

2016 SANTA SCHOLARS

ACADEMIC HIGHLIGHTS P-12



**9 STUDENTS
WITH ATARS
OVER 98**

**YEAR 11
ACCELERANTS
EXCEL**

**STAFF
SCHOLARS**

Celebrating the success
of our staff



DOMINICAN JUBILEE
800 YEARS
1216-2016



Santa Sabina College



PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

Welcome to this year's very special celebration of scholarship at Santa Sabina College. In this 800 Jubilee year of the Dominican Order, it is most fitting to honour the scholarly tradition we inherit. We do this by valuing and recognising the breadth and depth of academic achievement of our students in 2016. Indeed we also recognise our staff who exemplify what it means to be discerning scholars through their love of learning and higher education.

The Dominican intellectual tradition is one of critical inquiry, capacity to grapple with complexity, and appreciation and love of the beautiful as reflected in Veritas – Truth – of the Gospel. This tradition is dynamic, in constant dialogue between the past and the present, so that we are alert to the 'signs of the times' that shape our students' lives. Neither is this tradition a solely 'intellectual' one, as it does not separate head and heart.

'Discernment' is at the core of our College Strategy, as we commit to educating 'discerning scholars'. This commitment informs our approach to teaching and learning, and not just to the end results as seen on test scores. If we want our students to discern what is best, what is 'excellent', what really matters and what is of ultimate importance, we must attend to them as whole, passionate people, who will only learn what they truly love. As Scripture tell us, 'Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it' (Proverbs, 4:23). Assisting our students to nourish and guard their hearts is our sacred responsibility.

So it is with great joy that I invite you to share in the achievements of our discerning scholars, whether they be our youngest students at Del Monte, our graduating HSC class of 2016, our staff or our ex-students. They are worthy of the title, 'Santa Scholars'.

Dr Maree Herrett

COURSE DATA HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2016 133 Year 12 students and 35 accelerants undertook study in 39 NSW Board of Studies Developed Courses.
- Santa Sabina students appeared 198 times on the Board of Studies Distinguished Achievers List across 35 courses.
- Accelerants received 22 Band 6 results with 4 accelerants receiving two Band 6 results.
- Eighty-three students received a result in the highest band possible for one or more courses and are recognised on the Board of Studies Distinguished Achievers List.
- Santa Sabina students celebrated a diversity of success with results in the highest band possible in 35 courses and overall class performance above the state mean in 36 courses.
- In English Extension 1, English Extension 2, History Extension, Italian Extension, Mathematics Extension 2 and Music Extension 100% of students achieved in the highest two bands possible with an examination mark of 40 or more.

TOP ACHIEVERS IN STATE



Student Name	Course	Place in Course
Georgette Bechara	Legal Studies	9th
Chiara Biviano	Textiles & Design	8th
Isabelle Brooks	Mathematics General 2	2nd
Sarah Clucher*	Italian Continuers	2nd
Annalise Ianni	Design & Technology	8th
Nina Kerwin-Roman	Italian Beginners	5th
Jessica Kim*	Japanese Continuers	4th
Louisa Wong	French Beginners	5th

*Indicates accelerant student.

The term 'accelerating' refers to completing an HSC subject one year earlier than usual. This usually means completing one or several HSC subjects during Year 11.

HSC TOP ALL-ROUNDERS



Four of our students featured on the HSC Top All-Rounders List achieving the highest performance band in 10 or more units in the HSC. Congratulations to:

- Isabelle Brooks
- Adelaide Highfield
- Annalise Ianni
- Nina Kerwin-Roman



Above: Top Achievers Jessica Kim (Year 11 accelerant), Sarah Clucher (Year 11 accelerant), Chiara Biviano, Isabelle Brooks, Georgette Bechara, Annalise Ianni.

HSC HIGHLIGHTS

CONTINUED EXCELLENCE IN LANGUAGES, MUSIC AND TAS

The College continues its outstanding success in languages with top 10 places in four courses in NSW: 2nd in Italian Continuers, 5th in Italian Beginners, 4th in Japanese Continuers and 5th in French Beginners.

Technological and Applied Studies (TAS) subjects were again outstanding with all six students in Design and Technology receiving a Band 6 result and Annalise Ianni placing 8th in the state. Textiles and Design also had four students receive a Band 6 with Chiara Biviano achieving 8th in the state. These courses require students to complete a Major Design Project with supporting documentation which encourages creative thinking, problem solving and project management skills.

Music 2 and Music Extension performance works achieved excellent results and were acknowledged as exceptional with the selection of Michelle Mutyora to perform in the Encore showcase of student performance work in Music.

GROWTH AT THE TOP LEVEL IN ENGLISH, MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE

Substantial increases in the number of students achieving at the highest level in English, Mathematics and Science courses have been part of the success of this year's HSC results:

In English Advanced 25% of the cohort achieved a Band 6 (compared to 15% of NSW).

In Mathematics General 15% of the cohort achieved a Band 6 (compared to 5% of the State).

In Mathematics 26% of the cohort achieved a Band 6 (compared to 23% of the State).

In Physics 11% of the cohort achieved a Band 6 (compared to 8% of the State).

In Chemistry 12% of the cohort achieved a Band 6 (compared to 9% of the State).

ACHIEVEMENTS OF ACCELERANTS

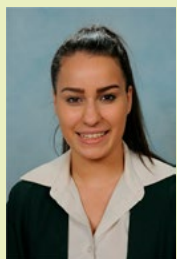
Acceleration has been shown to provide dramatic academic gains for identified students. The change of pace with added complexity and challenge suits the ability of these learners. This has been very evident in our 2016 HSC results. Thirty-five accelerants undertook HSC courses in Italian Continuers, Japanese Continuers, Mathematics and Studies of Religion II. Accelerants received 22 Band 6 results with four accelerants receiving two Band 6 results.

These accelerants have now completed part of their HSC qualification and can focus their energies in 2017 on their other courses with many of them taking on rigorous extension courses.

Mrs Angela Thomas
Head of Teaching and Learning

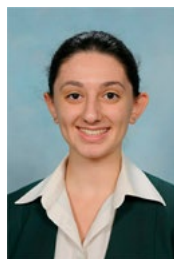
HSC SHAPE EXHIBITION

Each year the Board of Studies showcases outstanding student work from across NSW in a series of exhibitions. The following students received nominations for their Design and Technology Major Project in the Shape Exhibition.



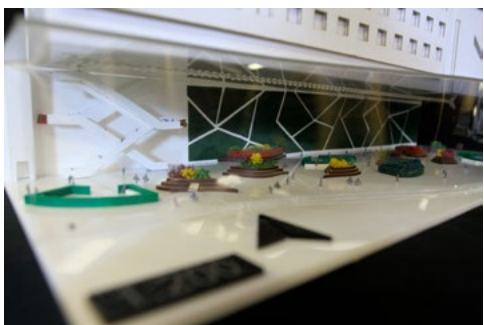
SOUND LIGHTS

Monica Carollo – Selected for Shape



EXPANSION & REDESIGN OF LANDSCAPING BUSINESS

Julia Malfitano



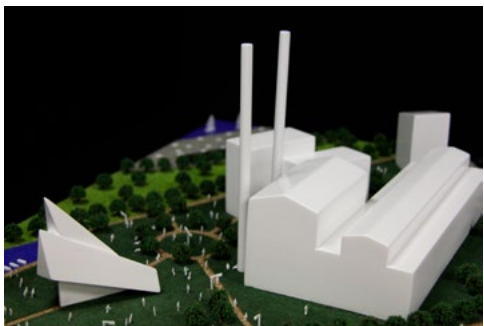
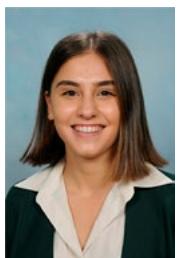
SUBTERRANEAN GREEN PRECINCT CONCEPT

Alana Giardina



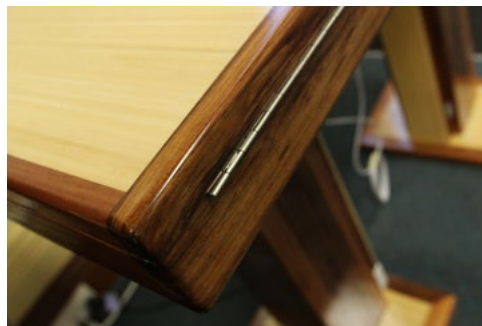
OUTDOOR FIRE PIT

Alish Power



WHITE BAY INNOVATION MUSEUM

Annalise Ianni

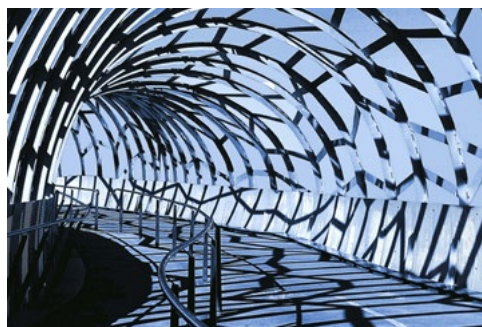
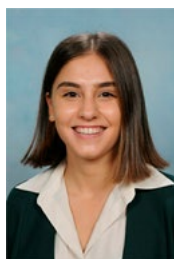


SITTING/STANDING TABLE

Heeji Seo

HSC ARTEXPRESS EXHIBITION

ARTEXPRESS is an annual exhibition of exemplary artworks created by students for the Higher School Certificate examination in Visual Arts. The following student received a nomination for her Major Project.



ARCHITECTURE IS A VISUAL ART AND THE BUILDINGS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES

Annalise Ianni

HSC ENCORE SHOWCASE

ENCORE is a program of outstanding performances and compositions by students from the Higher School Certificate Music examinations. The prestigious concert is held annually at the Sydney Opera House.



Michelle Mutyora was selected for ENCORE for her HSC vocal performance 'Parramatta Road Drive'.



Juliet Marshall received a nomination for ENCORE for composition.



Nicole Samsa received a nomination for ENCORE for composition and received a scholarship to attend The Sydney Conservatorium of Music.



Morgan Townsend received a nomination for ENCORE for composition.

ATAR HIGHLIGHTS

9 STUDENTS
RECEIVED
AN ATAR OVER
98

HIGHEST
ATAR
99.70

1 IN 5 STUDENTS
RECEIVED AN ATAR OVER 95

33% OF THE COHORT
RECEIVED AN ATAR OVER 90

Student Name	ATAR
Georgette Bechara	99.70
Courtney Ferguson	98.95
Nina Kerwin-Roman	98.80
Adelaide Highfield	98.50
Cindy Li	98.30
Claire Duncan	98.25
Isabella Boulos	98.00
Isabelle Brooks	98.00
Juliette Kaado	98.00
Chiara Biviano	97.90
Brooke Agostino	97.80

Student Name	ATAR
Annalise Ianni	97.80
Allyana Trajano	97.50
Yazmin Macclessi	97.05
Monique Souma	96.30
Lauren Chiefari	96.20
Yashvi Shah	96.10
Juliet De Mattia	95.75
Carmelina Di Chiara	95.40
Holly Gilbert	95.40
Sabina Aunedi	95.30
Gabrielle Alphonse	95.25

SCHOLAR PROFILES



GEORGETTE BECHARA

ATAR 99.70 / 9th Legal Studies

Contributing factors to your HSC success? Constant study and hard work. High scaling subjects and selecting subjects that I am passionate about.

What are your fondest memories of your time at Santa Sabina? Watching myself grow and rise from the bottom to the top through hard work and constant teacher feedback.

What are the most important lessons you learnt during your time at Santa Sabina? Failure is critical to achieving excellence and improvement.

Focus on yourself and engage in healthy competition.

What is your HSC advice for younger students? Select subjects you are passionate about with a combination of 4 unit Maths – a challenge is fun!

Plans for 2017 Study Law at University of Sydney.

COURTNEY FERGUSON

ATAR 98.95

Contributing factors to your HSC success? The unwavering support of my family, friends and the Santa Sabina College community. I can also attribute my results to my strong work ethic, consistency and effort throughout the HSC year.

What are your fondest memories of your time at Santa Sabina? I will always remember the strong sense of inclusiveness and community I felt, the wonderful support of the staff and the great friendships I made. Experiences such as immersions and social justice programs were enriching and allowed me to gain a new understanding of the wider community.

What are the most important lessons you learnt during your time at Santa Sabina? My time at Santa Sabina has taught me that Santa girls are strong-minded, independent and driven, and have the potential to achieve anything they put their minds to.

What is your HSC advice for younger students? Choose subjects that you are passionate about and genuinely interested in. Study smart by using study methods that work for you e.g. going to the library, rewriting key points and doing practice papers. Also, although clichéd, consistency really is key and is essential for HSC success.

Plans for 2017 Study Arts Law at Macquarie University.



NINA KERWIN-ROMAN

ATAR 98.80 / HSC all rounder / 5th Italian Beginners

Contributing factors to your HSC success? For me, it came down to perspective during the HSC. I found that having the ability to step back, reevaluate and discern what was truly important guided me through times of stress or confusion. To broaden your perspective beyond the HSC allows for fostering clear and personalised motivation.

What are your fondest memories of your time at Santa Sabina? Santa's undeniable sense of community, as a supportive and welcoming network, is truly distinctive. It founds my fondest memories; particularly the immediate bond to SSC fostered upon starting in 2013, culminating in the privilege to represent this community as Deputy College Leader.

What are the most important lessons you learnt during your time at Santa Sabina? Above all, to take the leap and involve yourself in opportunities at school; especially those that exceed your comfort zone. Whether you enjoy it or not, the lessons you learn will ultimately shape the person you become.

What is your HSC advice for younger students? If there was one thing I could say, it would be that the HSC is not a black hole; not everything has to be sacrificed to get a mark. Ultimately, Senior years are an exciting time and your activities across leadership, sport, service and music will become a beneficial outlet as you study.

Plans for 2017 I hope to study Law at the University of Sydney and get involved in all that student life has to offer.

CINDY LI

ATAR 98.30

Contributing factors to your HSC success?

Studying hard.

What are your fondest memories of your time at Santa Sabina?

Friends.

What are the most important lessons you learnt during your time at Santa Sabina?

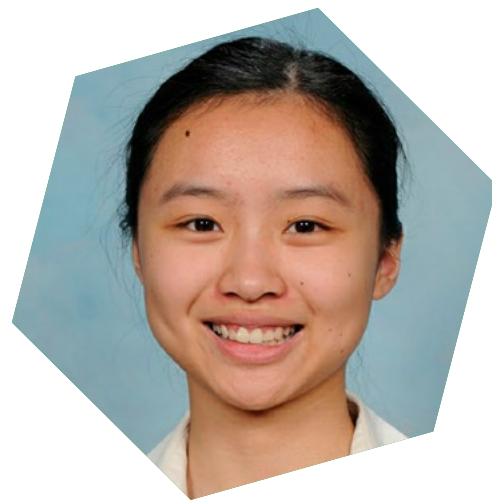
To not over think things.

What is your HSC advice for younger students?

Work hard and do your best.

Plans for 2017

Civil Engineering at UNSW.



CLAIRE DUNCAN

ATAR 98.25

Contributing factors to your HSC success?

Focusing on doing the best I can rather than aiming for specific results.

What are your fondest memories of your time at Santa Sabina?

Friends.

What are the most important lessons you learnt during your time at Santa Sabina?

To have a growth mindset.

What is your HSC advice for younger students?

Work fairly hard but stay balanced.

Plans for 2017

Advanced Bachelor of Science at University of Sydney.



ISABELLE BOULOS

ATAR 98.00

Contributing factors to your HSC success?

Dedicated staff members, always striving to achieve my goals and remaining motivated.

What are your fondest memories of your time at Santa Sabina?

Time spent with my friends and my South African immersion experience.

What are the most important lessons you learnt during your time at Santa Sabina?

Always remain true to yourself. Hard work always pays off in the end so try to remain dedicated.

What is your HSC advice for younger students?

Try to maintain a balance between study and social life.

Plans for 2017

I intend to study commerce at UNSW and combine this with a cadetship at UBS.



ISABELLE BROOKS

ATAR 98.00 / HSC all rounder / 2nd Mathematics General

Contributing factors to your HSC success?

Having a good balance between your social life and HSC work allows for success as it gives you something to look forward to, therefore motivating you to work hard in your free time. If you give yourself too much free time you are going to waste it.

What are your fondest memories of your time at Santa Sabina?

Building connections with both students and staff.

What are the most important lessons you learnt during your time at Santa Sabina?

Hard work pays off in the end. Work hard and results will surprise you.

What is your HSC advice for younger students?

Really listen to the advice of your teachers – they are there to help you.

Plans for 2017

University – something to do with Marketing/Communications.



JULIETTE KAADO ATAR 98.00

Contributing factors to your HSC success?

A main factor contributing to my HSC success was choosing subjects that I enjoyed and was willing to dedicate time to. Working consistently and diligently ensures you are effectively using your time, particularly when assessments and tasks begin to build up. I found that listening closely in class and engaging in discussions with my teachers and other students were helpful forms of understanding new concepts and retaining information in the long term. This combined with extra readings, lots of practice and a healthy balance between school and my social life contributed to shaping my HSC experience.

What are your fondest memories of your time at Santa Sabina?

Having been at Santa since Kindergarten I have developed many friendships that will hopefully continue beyond school. Being able to compete with other girls in different sports and represent the school are some of the experiences that I particularly enjoyed.

What are the most important lessons you learnt during your time at Santa Sabina?

Being at Santa I have learnt the importance of respect, honesty and independence. In particular valuing Veritas, Santa Sabina has shaped my understanding of what it means to be truthful in minor situations as well as broader issues of injustice. The importance placed on developing a group of women who are driven and well educated has provided me and many others with experiences that pave the way for further opportunities. In light of this, the lessons I have learnt at Santa extend so much beyond school.

What is your HSC advice for younger students?

Approaching the HSC I was told so many things about people's experiences and learnt that everyone manages Year 12 differently. My advice to younger students would be to use high school to develop strategies and skills relating to organisation and study habits that you can eventually apply during the HSC. Allowing time to do things unrelated to school work is also important and I came to learn particularly in Year 12 that working smarter, not harder or longer hours was more effective for me.

Plans for 2017 I plan to go to university to do a double degree in arts law or commerce law. I would like to attend either the University of Sydney, Macquarie University or the University of Technology Sydney.





Ms Emily Potts, Dr Maree Herrett, Mr Luke Carr and Mrs Sharon Portlock with the graduating Year 4 boys



Ms Emily Potts, Dr Maree Herrett and Mrs Sharon Portlock

SPEECH DAY K-5

Our Speech Day on the Primary Campus was a celebration of student achievement in 2016 as well as an opportunity to bid farewell to our Year 4 boys as they graduate from the College. Guest of Honour Ms Emily Potts (Class of 2004) engaged the audience with stories from her life since leaving the College.

NATIONAL MATHEMATICS WINNERS

Once again, our budding mathematicians on the Primary Campus were invited to attend the National Mathematics Talent Quest after winning the NSW State competition.

The Year 2 Liddell class entry, *The Mathematics of Toothpaste*, and the Year 3 Annetter class entry, *All hands on deck*, were awarded national winners at the awards ceremony held at La Trobe University, Bundoora on 20 October.

This year, Head of Primary, Mrs Sharon Portlock, was invited to be on the panel of the National Judging for Maths Investigations. The feedback from the panel of judges was extremely positive for Santa Sabina as they stated that our investigations were “set in rich contexts and showed depth of mathematical thinking along with creative problem solving.” Mrs Portlock said, “the thinking process involved in these maths investigations allows the students to develop sound understanding and meaning as well as efficient and creative strategies to solve problems.”



FILMMAKING EXCELLENCE



Award-winning junior filmmaker Bella Merlino added significantly to her trophy haul in 2016. The Year 6 student won Best Junior Film 2016 in the REELise Film Festival for her film *Sticks and Stones*, despite being the youngest competitor. Her high impact film, *One More Wish*, was shortlisted for Trop jr – the youth offshoot of Sydney's world-renowned short film competition Tropfest. She is currently working on her entry for REELise 2017, *Dear Brother*. In addition, Bella was the youngest finalist at the Canterbury Bankstown Youth Awards 2016 for Outstanding Achievement in Creative and Performing Arts and she won first place in 31 different speech and drama competitions throughout the year. We would like to acknowledge Bella's commitment to film production as well as speech and drama and congratulate her on her success.

SLEEK GEEKS

"I see Red" - Sleek Geeks Science Eureka Prize Finalists

When Year 5 Santa Sabina College students Rosanna Cartwright and Elli Rugg wondered if red tinted lenses in swim goggles gave swimmers a competitive edge, they decided to test their theory.

The experiments they conducted and the video that accompanied these experiments made them one of two finalists in the Primary category for the University of Sydney Sleek Geeks Science Eureka Prize.

The University of Sydney Sleek Geeks Science Eureka Prize is awarded for a short film that communicates a scientific concept in an accessible and engaging way.

Entries took the form of a one-to-three minute film and had to tell a real scientific story, such as a scientific concept, discovery, invention, or the producer's own scientific hypothesis!



"At our local swim club, some of the swimmers ... say that wearing red-lensed goggles feels great and helps you swim faster," says Rosanna. "We decided to investigate. In our film we show how the eyes and brain work together to see colour."

Rosanna and Elli explain how seeing the colour red effects concentration, focus, blood pressure, pulse and energy levels.

Head of Primary at Santa Sabina College Sharon Portlock says "STEM teaching and learning experiences are so important for primary students as they arouse curiosity and ingenuity at a young age. Problem solving and an inquiry based approach to the teaching of Science allows students to construct meaning and refine their understanding."



SPEECH NIGHT 6-12

The 2016 Speech Night celebrated the achievements of our students and provided the community with a final opportunity to bid farewell to our Year 12 graduates. Guest of Honour, Professor Mary Foley AM (Class of 1969) reflected on the way her Santa Sabina education taught her values of knowing what is right, what is just and how to make a difference in the lives of others.

"Being here tonight I remember my last Santa Speech Night as if it were yesterday, even though it was actually 47 years ago in 1969. I recall the build-up and excitement as exams gave way to rehearsals for the big night. In that year, we took on Handel's 'Hallelujah Chorus'; the whole school participated in the choir. I now associate that sense of anticipation with the feel of an approaching Sydney summer; and for Year 12, of course, these feelings are also tinged with some uncertainty, and even apprehension, as we wonder what the future might bring when our HSC results become known and we are launched on the world in the new year.

While our families are generally the primary influence on our lives, our experiences at school are also very important in finding out who we are and who we are going to become. In preparing for tonight, I have reflected on the significance of Santa Sabina for me in my career and in my life. I meet Santa Sabina girls everywhere in my career and, at the risk of over generalisation, we tend to be a feisty bunch.

In the early 1960s, my mother very carefully chose the high schools which I and my sisters and brothers would attend, particularly with regard to the ethos of the founding religious orders and how they expressed their Catholicism. My mother

was herself a pioneer for women. She was an architect who ran her own full time architectural practice from home, while bringing up a family of five children, something unheard of in the 1950s and 1960s.

In choosing Santa Sabina for her daughters I know that my mother was responding to a sense of the Sisters' commitment to the education of women, to social justice and to the need to engage with the world and seek to influence things for the better. I am pleased to see that these values continue to be very much part of the fabric of the school today.

Certainly, my school life at Santa helped shape my own aspirations to be a woman who would try to make a difference. It was also at Santa that I first developed my interest in good public policy, an interest which has proven to be a life-long passion. I think the way I was taught Modern History was a great influence. My belief that good public policy, especially in health and education, is essential to a civil society, has proved to be a recurring theme in my career choices."

- Extract from Prof Mary Foley's speech



CAPTAIN PLANET

In the 1990s American TV series, "Captain Planet and the Planeteers", Gaia, the spirit of the earth, sends five magic rings, each with the power to control an element of nature, across the globe. These five are dubbed the Planeteers and are tasked with defending the planet from the eco villains by fighting the forces of destruction and educating humankind about the importance of caring for mother earth.

In situations too great for the Planeteers to solve alone, they would combine their powers to summon Captain Planet, a super hero, who possesses all of their powers magnified. Captain Planet symbolised the premise that the combined efforts of a team are stronger than its individual parts.

So, when selected by her peers to take on the role of College Environment Leader last year, we were not surprised when Monica Carollo revealed that she would be donning the blue and red lycra suit and adopting the Captain Planet persona. In this role, Monica and her fearless assistant, Rebecca Agius, worked tirelessly to raise awareness and encourage the community to take action to reduce our impact on the earth.

In working with the Student Environment Committee, Mrs Bentivoglio and I witnessed Monica's true passion for environmental conservation; her concern for the future of our planet is real and she was not afraid to take risks with new and sometimes seemingly crazy ideas, to change attitudes and behaviour. The enthusiasm and hard work that Monica put into building and inspiring the Student Environment Committee to lead a range of large and small initiatives across the College was contagious. She never hesitated to put in the hours behind the scenes to get things happening.

Monica has been the recipient of two distinguished community awards. Firstly in April she received a high commendation at the NSW Young Achievers Awards Evening for her work in Environmental Sustainability. At the combined Strathfield Council and Rotary Clubs Youth Achievement Awards ceremony, Monica was awarded the top prize for Outstanding Contribution to Environment.

Ms Kate Corcoran

Head of HSIE



STEM

The STEM disciplines (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) are an identified high priority of the Australian Government as it seeks to drive productivity and economic growth in Australia.

In recognition of the importance of STEM, the Association of Independent Schools (AIS) is supporting independent schools to develop innovative projects within and beyond the curriculum.

The TAS faculty successfully applied for funding to develop and lead STEM-related projects.

These projects were developed and implemented into our Stage 4 Technology program. The first priority was to develop projects with an engineering focus.

Students will go through the process of designing a syringe hydraulic arm. They

will come to understand simple hydraulics using plastic syringes for cylinders and small plastic tubing for the hydraulics. In addition students will go through the process of designing a Helicar. Through testing and experimentation they will come to understand the principles of speed, acceleration, drag and terminal velocity.

Secondly we aimed to re-introduce coding activities and opportunities to experiment with electronics and textiles (a field called e-textiles).

The main context for the introduction of these initiatives was to provide opportunities for our students to be engaged in more explicit engineering-based activities and to work with emerging technologies. We felt that these were areas where we could provide extra opportunities for students to push the boundaries of their experiences and broaden their perspectives as they look to post-school options. The projects will provide greater

depth and diversity to current STEM initiatives offered at the College.

Schools receiving funding were invited to the annual AIS STEM Symposium to showcase their achievements.

Year 7 students Hannah Svoboda and Alyssa McKeon, Year 8 students Regina Yango, Charlotte Lowe, Miriam Maher and Veronica Abal along with Mr Henderson and Ms Bachmann gave presentations at the conference. The students are to be commended as they were exemplary ambassadors of Santa Sabina College. In addition to presenting on the day, students were also able to attend workshops run by University of Technology Sydney students and lecturers.

Ms Debbie Bachmann

Head of TAS

DA VINCI CHAMPIONS

Teams of students from Years 5-11 attended the annual NSW da Vinci Decathlon. Each day there were 800-900 students from 50 schools competing in each year level. The da Vinci Decathlon is an academic interschool gala day run in the spirit of an Olympic Decathlon with events of an academic nature. It involves completing challenging tasks in 10 disciplines of Engineering, Science, Maths, English, Code Breaking, Cartography, Philosophy, Art and Poetry, Creative Producers and General Knowledge.

Special mention to the following teams:

- Year 9 placed 10th overall and 1st in English
- Year 10 placed 1st in Philosophy
- Year 5 placed 3rd in Philosophy
- Year 6 placed 3rd in Engineering

Congratulations to all our da Vinci Decathlon students.



Year 9 da Vinci Team



PIXEL PRIZE SUCCESS

Congratulations to Suzanna Steele (Year 9 Photographic and Digital Media) and Georgia Ryan (Year 12 Visual Arts) who took out prizes at the Pixel Prize at Australian Catholic University.

Suzanna was named runner-up with her photo called "Graffiti Wall" in her approach to representation of the theme "My Generation" and Georgia was named runner-up (2nd) in her photo called "Track" in the Digital Darkroom category.

The Pixel Prize is open to high school students from Australia (New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland) and from Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and North East India (selected schools) who have a passion for photography. The Pixel Prize encourages students to address a topical theme through a creative, visual medium.

Ms Sally Dewar
Head of Visual Arts

IB DIPLOMA PROGRAMME

Santa Sabina College is now a Candidate School for the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP). The College's candidacy application to the International Baccalaureate Organization was successful and represents the first milestone in the journey to achieving authorisation to offer the IBDP to Year 11 students for the first time in 2018.

**Application
for Candidacy
October 2015**

**Candidate
Phase
2016 - 2017**

**Authorisation and
Commencement
2018**



MAURIE MORONEY MEMORIAL DEBATE VICTORS

For the first time since 1986, Santa Sabina are the victors of the Maurie Moroney Memorial Debate, an invitational competition that has been running for over 30 years in the local area.

Strathfield Rotary Club hosted the event and its members were entertained by a contest of ideas relevant to the topic, 'that Science as a subject should be made compulsory for all senior secondary

students'. As the negative side, the Santa Sabina team, comprising Year 11s Lucy Rudd, Isabella Kiparizov and Monique Sleiman, arguably had the more challenging case to prove. Their opponents, Homebush Boys High School, were quick to assert the relevance of scientific inquiry and skill to modern society.

It was an extremely interesting debate with both teams arguing their case well; however, the consistency and rebuttal skills of the Santa Sabina team proved the difference in a very closely fought contest.

As the incumbent champions of the Memorial Debate, it now lies with Santa Sabina to challenge another school in the local area in early 2017.



PLAIN ENGLISH SPEAKING AWARD FINALIST AT ONLY 14

Quietly sitting in a room full of Year 11 and Year 12 students, most of whom have the word 'Prefect' neatly stitched into their blazer pocket, is Kate Coyne from Santa Sabina. It's the regional finals of the Plain English Speaking Award and after already finishing in the top three for the district finals, Kate is unfazed and quietly confident. And so she should be.

Kate has a powerful speech written out neatly on several palm cards that she won't end up looking at and doesn't really need. The speech is about contemporary attitudes towards Australia's ageing population and the lack of care and support this often translates to for the elderly. Kate was moved to write this speech after her experiences volunteering at the Goondie Aged Care Home, a facility that sits next to the College campus on Jersey Rd. Kate opens, telling the story of Nelly, a lady Kate often talks to but

who lately has become increasingly disorientated and agitated as her mind starts to leave her. Kate speaks of the importance of maintaining relationships with the elderly and the happiness that simple social interactions can bring someone who has little capacity with which to engage with the society around them. As she poignantly put it, "they say it takes a village to raise a child, well maybe it takes a village to see that child grow into an adult and maybe it takes a village to care for them, when they become elderly..."

After the prepared speeches comes the impromptu. Again, Kate remains calm despite the prospect of having to speak for three minutes on the unseen topic of 'alarm bells' and the awareness that the other finalists are all of formidable ability.

Kate does very well, though unfortunately does not qualify for the State finals. She's optimistic about doing better next year. And has every chance to do so. Kate is in Year 9, and at 14 years old is the youngest competitor in the room by at least three years. Apart from Kate's grandparents and father, no one else knows this because Kate's maturity, insight and ability allow her to blend seamlessly into a room of high achieving seniors from Sydney's top State, selective and independent schools.

She'll be back and she's one to watch for the future, but for now, well done Kate on a fantastic achievement!

Mr Alec Robertson
Teacher of HSIE and Debating Coordinator

WHEN FACT AND FICTION COLLIDE: AUTHOR VISIT ON DYSTOPIAN FICTION FOR YEAR 10

"George Orwell's 1984 was published at about the time that Kim Il-sung set up his system, and it really is as if he got hold of an early copy of the novel and used it as a blueprint" – Christopher Hitchens

In Year 10 English, students explored the bleak but compelling world of dystopian fiction. Some classes read the novel *Matched* (by Allie Condy) which depicts a world where every citizen's romantic 'match' is decided by a computer. In fact, in this society, officials decide, "Who you love. Where you work. When you die". Other Year 10 classes read Ray Bradbury's chilling classic *Fahrenheit 451* about a society where books are banned and burnt rather than read, and firemen start fires rather than put them out.

To help our students to think about the connections between these extreme fictional dystopias and real life, the English Department asked author Chris Richardson to share his expert knowledge of North Korea where the state controls every aspect of its citizens' lives – the films they watch, the books they read, the games they play and the work they do.

The students listened avidly to Chris' anecdotes from his visits to North Korea and to his explanation of the history of the regime and its impact on peoples' lives. They learnt about the typical school day of a North

Korean child, the ever-present spectre of concentration camps for the smallest act of defiance and the stories of citizens and dissidents who have tried to defect or to speak out. The chilling connections between fiction and real life became increasingly apparent and the thoughtful questions the students asked at the end reflected their fascination.

Chris Richardson returned to the College a couple of days later to work with a group of 15 keen creative writers who had chosen to participate in his dystopian writing workshop. Chris encouraged the group to develop imaginative dystopian scenarios and to share and refine the drafts of dystopian fiction writing they'd brought along. There was a creative buzz in the library as they discussed inventive scenarios (including a futuristic society where the brains of recently deceased 'masterminds' are grafted into the bodies of young executed criminals to allow the masterminds a second chance at life). Chris' comments after the workshop were effusive:

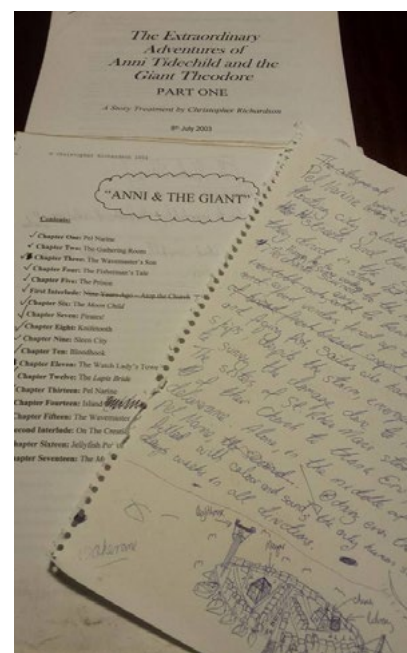
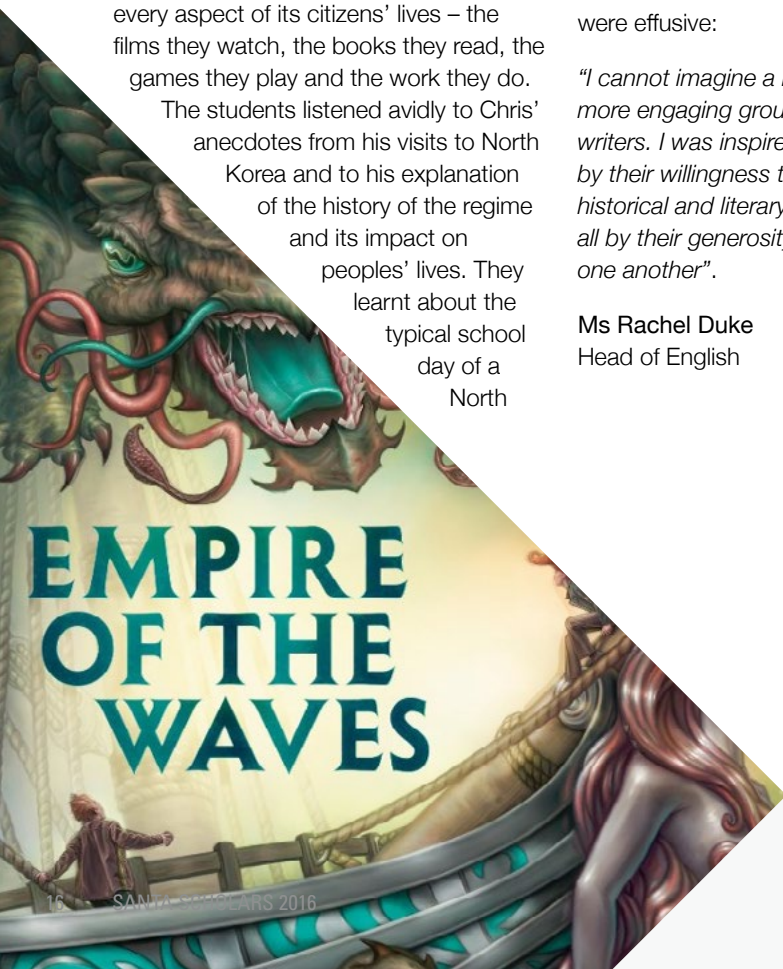
"I cannot imagine a more engaged or more engaging group of readers and writers. I was inspired by their creativity, by their willingness to explore key historical and literary ideas, and above all by their generosity towards me and to one another".

Ms Rachel Duke
Head of English

Chris Richardson

is a young writer whose novel *Empire of the Waves* (the first in a maritime fantasy trilogy) was published by Penguin last year and devoured by Year 6 Santa Sabina readers in their Accendo wide reading program. He was able to draw on his own experiences as a writer to advise this group of Year 10 writers how to gradually build an imaginative scenario into a work of fiction with credible characters and a vivid setting. Not only is Chris a local published author, but he wrote his PhD on children's literature in North Korea.

The English Department hopes to continue to work with Chris in the future and offer more writing workshops to girls from all year groups interested in honing their skills.



CONTINUAL LEARNERS

Congratulations to members of our staff who completed postgraduate studies.



MS SARAH-JANE CARTWRIGHT

Graduate Certificate in Theology (Religious Education) from the University of Newcastle



SISTER MARY-CLARE HOLLAND

Graduate Diploma in Ageing and Pastoral Studies from Charles Sturt University



MS HELEN BITOSSİ

Master of Economic Studies from University of New England



MS ELIZABETH PHIPPS

Master of Arts and a Vice-Chancellor's Commendation for Academic Excellence (High Distinction Average) from Macquarie University



MRS ANGELA THOMAS

Master of Educational Leadership (awarded with Excellence) from University of New South Wales



MS REBECCA SABA

Master of Religious Education from Australian Catholic University



MS SKYE TYLER

Master of Childhood and Youth Studies from Southern Cross University



EX-STUDENT SCHOLARS

DR ALPANA ROY

CLASS OF 1990

Associate Professor, School of Law,
Western Sydney University

Qualifications:

- PhD University of Sydney
- MA University of Technology, Sydney
- LLB (Hons) University of Sydney
- BA/BSocSc University of Technology, Sydney
- GCHEd University of Technology, Sydney
- GDipLegPrac College of Law

Dr Alpana Roy researches and teaches in intellectual property law, with a particular interest in trade marks, copyright, international intellectual property law, and cultural aspects of intellectual property (including traditional and indigenous knowledge). Alpana has several years of experience in academia, where she has lectured in a wide range of postgraduate and undergraduate intellectual property and commercial law subjects. She has lectured at various universities, including

the University of Queensland, the University of Sydney, and the University of Technology, Sydney. Alpana is widely published in intellectual property law, and is a commissioned author for several major legal publishers, including Thomson Reuters, Federation Press, LexisNexis, Oxford University Press, and CCH. She is also regularly invited to speak at international and national seminars on a broad range of intellectual property topics.

Apart from her academic career, Alpana is regularly engaged as a legal consultant and practitioner in intellectual property and commercial law. Having worked in Sydney for two top-tier corporate law firms, boutique specialist firms, and various private and public sector bodies. Alpana has practised as a solicitor, barrister, mediator, and has also worked internationally as a lawyer. She has been involved in a number of leading cases in the Federal Court of Australia.

Alpana is admitted to practise in NSW, and is on the Roll of Legal Practitioners for the High Court of Australia. She is an accredited mediator, and has also been appointed to the Law Society of New South Wales Mediators Panel.

Her advice for younger students comes from a quote by Ursula K Le Guin that was used by the School Captain, Catherine Dick, for her graduation speech to the Class of 1990 “It is good to have an end to journey toward; but it is the journey that matters, in the end.”



PROFESSOR JENNY EDWARDS

CLASS OF 1964

Professor of Information Technology,
University of Technology Sydney

Qualifications:

- BSc (Hons) University of Sydney
- MSc University of Sydney
- PhD University of Sydney

With more than 40 years teaching Information Technology (IT) at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS), Emeritus Professor Jenny Edwards began as one of the first women in Australia to study a computing subject and to subsequently teach IT at tertiary level.

Jenny has many university accreditations both in Australia and overseas, including receiving the Distinguished Service Award University of Technology Sydney and the John Hughes Distinguished Service Award (for Australasian Computing Academics). She is also a Fellow of the Australian Computer Society, Australian Learning & Teaching Fellow and the

Chair of many International Computing Conferences. She has served as President of Computing Research and Education (CORE) and of the Operations Research Society (Australia).

According to her colleagues at UTS, Jenny works tirelessly to educate women about careers in IT. Her background, before her long career at UTS, includes working in IT at Sydney University. During her time at UTS she has forged important industry links and worked as a consultant for companies including IT giant IBM.

While at school at Santa Sabina College in the heady days of the 1960s, Jenny learnt that women can do anything, including STEM, although in those days it was just maths and science that were part of our STEM curriculum. She credits her education as the most important factor contributing to her success.

Jenny is also grateful for the support of family and mentors, her own hard work and a measure of serendipity. She has some wonderful advice for current students – “take subjects you like, choose a degree you’ll enjoy, seize every

opportunity offered to you – you’ll be amazed the doors that will open”.

What else did Jenny learn from Santa Sabina? “To stick your neck out and the importance of friends”, she told *Santa Scholars*.



SANTA SABINA HSC HONOUR ROLL

The Santa Sabina HSC Honour Roll acknowledges students who achieved a Band 6 or Extension Band 4 within a particular course of study. The following students were mentioned on the Board of Studies Distinguished Achievers List.

Ancient History

Courtney Ferguson

Biology

Claire Duncan

Holly Gilbert

Cindy Li

Xin Yi Lin

Monique Souma

Allyana Trajano

Rochelle Yousef

Business Studies

Yazmin Macdessi

Nicole Samsa

Yashvi Shah

Chemistry

Cindy Li

Allyana Trajano

Rochelle Yousef

Design and Technology

Monica Carollo

Alana Giardina

Annalise Ianni

Julia Malfitano

Ailish Power

Heeji Seo

Economics

Isabella Boulos

Yazmin Macdessi

Yashvi Shah

English (Advanced)

Brooke Agostino

Gabrielle Alphonse

Sabina Aunedì

Georgette Bechara

Chiara Biviano

Isabella Boulos

Celine Boumelhem

Isabelle Brooks

Lauren Chiefari

Juliet De Mattia

Carmelina Di Chiara

Claire Duncan

Courtney Ferguson

Holly Gilbert

Frances Grasso

Adelaide Highfield

Isabella Highfield

Danielle Iacono

Annalise Ianni

Juliette Kaado

Nina Kerwin-Roman

Bethany Mouwad

Michelle Mutyora

Lara Riccioni

Georgia Ryan

Monique Souma

Kathryn Valente

English Extension 1

Gabrielle Alphonse

Sabina Aunedì

Isabella Boulos

Lauren Chiefari

Juliet De Mattia

Claire Duncan

Adelaide Highfield

Juliette Kaado

Nina Kerwin-Roman

Bethany Mouwad

English Extension 2

Chiara Biviano

Isabella Boulos

Juliet De Mattia

Nina Kerwin-Roman

Michelle Mutyora

Food Technology

Frances Grasso

Lara Riccioni

French Beginners

Tania Calabro

Juliet Marshall

Christine Merhi

Georgia Ryan

Louisa Wong

Geography

Isabelle Brooks

Claire Duncan

Adelaide Highfield

Isabella Highfield

History Extension

Courtney Ferguson

Bethany Mouwad

Italian Beginners

Brooke Agostino

Nina Kerwin-Roman

Yashvi Shah

Italian Continuers

Sarah Clucher

Isabelle Gullotta

Ettienne Montzka-Caceres

Isabella Rooney

Louisa Wong

Italian Extension

Martina Comastri

Danielle Iacono

Japanese Beginners

Natalie Lai

Japanese Continuers

Jessica Kim

Legal Studies

Gabrielle Alphonse

Georgette Bechara

Chiara Biviano

Michelle Chidiac

Carmelina Di Chiara

Courtney Ferguson

Catherine Sindone

Rochelle Yousef

Mathematics

Sabina Aunedì

Celine Boumelhem

Anna Carissa Burton

Isabelle Gullotta

Chelsea Huynh

Jessica Kim

Cindy Li

Xin Yi Lin

Yazmin Macdessi

Grace Nguyen

Yashvi Shah

Anastasia Teece

Karina Tjeuw

Allyana Trajano

Evonne Younan

Mathematics Extension 1

Brooke Agostino

Georgette Bechara

Justina Hong

Cindy Li

Allyana Trajano

Katie Zhu

Mathematics General 2

Gabrielle Alphonse

Isabelle Brooks

Lauren Donnellan

Holly Gilbert

Amelia Giugni

Danielle Iacono

Annalise Ianni

Caitlin Moussa

Modern Greek Extension

Laura Mazzotta

Modern History

Sabina Aunedì

Juliette Kaado

Nina Kerwin-Roman

Monique Souma

Music Extension

Juliet Marshall

Michelle Mutyora

Nicole Samsa

Morgan Townsend

Personal Development, Health and Physical Education

Isobelle Adams

Melanie Catania

Lauren Donnellan

Samantha Garvey

Frances Grasso

Isabella Pipolo

Lara Riccioni

Nicole Samsa

Mikaela Stevens

Physics

Cindy Li

Senior Science

Gena Cao

Society and Culture

Isabelle Brooks

Martina Comastri

Adelaide Highfield

Isabella Highfield

Studies of Religion I

Claire Duncan

Holly Gilbert

Adelaide Highfield

Isabella Highfield

Yazmin Macdessi

Bridget O'Malley

Georgia Ryan

Nicole Samsa

Monique Souma

Allyana Trajano

Kathryn Valente

Studies of Religion II

Gabrielle Alphonse

Georgette Bechara

Chiara Biviano

Isabella Boulos

Isabelle Brooks

Michelle Chidiac

Lauren Chiefari

Juliet De Mattia

Carmelina Di Chiara

Courtney Ferguson

Julia Giusti

Frances Grasso

Maria Hernandez Castellanos

Hannah Hill-Wade

Annalise Ianni

Emma Jacobs

Juliette Kaado

Nina Kerwin-Roman

Amy Lin

Juliet Marshall

Laura Moiso

Michelle Mutyora

Joya Nicolas

Lauren Ramjan

Isabella Rooney

Carolyn Saba

Chyncia Salerno

Catherine Sindone

Monique Sleiman

Evonne Younan

Textiles and Design

Chiara Biviano

Adelaide Highfield

Isabella Highfield

Caitlin Moussa

Visual Arts

Melanie Catania

Annalise Ianni

