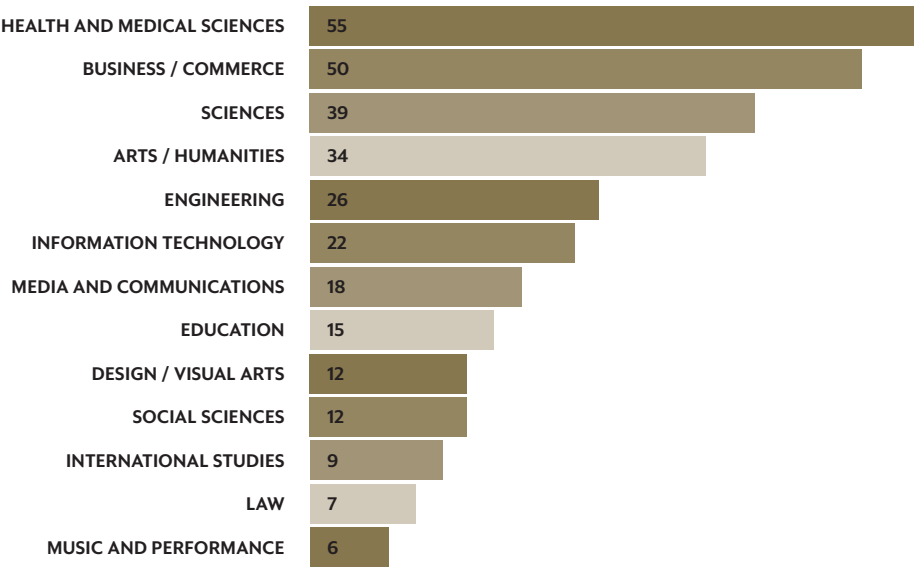
- 80 students received 125 early offers into tertiary courses at 13 institutions
- 15 Australian universities offered places
- 6 other institutions offered places
- 3 students are undertaking a GAP year programme
- 91 students (61%) were offered their first preference course
- 5 students are pursuing tertiary opportunities overseas – in Canada, the UK, Italy, Switzerland/Germany and the USA



News Story

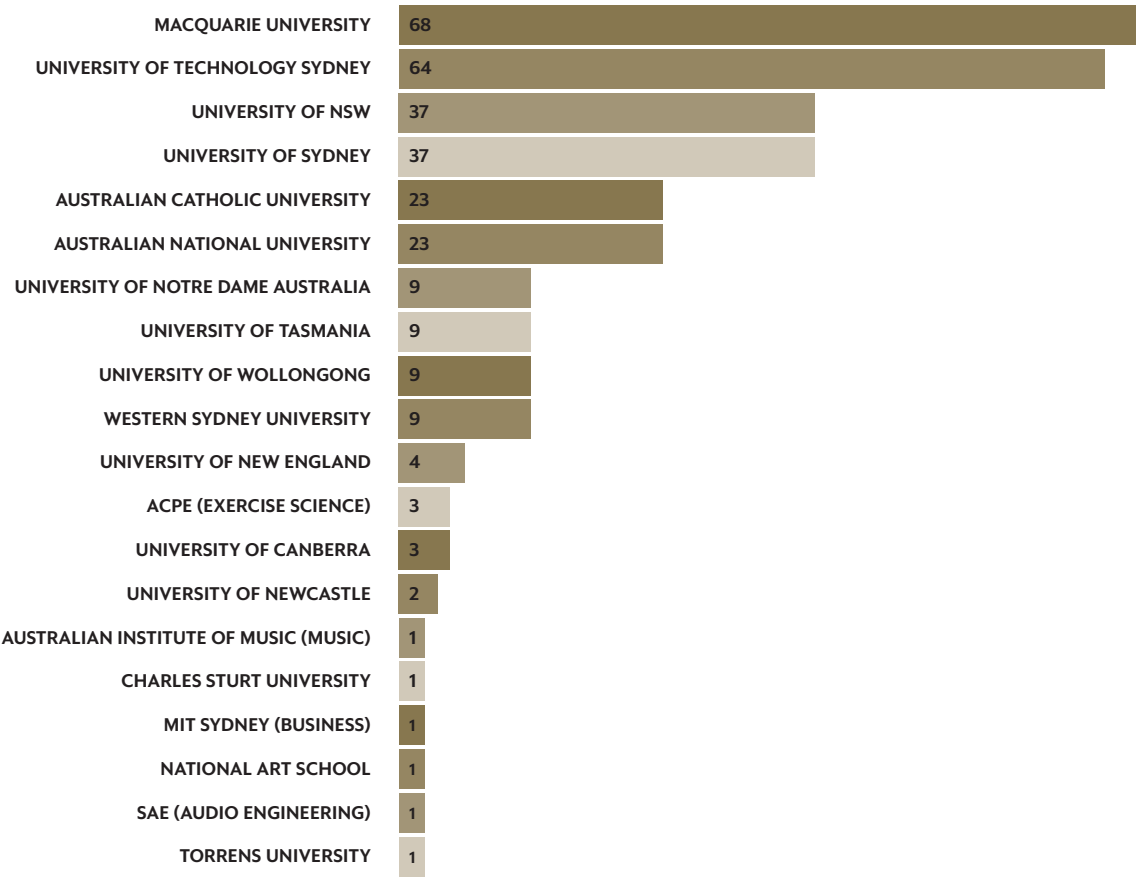
Read about our jet-setting IB Diploma duo, Ella and Jamie, who have moved overseas to further their careers

COURSE OFFERS BY ACADEMIC DISCIPLINE



NUMBER OF OFFERS BY TERTIARY PROVIDER

Based on offers made to SACS students at 19 January 2023



TAFE NSW COURSES AND DEGREES (7 OFFERS)

Aviation, Computing, Design, Horticulture, Hospitality, Screen and Media

Sports captain and dux *led by example*

What did you enjoy most about St Andrew’s Cathedral School?

I’d say basketball, but more generally, it’s the ability to participate in different areas of school without being judged. You can play sport but then also be creative in other areas like drama or whatever else it might be. It really is the magic of the school. It’s an environment with no toxicity, no judgement and it’s a place where people are encouraged.

“The nature of a leader is to be a role model. *There’s no excuse to hide in the corner when you are the leader* because your team needs to see the coach’s plan in action and if they see it, it becomes much more accessible to them.”

How has the encouraging culture impacted you?

I felt free to get involved with a bunch of things. Sport and drama especially. I played soccer and basketball throughout school but I also performed on stage. In Year 9, I acted in *Girl Asleep* in the Middle School production. In Year 10, I was in *Jane Eyre*. In Year 11, I was in *Mr Burns* and in 2022, I was part of *Arms and the Man*.

You were Sports Captain as well as captain of your basketball team. What have you learnt about leadership?

The nature of a leader is to be a role model. There’s no excuse to hide in the corner when you are the leader because your team needs to see the coach’s plan in action and if they see it, it becomes much more accessible to them.

What’s your favourite basketball memory?

In Year 11 we had a talented team but when we first played the team we would eventually meet in the finals, we nearly lost to them. We only ended up winning by two points. The way we were able to grow from that point in the season to when we eventually met them again in the final exemplified the level of teamwork that was involved. We beat them by 35 points. We were completely on the same wavelength. It was remarkable to see the transformation.

Meet some of our high-achieving students

Did you have a favourite subject?

Philosophy was my favourite subject – Dr Hall is an incredible teacher and expanded my love for learning and knowledge. He taught me how to interrogate my beliefs and analyse different arguments and viewpoints and these skills helped all my other subjects. I even did my Extended Essay on Philosophy.

“My second favourite subject and teacher was Literature with Mr Sahlstrom; he completely changed the way I think about essay writing and looking at texts. The ideas and concepts that he introduced to me were some of the most difficult work I completed; it was a very challenging course but his teaching and the material in the IB Diploma course taught me so much.”

What do you hope to do in the future?

I want to continue to play basketball first and foremost. I also want to get involved in coaching because I’ve seen how significant an impact coaches can have on young players. It’s something I’m passionate about. Right now, I’m focused on studying law and philosophy at university.

Would you prefer to be a basketball coach or have a career in law?

I’d like to be a barrister. I think that brings together some skills I’ve learnt. It has an element of performance to it or at least public speaking – that’s what my experience of theatre brings. Also, the hard work necessary to get to that level, which I’ve learnt from sport.

Kai
Thomas





Benjamin *Clark*

Faith and consistent focus *pays dividends*

You topped the state in German Continuers and you are the 2022 HSC dux. Were you surprised by your final results?

When I first saw my ATAR, I was in a state of shock, I didn't move for three minutes. I really was surprised because the month before the exam I found it really hard to do any study at all. I went into the exams feeling unprepared, so I don't know where God pulled that from. I thought I'd go all right in German but to come first was definitely also a surprise. Our family lived in Germany for five-and-a-half years until I was 13 so I did have an advantage.

What do you put your results down to?

Consistency and the good teachers at SACS. If you can get yourself to study for one hour or even half an hour a day, that would be better than studying for all of Sunday. But also, not only consistent working times, but consistent resting times too. I always took Saturday off and it was a good time to remind myself that school and studying isn't everything.

Mrs George really helped me get into a good routine for each subject and was fabulous.

What did you most enjoy at SACS?

Definitely the community. All of the teachers really do care about the students. Also in Senior College, there wasn't any hierarchy among students – we were all just mates.

Do you have a passion or topic you could talk about for hours?

I could talk about God for hours as I believe he's the best thing ever. I think a really good friend is a shadow of the bigger picture of the really great relationship we can have with God. And if you experience eating a really good meal, it's just a shadow of the enjoyment we can have in eternity with God.

What excites you about living and studying in Germany?

Firstly, university in Germany is free if you speak German, so that's a bonus. Secondly, I do still love the country and have some friends and family friends there. Thirdly, I do think there are more opportunities to talk about Jesus in Munich than if I stay here – people aren't as familiar with who Jesus is there.

“I could talk about God for hours as I believe he's the best thing ever. I think a really good friend is a shadow of the bigger picture of the really great relationship we can have with God.”

What are your plans for 2023 and beyond?

I am planning to do a double degree in Science and Education at the University of NSW and then after a year or so, I hope to transfer to Germany and finish it off there. I have some close friends in Germany and I'd like to live there again and study in German.

Supportive Cru group *boosts leadership skills*

What have you most enjoyed about school life?

It's probably been my involvement with CRU, the Christian group. I had the opportunity to be a CRU leader, so I led a Bible Study with a group of Year 8 girls every Wednesday, which I found really encouraging; being involved in Christian ministry is something very important to me and something I want to pursue in my future.

How are teaching and ministry connected for you?

I've spoken to a lot of Christian teachers here about it. Many of them have said the tools you learn in an education degree are useful for Christian ministry, which is why I would like to study education. More than anything, the reason I'm interested in education is to learn the tools that can translate into ministry and because I tutor some kids outside of school and I really enjoy it.

“More than anything, the reason I’m interested in education is to learn the tools that can translate into Christian ministry.”

How have you benefited from your involvement with CRU?

People skills. Learning to talk to people that aren't your own age, engaging with them and making them feel important. We might not think the stresses of Year 7 and 8 are all that serious but it is serious for them. It was good to learn how to validate their worries and express to them that they matter. Having that personal connection means you can ask deeper questions and see where they are at more personally.

What do you hope to do in the future?

I'm thinking about going into education, teaching science and maths. But I would ultimately like to have a career working in Christian ministry.

If you were on a road trip with a friend, what topic of conversation would you cover?

I could talk about how cultural differences shape a person. I grew up in Mexico, so, for me, talking about that life experience is really interesting and I can contrast it with people who live in different cultures. I can see subtle differences in the way people behave. I think that's really interesting and I could probably talk about that for some time!

Miriam
Sholl



**Arienne
Teo Soucy**

What was the best thing you did at St Andrew's Cathedral School?

It's a tie between a school trip overseas to Nepal in 2019 and the Twenty Day Kosi to Coast Expedition. In Nepal, we did a week of hiking and a week of volunteer work. The culture shock, seeing a country like Nepal, was quite incredible. The Twenty Day expedition was physically gruelling, which I enjoyed, and it allowed me to forge strong bonds with the people I was with.

What has stuck with you from your experience of Nepal?

The cultural difference. Unfortunately, Nepal is a poor third world country and I know I was lucky enough to go to a school like this and I'm grateful for the opportunity to see the quality of life in a different part of the world. It made me think about what I want to do with my life and what I should do with the opportunities that are afforded to me.

What is your passion outside school?

I could talk for hours about rock climbing. It's what I love doing with my time. It allows me to go outdoors but you can also train indoors. It's just fascinating, trying to push yourself to your physical limit and seeing what you can achieve.

Was the School's Outdoor Education programme one of your favourite activities?

It was one of the things that attracted me to St Andrew's Cathedral School way back in Year 6. The fact it had such a strong Outdoor Ed programme and that I knew there were opportunities to have adventures really appealed to me. I've made an effort to try and pursue adventure wherever I can.

And are you satisfied?

I am very satisfied. I've been able to do some really cool things, like Nepal and the Twenty Day Expedition. I also did cross country skiing for a few years and I also met my friends who are interested in rock climbing and hiking through St Andrew's. That's been awesome.

What are you hoping to do in the future?

I'd like to study engineering at UNSW because I think it's versatile and I don't want to limit myself to something very specific just yet. I went to an open day and I was impressed that people not much older than me were innovating and building products. Engineers can travel overseas and build products that genuinely change the world. I'm hoping I can follow that path.



**Harriet
McClean**

What's the best gift the School has given you?

Community. I'm from Indonesia and I didn't have any community here in Australia until I came to St Andrew's Cathedral School. The culture here is something that I've never experienced before. It's strong, community-based and loving. It's been really nice to come in and feel so welcomed.

Did you have a favourite subject?

I'd say Business Management. Its application to real life is fascinating. Business is all around us, even the School is a business, so it's interesting to take insights from what I've learned in class and combine that with what I can see being carried out every single day.

What kind of business interests you most?

I grew up overseas. I have travelled a lot and I love planes. I'm not interested in the mechanics but I am interested in the airline business. Part of it is that I associate planes with holidays. So, I'm looking at studying a double degree in commerce and aviation management.

What would you hope to achieve in the airline industry?

I'd love to shed light on the value of having different experiences. You can live in a place forever and you don't know what lies beyond unless you go and do it. You can learn so much from gauging the experience of other people. We are very limited by what we know

within our small communities. A broad range of experiences can really open your mind up and can form the basis for critical thinking, helping you to justify your values and beliefs.

What will you remember about school?

The service activities that are part of the IB Diploma Programme were a big highlight for me. When we were doing it, we didn't want to do the bare minimum, we wanted to do something that was fun and impactful as well. We did a beach clean-up at Coogee. We did a fundraiser for Anglicare and we sold candy canes to the Junior School. It's been a great way to make new connections and friends.

Passionate about solving *real world problems*

What have you most enjoyed about St Andrew's Cathedral School?

I've got to say the Twenty Day Kosciuszko to Coast Expedition. It was a perfect example of what hard work can do for you; eating food that wasn't too good, sleeping in an uncomfortable bed, walking up a mountain. I remember getting to the top of Mt Kosciuszko. I looked at the view and I was like 'oh my goodness. I do not regret this for a second. I'm in so much pain right now but it is worth it'. I also really enjoyed basketball and netball, which I did from Year 7 through to Year 12, as well as debating and girls choir.

What has been the most surprising thing you've done and enjoyed at School?

Music. Before coming to SACS, I had no interest in music whatsoever. We did a couple of classes in Year 7 and I decided to choose it as an elective for Year 8. And then I took singing lessons at school. And now I'm desperate to teach myself the piano and violin, and I'll listen to a piece of music and I'll find so much beauty and joy in it, which is surprising since I never expected to be a musical person.

What's in store for 2023 and beyond?

I'm thinking a double degree in engineering and computer science, probably chemical engineering. I didn't really know what engineering was for a long time. I talked to my cousin, who's an engineer, and she explained that it was finding real world problems and applying your knowledge to solve them. It caught my interest. I like solving problems.

As a natural problem solver, what problem would you most like to solve?

I'd like to get rid of gender bias in STEM. I remember computer science in Year 9 when there were five girls and now in Year 12 all of them have dropped out of the subject. I was the only girl in Year 12 doing software design. Why is that? These girls were all very capable of doing the subject.

What subject could you discuss for hours?

The beginning of the world. I find that so interesting. I could sit on YouTube for hours, watching different theories about how the world began. It's difficult to answer because there is so much unknown about the world. Where did we come from and how were these things made?

"Before coming to SACS, I had no interest in music whatsoever. Now, I'll listen to a piece of music and I'll find so much beauty and joy in it ... I never expected to be a musical person."

How have you benefited from sticking with computer science?

It has a steep learning curve. I'm past the initial learning curve, obviously there's plenty more to learn but I'm really enjoying it now.

It appeals to me that there are multiple ways to tackle a problem. For example, for my major work I coded a 3D minesweeper. It's the game minesweeper but on three dimensions. I used a lot of trigonometry in my major work and that was one of the decisions I made – to bring in my knowledge from another subject to solve problems.

When did these big existential questions first catch your interest?

I was picking my subjects for Year 11 and tossing up between Physics and Chemistry. I chose Chemistry. One day, I was listening to some of my friends talk about Physics and it sounded interesting. It ignited the idea that there's so much about the world I don't know even though I live in it every day. I started researching for myself, watching TED talks and looking online.

Vanessa
Thill



Georgia
Taplin

What have you enjoyed most about school?

Annie the Musical. I was new to the school so I didn't know a lot of people and I made friends by joining the musical. When you have something that you're passionate about and the school is so supportive of that, it makes for such a good experience.

What was it like to perform on stage?

So much adrenaline. Performing live is so special because you get immediate feedback. When you're doing something that you've worked so hard on and you get the immediate satisfaction, it's so hard to explain, you're flooded by endorphins. It's a real escape from Year 12, from study, from everything that's going on at the time. We had so many people come and support us and at the curtain call, we had this immense sense of satisfaction.

When did you realise you loved performing?

I've always sung. I listened to Taylor Swift as a kid and I wanted to be the next one. I'd put on plays for my family and I played the role of *Matilda* in Year 5 with a professional production company which was incredible and that was when I knew I loved it.

Do you have a subject or passion you love talking about?

The psychology of performing. Dealing with the mental game of performing has become a craft for me – I want to master it and I like talking about it. If you're not in the right headspace, if you're doubting yourself, it comes straight out in the performance. You can see if the person is not confident, it's like a vicious cycle. I know a lot of performers who are so hard on themselves because of the pressure they put on themselves.

What are your hopes for the future?

Performing in musicals for sure. That is a big dream but it gets unrealistic as you realise how hard it is to actually make it. That's why I'm going down the route of studying Arts and Advanced Studies at Sydney University because it's quite broad and gives me options.



Hamish
McGregor

What is your favourite school memory?

SACS Factor, definitely. I was doing what I love. I love playing music, but then part of it was being able to use my talent to help other people. We raised money for Rough Edges Cafe. I love being able to help people by using my own gifts and skills that are unique to me.

What instrument do you play?

My main instrument is guitar. I started off playing acoustic steel string guitar and then I played fingerstyle steel string and then I played electric guitar and then a bit of finger style nylon string. Guitar is a versatile instrument. I can get lots of really cool sounds from the little talent I've been able to develop.

What topic of conversation really interests you?

It's not everyone's cup of tea but I love talking about philosophy. It was probably my favourite subject at school. I really enjoy having those deep conceptual conversations. Everyone has unique perspectives and I love understanding where everyone is coming from. We all have different assumptions.

Did studying Philosophy have a big impact on you personally?

Philosophy at St Andrew's was taught in a way that gave students the opportunity to talk about how the things we're learning apply to our lives. For example, I developed this interest in humility and self-interest and the idea of true altruism. Can you do something for someone else without any self-interest?

It's a question I apply to myself. My experience of Philosophy taught me how to really analyse the things that I do and my thought processes.

What do you hope to do in the future?

I want to study Arts and Communications at Macquarie University. I love writing and I love screen production and film. I want to combine all these different things that I love; a bit of music, a bit of philosophy, a bit of writing, a bit of communication. Taking Arts will be a great way for me to study for now and then see where it takes me in the future.



**Nick
Langford**

What have you most enjoyed about school?

The Twenty Day Kosi to Coast expedition was the highlight of my school experience because we had a small, tight-knit group and it followed the end of Year 10 exams. It was a great way to unwind and do something physical. At the end of it, we'd travelled 160 kilometres. It was a massive achievement and I felt a big sense of accomplishment.

What did you gain from the experience?

Two things: I learnt how to persevere while doing something that you find uncomfortable and how to complete repetitive tasks, like walking all day. It taught me how to survive monotony, but it also taught me the value of friendship and how important it is to have people that support you in order to reach your goals.

How did it help you with school life?

I did the IB Diploma Programme and that's hard work. It's similar to the Twenty Day Expedition in that you are doing it with a tight-knit group of people. For example, my Maths class was especially small, and everyone helped each other out with homework. It's a helpful atmosphere – a lot of collaboration takes place.

How would you like to use your computer programming skills in the future?

Ideally, I want to impact people's daily lives and make their experiences better and computer science is really good at doing that. It can automate things that otherwise might be boring or tedious or prone to error. It can alleviate some of the stress and burden of doing multiple tasks at once, and instead, simplify things.

When were you first interested in computers?

I started programming at the Powerhouse Museum. I did a workshop where I learnt how to program using Minecraft, the video game, and I was just fascinated by the programming. You could tell the computer exactly what to do and then it would do it and you have something concrete to show for it at the end. I was largely self-taught up until Year 9 and then I moved to St Andrew's in Year 10 and that's where I really began to enjoy solving computer problems.

What are your plans in 2023?

I want to study computer science or software engineering, something in that field, probably at UNSW, but I'm also considering the University of Sydney and UTS.



**Zara
Lum**

What subject surprised you the most at school?

Maths! I was bad at Maths in Year 10 and 11. I started going to Maths Club and then it all changed. It's great to be with people who are very interested in Maths. There is something satisfying about the simplicity of going through the steps and notions of Maths and it's been a great contrast to my more creative subjects.

What was your favourite subject?

My favourite subject was Japanese, which surprised me because I did French in Middle School and I really wasn't any good at it but I ended up moving into Japanese. It's something I realised I was passionate about and it was so much easier to learn the subject and keep the language in my brain.

For your Textiles subject, what was your major work?

My Textiles major work was all about how women present themselves. I looked at the concept of the male gaze and how it impacts the way women present themselves. I made a jacket which was modest and unassuming but also a bikini. The two contrasting pieces were my attempt at representing two different responses to the male gaze.

What interests you about design?

When I was younger, I thought, 'I can't wait to have an office job because I'll have all these cute outfits'. I realised at the core of that desire was a passion for styling. It relates to my interest in sociology; it's about expressing your identity and how we, as humans, present ourselves.

What are your plans for the future?

I want to major in sociology and minor in either gender studies or Japanese studies. I was talking with my English teacher one day, and she said I'd be good at anthropology or sociology. And I was inspired by that – she was really encouraging. But when I imagine the job I'll have in the future, I think it will be in design or maybe fashion.



Iris Crennan

I did my International Baccalaureate Extended Essay on *The Secret History* by Donna Tartt. I read it three times and I could talk about it for hours. The author said in an interview that she agonised over every word and it shows; *every word is intentional and it has so much meaning behind it.*

A fascination with words sparks an *interest in global politics and diplomacy*

What did you enjoy most about school?

I really enjoyed Mock Trial, where you re-enact a court trial. My role changed at each trial, sometimes I was a witness and at other points I was the lawyer. I liked that you had to think on the spot. The Judge would ask questions that you had not prepared for and you had to think quickly to answer them properly and in a way that favoured your team.

Is there any subject from school that changed the way you think?

I did my International Baccalaureate Extended Essay on *The Secret History* by Donna Tartt. I read it three times and I could talk about it for hours. It's a fantastic story about these classic students at a University in Vermont who kill someone. The author said in an interview that she agonised over every word and it shows; every word is intentional and it has so much meaning behind it.

Studying this book for my Extended Essay taught me to look deeper and think about why certain words provoke emotion and why others don't and, also, how to construct language in a way that produces a specific effect and influences people.

What do you hope to do in the future?

I am going to study International Relations and Political Science at the Australian National University in Canberra. I'd like to work in diplomacy and the Department of Foreign Affairs. I'm just really interested in what's going on in the world and I really liked Global Politics as a subject this year. It was the only degree that was specific enough to create a career path but broad enough to allow me to do different things within the career path.

What do you think is the key to academic success?

Starting early, every single time, because things will build up so quickly and then you can get stuck working on a whole bunch of things late when you had so much time to get things done earlier.

Art Express

success

Our 2022 Visual Arts graduates produced outstanding major work, with all students achieving a Band 5 or Band 6 HSC mark. Two major works – by Carysse Evans and Songtham Setthasit – were selected for the *Art Express* exhibition of best HSC artworks for 2022.

Carysse Evans

***The Life of the Forest* – printmaking and etched woodblocks.**

"My Body of Work explores the motif of the forest in a variety of ancient, modern and contemporary stories in a range of styles. I believe the forest becomes a character itself in these stories, evoking a range of experiences and emotions such as comfort and peace while also fear and anxiety. I chose to explore this through lino printing and woodblocks on a small scale to incorporate the dimensions and traditional techniques of storybooks."

Selected for Art Express



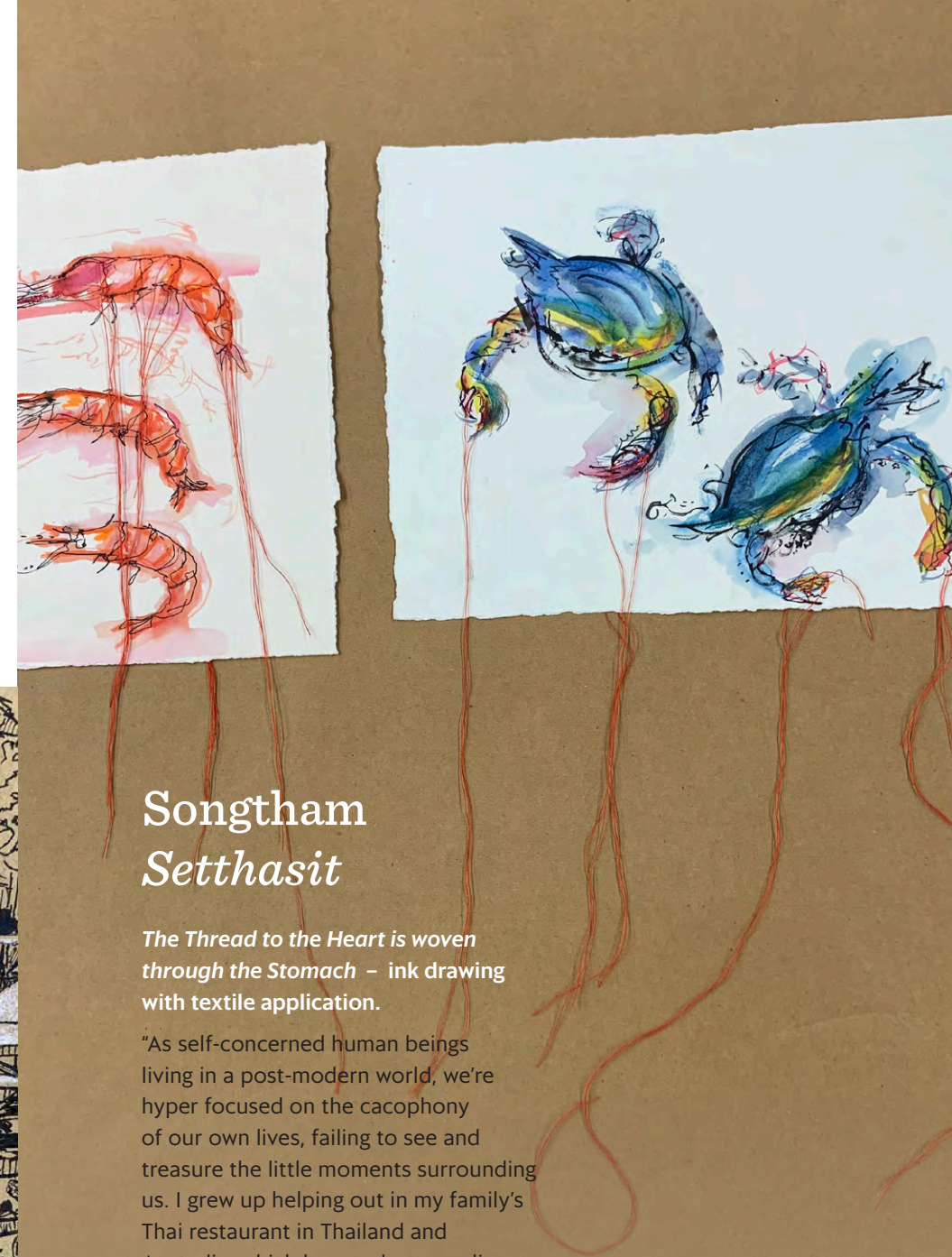
Songtham Setthasit

***The Thread to the Heart* is woven through the Stomach – ink drawing with textile application.**

"As self-concerned human beings living in a post-modern world, we're hyper focused on the cacophony of our own lives, failing to see and treasure the little moments surrounding us. I grew up helping out in my family's Thai restaurant in Thailand and Australia, which has made me realise the importance of food. Food is central to our existence; it is a universal language of love. Not only does it feed us and give us energy, but it also creates connections and memories by bringing people together."

Informed by my Chinese and Thai heritage, I have utilised traditional, calligraphic materials – nib and ink, on different types of paper to display fragments of memories of strangers, friends and family connected through the act of sharing a meal. The red thread of fate is a cultural symbol that binds people together, akin to the act of sharing meals with loved ones."

Selected for Art Express





Angela *Bajic*

You moved to St Andrew's Cathedral School in Year 11. Was that hard to do?

I came from a school that had a very pressured academic environment. I felt like it was more of a competitive environment rather than one where teachers foster your ability. I had quite low self-confidence, even academically. When I came to St Andrew's, I found it to be very supportive. My teachers cared about me and I found I was able to put my hand up and ask questions, rather than stay silent.

What did you most enjoy about school?

I really enjoyed netball and made some great friends within my netball team last year.

I also really like being creative. After English and Ancient History, I'd say Visual Arts was one of my favourite subjects as it enabled me to express

myself in a different way that was an escape from my essay-heavy subjects.

When did you first become interested in poetry?

My first assessment in Year 7 was poetry and I got 100 per cent. I started honing in on poetry and that was a moment where my passion for English was ignited. I started reading Shakespeare's sonnets and I love the imagery and the fact that you can convey so much in a small number of words. It really highlighted to me the power of words.

How did your teachers encourage you?

I'd lost my passion for English at my old school but at St Andrew's I had the freedom to write the way I wanted. The way in which you use words reflects your own values and that applies to writing, talking and speeches. All the teachers fostered my passion and

encouraged me to write authentically and write with my own voice. I've been able to track my personal growth by comparing something I wrote last year with something I'm writing now – not only have my skills grown but what I've been writing about has changed.

What tertiary studies are you aiming to do?

I like writing short stories and poetry, so I'm keen to combine my creative writing passion with law. Law and Communications at UTS fits the bill.

Sam *Riedel*



You're an avid footballer. When did you fall in love with football and what has been the highlight so far?

I grew up in Hong Kong and I lived there for 10 years. While I was there, I played for a strong club and was in a very good team. It's been a defining part of my character and lots of good relationships have come from it. I moved to Sydney in Year 10 and I've been playing for the school team since then.

One memorable moment was when I went to Sweden to play a tournament when I was 14. It was the Gothia Cup and there were 190 teams and we made it into the top 30 teams.

What's your favourite way to switch off?

I like rock climbing. I live close to the biggest indoor climbing gym. There are a bunch of other students from school who did it with me. Climbing is one of those things where, in order to reach your max, you must focus on what you are doing and completely switch off from school. It can be painful and exhausting, but it helped me to move from being at school during the day into doing effective study later at night.

What do you hope to do in 2023?

I'm going to study something in engineering, either at Sydney University or UNSW. I also play football for Sydney University, so I have a pathway to go to there and continue playing football for them. I hope to play football at a high level.

What was the key to your academic success?

Making sure my down time was good time. I didn't watch YouTube or Netflix the whole time. I was doing an activity that got me to think more and switch off from school. If you're watching Netflix or YouTube or playing video games, you still have the feeling that you should be studying instead. But when I'm playing sport, for example, I completely switched off from schoolwork.

HSC SUBJECT HIGHLIGHTS

97

AVERAGE ATAR FOR
TOP 10% OF STUDENTS

The strength of our subject results across both graduate credentials in 2022 was remarkable for the breadth of subjects that saw 100 per cent of students achieving marks in the top two grades or bands.

ENGLISH

68% of HSC Advanced English students achieved a mark in the top two performance bands (Bands 5 and 6)
82% of HSC Extension 1 students achieved a mark in the top two performance bands (E3 and E4)
100% of HSC Extension 2 students achieved a mark in the top two performance bands (E3 and E4)

LANGUAGES

100% of HSC Chinese Continuers students achieved a mark in the top three performance bands (Band 4,5 and 6)
100% of HSC French Continuers students achieved a mark in the top two performance bands (Bands 5 and 6)

MATHEMATICS

78% of HSC Mathematics Extension 2 students achieved a mark in the top two performance bands (Bands 5 and 6)
84% of HSC Mathematics Extension 1 students achieved a mark in the top two performance bands (Bands 5 and 6)

MUSIC AND DRAMA

100% of HSC Music 2 students achieved a mark in the top two performance bands (Bands 5 and 6)
100% of Music 1 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
90% of HSC Drama students achieved a mark in the top two performance bands (Bands 5 and 6)

SCIENCE

94% of HSC Chemistry students achieved a mark in the top three performance bands (Bands 4, 5 and 6)
86% of HSC Physics students achieved a mark in the top three performance bands (Bands 4, 5 or 6)

HISTORY AND HUMAN SOCIETY AND ITS ENVIRONMENT

100% of HSC History Extension students achieved a mark in the top two performance bands (E3 and E4)
85% of HSC Modern History students achieved a mark in the top three performance bands (Bands 4, 5 and 6)
92% of HSC Business Studies students achieved a mark in the top three performance bands (Bands 4, 5 and 6)

DESIGN, VISUAL ARTS AND DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

100% of HSC Software Design and Development students achieved a mark in the top three performance bands (Bands 4, 5 and 6)
100% of industrial technology (Timber students achieved a mark in the top three performance bands (Bands 4, 5 and 6))
100% of HSC Visual Arts students achieved a mark in the top two performance bands (Bands 5 and 6)
100% of HSC Design and Technology students achieved a mark in the top two performance bands (Bands 5 and 6)

IB DIPLOMA SUBJECT HIGHLIGHTS

99.8

AVERAGE ATAR FOR
TOP 10% OF STUDENTS

This points to the dedication and excellence of our teaching staff, which was matched by the commitment and discipline shown by this student cohort.

ENGLISH

100% of Literature Standard Level students achieved a mark in the top two grades (grade 6 or 7)
100% of German Language and Literature Higher Level students achieved a top grade 7 (outside tutor)
79% of English Literature HL students achieved a mark in the top two grades (grade 6 or 7)

LANGUAGES

100% of Indonesian ab initio Standard Level students achieved a top grade 7 (outside tutor)
100% of Japanese B Standard Level students achieved a top grade 7 (outside tutor)
100% of Dutch B SL students achieved a top grade 7 (outside tutor).
81% of French B Standard Level students achieved a mark in the top two grades (grade 6 or 7)
63% of Spanish B Standard Level students achieved a mark in the top two grades (grade 6 or 7)

MATHEMATICS

89% of Mathematics Analysis and Approaches Higher Level students achieved a mark in the top two grades (grade 6 or 7)

MUSIC AND DRAMA

100% of Music Higher Level students achieved a top grade 7
100% of Music Standard Level students achieved a top grade 7
100% of Theatre Higher Level students achieved a mark in the top two grades (grade 6 or 7)

SCIENCE

100% of Sports Exercise and Health Science Higher Level students achieved a mark in the top two grades (grade 6 or 7)
100% of Physics Higher Level students achieved a top grade 7
86% of Physics Standard Level students achieved a mark in the top two grades (grade 6 or 7)

HISTORY AND HUMAN SOCIETY AND ITS ENVIRONMENT

100% of Philosophy Higher Level students achieved a top grade 7
100% of Global Politics Higher Level students achieved a mark in the top two grades (grade 6 or 7)
100% of Business Management Higher Level students achieved a mark in the top two grades (grade 6 or 7)
100% of Business Management Standard Level students achieved a mark in the top two grades (grade 6 or 7)
100% of History Standard Level students achieved a mark in the top two grades (grade 6 or 7)
79% of Psychology Higher Level students achieved a mark in the top two grades (grade 6 or 7)

DESIGN, VISUAL ARTS AND DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

100% of Visual Arts Standard Level students achieved a top grade 7
100% of Computer Science Higher Level students achieved a top grade 7
100% of Computer Science Standard Level students achieved a top grade 7



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