# Santa Scholars Academic HighLights P-12



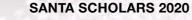




Santa Sabina College

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## From the Principal

The 2020 edition of Santa Scholars celebrates the wonderful achievements of our HSC and IBDP students after what was a most extraordinary year.

Outstanding results have been achieved across STEM and humanities, including Maths, Languages and the higher levels of English. The year was unpredictable and students were required to shift to online learning, away from their classrooms, for several weeks. Despite the turmoil and challenges of the year our girls and their teachers remained focused and committed. Not only did they do well academically but



they further developed their persistence, adaptability and optimism in the face of adversity.

These pages also contain stories of many other academic achievements from across both the Primary and Secondary Campuses of Santa Sabina. Congratulations to all our students on their many successes in 2020!

PAULINA SKERMAN College Principal

2020 – ATAR Snapshot

## 2020 - High Achievers

Congratulations to our HSC and IB students who achieved ATARs greater than 95.

•	BRIDGET CRICK 99.75	•	CAITLIN MURPHY	•	celine ho 96.65	•	CHARLOTTE LOWE
•	tatum faber 99.75	•	olivia ayoub 98.35	•	EMILY WU 96.55	٠	phoebe trainor 95.50
•	abigail hughes 99.65	•	charlotte fonseca 98.15	•	pamela pang 96.45	•	lara zeppieri 95.45
٠	lucia sarkis 99.55	•	jessica guerrera 97.50	•	isobel burkhard 96.40	•	ALESSANDRA KOROMPAY
٠	yuhan zhou 99.50	•	charlotte hayes 97.25	•	GRACE CAMPBELL	•	anastacia tadros 95.15
٠	siena zadro 99.15	•	patricia la 97.00	•	isabella salameh 95.85	•	miriam maher 95.10
•	sharelle douaihy 98.90	•	natalie de palo 96.90	•	clare tran 95.85	٠	sharanya ramana 95.05

## HSC HIGHLIGHTS - Top All-Rounders and Top Achievers in course

Six of our students featured on the HSC Top All-rounders List achieving the highest performance band in 10 or more units. Six students achieved results in the top 10 across NSW in individual subjects. Congratulations to:

**ALL-ROUNDERS (10 UNITS TOP BAND)** 









BRIDGET CRICK

CAITLIN MURPHY

INFORMATION

PROCESSES &

TECHNOLOGY

CAITLIN MURPHY SIENA ZADRO YUHAN ZHOU



 INFORMATION & DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY (EXTERNAL)



 STUDIES OF **RELIGION I** 

## IB – Diploma Highlights

Congratulations to our International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme students - our second cohort in this program - who achieved outstanding results.

Across Australia, 60 schools fielded 2889 candidates for the IB Diploma in 2020.

At Santa Sabina, 11 students completed the International Baccalaureate and received their Diploma, two students are sitting split exams and will sit the remaining papers in May 2021.

Tatum Faber received an IB score of 44 out of 45 which equates to an ATAR of 99.75, and Lucia Sarkis received 43 out of 45 - an ATAR equivalent of 99.55.

We saw significant growth in Grade 7 results (the highest mark) and these were achieved in nine out of 13 courses (compared to four in 2019) - English Literature, French Ab Initio. Italian B. Philosophy Higher Level, **Biology Standard Level**, Chemistry Higher Level, Physics Standard Level, Mathematics and Music Higher Level. Grade 7 results were achieved by close to 40% of the cohort across these nine courses. These results demonstrate the strength in achievements across a diverse range of subject courses.

Nearly 75% of our IB students received results equivalent to an ATAR of over 90.

**IB**-Top Achievers - Grade 7 in one or more courses



TATUM FABER PAMELA PANG • EE/TOK BIOLOGY SL CHEMISTRY HL • MATHEMATICS SL RACHAEL PEARSON LUCIA SARKIS MUSIC HL

- FF/TOK \*
- FRENCH AB INITIO SL
- MATHEMATICS SL
- PSYCHOLOGY HL

PROCESSES &

TECHNOLOGY

VISUAL ARTS

In Philosophy, Italian B and Music Higher Level 100% of candidates achieved the two highest grades. In Chemistry, English Literature, Mathematics and Physics over 60% of candidates achieved the highest grade.

- CHEMISTRY HL
- EE/TOK \*
- ITALIAN B SL
- MATHEMATICS SL
- PHYSICS SL



SOLANGE SHINA • PHILOSOPHY HL \*Extended Essay/ Theory of Knowledge

'Congratulations on the outstanding academic success of our students, both in the NSW Higher School Certificate and the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. Our capacity to provide the learning conditions for our high ability students to achieve their own personal best was evident in the improvement of students achieving ATARs of 99 or over. Six students or 5% of the cohort were awarded an ATAR over 99, as compared with 1.7% of NSW students'

### ANGELA THOMAS Head of Teaching & Learning 6-12





Congratulations on the outstanding academic success of our students, both in the NSW Higher School Certificate and the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. Our capacity to provide the learning conditions for our high ability students to achieve their own personal best was evident in the improvement of students achieving ATARs of 99 or over to six students or 5% of the cohort, as compared with 1.7% of NSW

students. Additionally, with 28 students or 24% of our cohort achieving an ATAR over 95, and 46 students or 40% of our cohort achieving an ATAR over 90, compared with 8.5% and 17% respectively in NSW, we have much to celebrate. These significant ATAR results open a large number of post-school opportunities for our graduates and are a fitting reward for their hard work and dedication to their learning. This result, along with a median ATAR of 87 and being ranked by The Sydney Morning Herald for the fifth consecutive year in the top 50 schools in NSW for the HSC is an outcome of the sustained effort of both students and teachers. We are thrilled that 70 of our students (including our accelerants) were acknowledged on the NSW Education Standards Authority

(NESA) Distinguished Achievers List for achieving at least one Band 6 or Extension Band 4 result across 30 courses. Equally notable, our IBDP cohort received a Grade 7, the highest grade possible, in nine courses. Our teaching and learning practices set high expectations with high support for our students and always employ detailed feedback and reflection so that our students are empowered to know what to do next to achieve their personal best.

### EXCELLENCE IN STEM – MATHS, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY

Our students continue to excel in the STEM areas of Mathematics, Science and Technology. For Mathematics, in the IBDP we had over 60% of students in both Mathematics courses receive results in the top two grades. In HSC Mathematics Extension 2, 100% of the cohort achieved in the top two Extension bands, in HSC Mathematics Extension 1, 90% of the cohort achieved in the top two Extension bands. and in the 2-unit HSC Mathematics course over 70% of the cohort achieved in the top two bands. Our science results continue to be outstanding with 69% of Chemistry, 57% of Biology, and 57% of Physics HSC students achieving in the top two bands. In the IBDP we had Grade 7 results in all sciences of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. In Information Processes & Technology we had two students as top achievers in NSW with second and third places and in Design and Technology 89% of students achieved a Band 6 result and the major projects of 14 students were nominated for the Shape exhibition.

### **IBDP – INCREASE IN DIVERSITY OF GRADE 7 RESULTS**

In the IBDP we saw an increase in the number of courses where students achieved a Grade 7 result - the highest possible - to nine courses, this is an increase from four courses in 2019. These courses included French Ab Initio, Italian B, Philosophy HL, Biology SL, Chemistry HL, English Literature, Physics SL, Mathematics and Music HL. In addition, three students achieved the top allocation of three points for their core areas of Extended Essay and Theory of Knowledge.

### LANGUAGES

Our Languages department continues its outstanding success with 100% of students in French Continuers, 100% of students in Japanese Continuers, and 80% of students in Italian Continuers achieving in the top two Bands. In Japanese Extension 100% of our students achieved E4 results. In the IBDP we had Grade 7 results in Italian B and French Ab Initio courses.

### **CREATIVITY IN OUR CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS**

Creativity was evident in the success of our students in the subjects of Drama, Visual Arts and Music. We congratulate these students with top achievers of fourth and sixth place in NSW in Visual Arts, together with nomination of five major art works and selection of two to the ARTEXPRESS exhibitions. Further congratulations to our

### YEAR 12 2020

OnSTAGE nominations for two of our top Drama students' performances. Of particular note was the achievement by over 85% of the cohort placing in the top two bands as this course was modified due to COVID-19 restrictions throughout 2020. Also, congratulations to one of our Music 2 students for her ENCORE nomination for her creative composition.

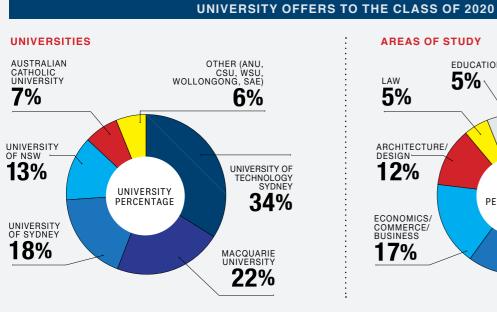
### WHOLE APPROACH TO ACADEMIC CARE

Inspired by reading the students' reflections of our high achievers in this publication, it is worth noting the common threads about our approach to academic care. The students consistently wrote of the support and feedback of teachers, the power of working collaboratively with peers, the pushing of boundaries to achieve the very best in a supportive environment, responding to feedback and the importance of maintaining a balance with co-curricular pursuits, family, friends and wellbeing.

Congratulations to all our Santa Scholars

'In 2020, 116 Santa Sabina students completed their senior secondary school gualification through either the NSW Higher School Certificate or the International Baccalaureate Diploma. This made them eligible for an ATAR (Australian Tertiary Admission Rank) for access to a range of university courses throughout Australia or overseas. We are particularly delighted to see the increase in students receiving an ATAR of 99 or over – this year we have six students receiving this outstanding rank. Also of note is the increase to 70% of those receiving an ATAR of 80 or over – this result enables a vast array of choice of tertiary course options or workplace options for the Class of 2020.'

> ANGELA THOMAS Head of Teaching & Learning 6-12



EDUCATION SPORT 5% 1%

### **COURSE DATA HIGHLIGHTS**

• In the HSC 70 students (including 10 accelerants) received a result in the highest band possible for one or more courses and are recognised on the NESA Distinguished Achievers List.

 Santa Sabina students appeared 160 times, for many students more than once, on the NESA Distinguished Achievers List across 30 courses, celebrating the diversity of our success.

 Santa Sabina College was ranked 48th in the state by SMH with a success rate of 26.5%.

 In Music 1, Japanese Extension and Japanese Continuers 100% of the cohort received the highest band possible.

 Also receiving the highest band were 88% in Design & Technology; 86% in English Extension 1; 75% in Information Processes & Technology; 67% in English Extension 2; 66% in French Beginners; 59% in Mathematics Extension 1; 42% in Mathematics Advanced; 33% in Economics, Textiles & Design, and Visual Arts; 31% in Chemistry and Food Technology; 29% in Drama and Legal Studies; 28% in French Continuers; 27% in PDHPE; 25% in Mathematics Extension 2 and 20% in History Extension and Italian Continuers.

 In seven of the 2-unit courses 100% of candidates achieved in the highest two performance bands possible. In 13 of the 27 2-unit courses studied by SSC students, 75% or more students achieved in the highest two performance bands possible.

 In 25 of the 27 2-unit courses 50% or more of students achieved in the highest two performance bands possible.

ARFA

PERCENTAGE

STEN 21%

MED/VET/

NURSING/ PSYCH/ MEDICAL

SCIENCE

HUMANITIES

18%

21%

· In seven of the nine Extension courses studied by SSC students 100% of students achieved in the highest two performance bands possible.

• In the IB, Grade 7 results were achieved in nine out of 13 courses -English Literature, French Ab Initio, Italian B, Philosophy HL, Biology SL, Chemistry HL, Physics SL, Mathematics and Music HL.

· In the IB, Grade 7 results were achieved by 45% of the cohort.

Our two joint duxes of 2020, Bridget Crick and Tatum Faber, attended Santa Sabina from Year 7 to Year 12 for their entire secondary education. They have both made the most of Santa Sabina's many academic and co-curricular opportunities offered, sharing some interests and diverging on others. Their academic courses were also distinct - Bridget chose the HSC while Tatum chose the IB - but their ATARs were exactly equal at 99.75.



### BRIDGET CRICK ATAR: 99.75/NESA Top All-rounder/3rd in NSW for Legal Studies

Bridget is heading to the University of Technology Sydney to study Law and Economics - a good fit with her academic prizes in Year 12 which included first place in both Legal Studies and Economics. Bridget also shared first place in English Advanced and won the Award for Overall Academic Excellence. She has been a consistent high achiever at school, topping other subjects in earlier years and winning the University of Sydney Academic Excellence Award in Year 10. A leader (House Prefect in 2020 and Committees Captain in 2019), debater and STEM subjects enthusiast, Bridget says that at Santa 'I had really supportive, passionate teachers, and access to a great range of extracurricular and enrichment opportunities'. Those opportunities included high scoring participation in Mock Trials, completing the highly regarded Duke of Edinburgh's Award at Silver level and bringing Santa Sabina glory in the da Vinci Decathlon and the Science and Engineering Challenge.

### **BRIDGET'S ADVICE TO THE CLASS OF 2021**

'Work hard, stay focused, but keep a balance between school work and other pastimes you enjoy'. Her best moments at Santa? 'Building wonderful lifelong friendships'.

## **DUX 2020**



### TATUM FABER ATAR: 99.75/IB 44

Tatum has plans to become a medical doctor and will study medicine at Western Sydney University. In recent years a regular contributor to Santa's newsletter Veritas Voice, Tatum is a passionate advocate for the IBDP which has served her so well. Tatum's many awards in Years 11 and 12 include Overall Academic Excellence and top of the IB students in both years as well as first place in IBDP subjects English, Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics and French Ab Initio. A true all-rounder, Tatum played bassoon in the College Symphony and violin in the College Chamber Orchestra and enriched the lives of others through service as an Outdoor Ed Camp leader. She successfully navigated the challenges of the RACI Titration competition, the da Vinci Decathlon, the Science and Engineering and Maths Enrichment Challenges, and the University of Sydney Charles Perkins Research Lab program. After one of her many appearances in a Mock Trial, competition judges awarded her 'a perfect score for constructing a sophisticated and convincing closing address that incorporated a detailed application of the evidence presented to the relevant law.' (VV 28 May 2019).

### TATUM'S ADVICE TO THE CLASS OF 2021

'Stay true to yourself and your decisions; only you know what is best for yourself. Also remember that you are allowed to take breaks without feeling guilty for it.'

### SCHOLAR PROFILES



'From the dedication of the Drama and Art departments, I have found my passion for creativity.'

### **OLIVIA AYOUB**

ATAR 98.35/Selected for ARTEXPRESS/OnSTAGE nominee

### WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING TO DO IN 2021?

International Studies and Communications at UTS.

### HOW DID SANTA SABINA HELP YOU ACHIEVE YOUR GOALS?

Santa helped me to recognise my love for the creative and performing arts by continually introducing new and upcoming opportunities to enhance my skills in Drama, Art, Dance and Music. From the dedication of the Drama and Art departments, I have found my passion for creativity and will utilise my knowledge to choose a career in a field that I not only enjoy but will excel in. Further, with the help of the Languages department, I was pushed to achieve my best and undertook a six-week exchange program in France which sparked my interest in the course I'm going to study.

### WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO THE CLASS OF 2021?

Santa Sabina provides so many opportunities so try everything and embrace every opportunity. Whatever your passion or interests may be, immerse yourself in the College and its resources.

### **BEST MOMENT/S AT SANTA?**

One of my favourite moments at the College was being involved in the College Musical in 2020, The Little Mermaid. It was an amazing production to be a part of, to see so many creative and like-minded people creating something huge.



Santa helped me tackle all the challenges throughout my high school experience.'

### SHARELLE DOUAIHY ATAR 98.90

### WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING TO DO IN 2021?

Bachelor of Science/ Nutrition and Dietetics at USYD.

### HOW DID SANTA SABINA HELP YOU ACHIEVE YOUR GOALS? My teachers at Santa helped

me tackle all the challenges throughout my high school experience and equipped me with all the skills to achieve my personal best while being supportive and dedicated role models

### WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO THE CLASS OF 2021?

My advice to the Class of 2021 would be to stay focused and be kind to yourselves. Treasure your friendships at Santa and make as many memories as you can.

### **BEST MOMENT/S AT SANTA?**

Santa gave me many opportunities that defined my riendships. My best moments at Santa were in the maths classroom with an amazing teacher and cohort, St Lucy's camp and the Italy Tour as they allowed me to create strong and positive friendships.



'I am so grateful for these people, who helped me reach all my goals.'

### CHARLOTTE FONSECA ATAR 98.15

### WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING TO DO IN 2021?

I would like to do Psychology at either the University of Sydney or Macquarie University.

### HOW DID SANTA SABINA HELP YOU ACHIEVE YOUR GOALS?

I was lucky enough to have some incredible teachers at Santa who both supported me through my struggles and pushed me to work my absolute hardest. I am so grateful for these people, who helped me reach all my goals, for always providing me with feedback and going above and beyond to ensure I succeeded.

### WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO THE CLASS OF 2021?

When it becomes stressful, try and take your studies day by day, and never be afraid to ask for help, and get support from others.

### **BEST MOMENT/S AT SANTA?**

My best moments at Santa were definitely when spending time with friends. I was able to make so many strong friendships throughout my years at school. and we were able to help each other throughout the whole drama of the HSC.



'My HSC teachers went above and beyond to provide me with feedback and encouragement.'

**ABIGAIL HUGHES** ATAR 99.65

### WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING TO DO IN 2021?

Veterinary Science at the University of Sydney.

### HOW DID SANTA SABINA HELP YOU ACHIEVE YOUR GOALS? Santa Sabina's teachers helped

me achieve my goals by providing continual support to ensure I reached my potential. My HSC teachers went above and beyond to provide me with feedback and encouragement that allowed me to improve and have confidence

### WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO THE CLASS OF 2021?

I would advise the Class of 2021 to seek regular feedback from teachers to ensure you are constantly improving. Exams seem less daunting when you have tested yourself under exam conditions and drilled your past mistakes in practice. It's also crucial to manage your time effectively and prioritise tasks which you know require the most attention. Maintain a positive outlook and be adaptable to change.

### **BEST MOMENT/S AT SANTA?**

My best moments were the events and celebrations such as School Formal, Graduation and Year 12 Theme Launch which fortified a sense of community and belonging.



'The dedication and passion of so many of my teachers allowed me to learn to my best ability."

### **CAITLIN MURPHY**

ATAR 98.40/NESA TOP All-rounder/2nd in NSW in Information Processes & Technology

### DO IN 2021?

I'm hoping to study Information Technology or Software Engineering at the University of Technology Sydney.

### HOW DID SANTA SABINA HELP YOU ACHIEVE YOUR GOALS?

The dedication and passion of so many of my teachers allowed me to learn to my best ability, and enjoy it. I think something that made me want to come to class everyday was interacting with my friends and teachers which ultimately made me more engaged and helped me learn better

### WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO THE CLASS OF 2021?

Lunchtime maths homework help is basically free tutoring take advantage of it!

### **BEST MOMENT/S AT SANTA?**

Incredible opportunities such as the Europe Music Tour and standout experiences, but the friendships made throughout weekly 7:30am rehearsals, all day preparation for a Sydney Town Hall concert, rehearsing in 40 degrees are what I will probably remember for years. Walking into Holyrood felt like coming home to a little family and I will never forget the memories made in the Music Department.

'Santa Sabina allowed me to achieve my goals by encouraging me to always strive for my personal best.'

WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING TO

Either Engineering/Commerce

I was encouraged to always strive

for my personal best and pursue

studies which I was passionate

about. The consistent support I

received from my teachers always

allowed me to reflect on feedback

to ensure I had specific goals in

mind to elicit improvement.

at the University of Sydney

or Engineering and Law at

Macquarie University.

### LUCIA SARKIS ATAR 99.55/IB 43

DO IN 2021?

## WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING TO

### HOW DID SANTA SABINA HELP YOU ACHIEVE YOUR GOALS?

The Little Mermaid musical are

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO THE CLASS OF 2021? To take each day as it is and not to plan too heavily for the more distant future. Be open to adapting your schedule and expectations for your studies. Maintain a balanced lifestyle when you can, and to not guit activities or hobbies you are passionate about or are important

to you for the sake of studies.

### **BEST MOMENT/S AT SANTA?**

The Italy Study Tour in 2018 where I was able to be fully immersed in the Italian culture and be alongside all of my friends and teachers. Meeting a wide variety of people

- and being exposed to new ways of
- thinking that have truly shaped my
- morals and beliefs today. Having the privilege of experiencing
- teachers who have instilled within
- me a passion for learning that will
- always permeate my life.





'Santa provided me with all the resources and support to guide me through 2020.'

### **SIENA ZADRO**

ATAR 99.15/NESA Top Allrounder/2nd in NSW in Information Processes & Technology/4th in NSW in Visual Arts

### WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING TO DO IN 2021?

Visual Communications at the University of Technology Sydney.

### HOW DID SANTA SABINA HELP YOU ACHIEVE YOUR GOALS?

Santa provided me with all the resources and support to guide me through 2020 and achieve my potential despite this year's setbacks. Without the most passionate and giving teachers that the school offered, my goals for this year would never have been achieved.

### WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU **GIVE TO THE CLASS OF 2021?**

Not to stress over the little things and to not only read, but apply the valuable feedback teachers provide on assessments and homework tasks.

### **BEST MOMENT/S AT SANTA?**

Being able to create an artwork/ design a product within my classes that fulfilled my creative passions and enabled me to give something back to the world.



'Santa Sabina offered many enrichment opportunities, co-curricular activities and support.'

### **YUHAN ZHOU**

ATAR 99.50/NESA Top All-rounder/13th in NSW in Mathematics 2019 with 100/100 as a Year 11 accelerant

### WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING TO DO IN 2021?

I want to study a health-related course where I can devote my remaining life helping those in need

### HOW DID SANTA SABINA HELP YOU ACHIEVE YOUR GOALS?

Santa Sabina offered many enrichment opportunities, co-curricular activities and support from highly qualified teachers. I am particularly grateful to Mrs Stirling for helping me build the necessary foundations of effective study techniques.

### WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU **GIVE TO THE CLASS OF 2021?** When in doubt, take things one

step at a time.

### **BEST MOMENT/S AT SANTA?**

Making new friends, gaining more knowledge and finding a sense of self.





## TEACHER Of the year

Stella Azizian our inaugural Head of Gioia House which opens in 2021, was a finalist in the Australian Education Awards Teacher of the Year – Primary in 2020.

Ms Azizian, who also teaches Year 6, was nominated by a Santa Sabina parent who described her as exceptional. Ms Azizian was acclaimed for:

- Emphasising flexibility within the classroom, meeting every student's differing needs, whether with learning difficulties or as gifted students, through rigorous and personalised inquiry learning (the 'what's next' model), building their personal worth and agency
- Introducing real-life situations, setting challenging yet realistic goals and establishing a purpose for students to develop empathy and address environmental and social justice issues

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- Driving teacher development and inspired teaching approaches through leading collaborative planning focusing on inquiry and students' reflective learning
  - Building innovative partnerships with UTS while designing and implementing engaging, collaborative, inquiry-based STEM projects.

According to the nomination, 'She is genuinely excited by the learning process and welcomes her ideas and knowledge being challenged. Indeed she is deeply committed to her own professional development, illustrated through her teaching roles in three countries (and languages), her IB certification, and a myriad of school management positions. She approaches all of this with the determined energy, professionalism and discipline that took her to the Commonwealth Games as an elite athlete in a former life.'

Congratulations to: Ms Azizian, our national finalist for

Teacher of the Year!





Each year NESA showcases outstanding student project work in a series of exhibitions and performances. The 2020 selections and nominations were:



**TITLE** Posthuman Transgenesis **STUDENT/ARTIST** Alyssa Facioni **MEDIUM** Digital drawing

### NOMINATED FOR ARTEXPRESS **VISUAL ART**

### Celine Ho

- Eliza Kennedy
- Siena Zadro

### NOMINATED FOR ONSTAGE DRAMA

- Olivia Ayoub
- Isobel Burkhard



- to watch a video where these Visual Art students explain their motivation and
- methods in creating
- Siena Zadro

### NATIONAL AWARDS FOR HSC MAJOR WORKS

Antonia Moulos' Major Work for HSC Design & Technology won the Interior Design category of the prestigious Bright Awards 2020. Antonia's Rehabilitation Facility for Young Australians provides age-appropriate housing for young people with severe disabilities and complex needs. Scan the QR code to read more about this award and Antonia's project.

**TITLE** Rewind **STUDENT/ARTIST** Olivia Ayoub **CATEGORY** Digital film

### **OTHER HSC SHOWCASE NOMINATIONS**

### NOMINATED FOR SHAPE **DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY**

### Mia Baricevic

- Madeleine Bettridge
- Sarah Crittenden
- **Chloe Devine**
- Katie Duncan
- **Mia Francis**
- **Charlotte Hayes**
- Alessandra Korompay
- Patricia La
- Mia Mardini
- Antonia Moulos
- Lara Muirhead
- **Claudia Tyree**

### **NOMINATED FOR TEXSTYLE & SHAPE TEXTILES & DESIGN**

Natalie De Palo



Scan the QR code to read more about this award and Antonia's project





State finalists from Year 11 - Zara Borysewicz, Sienna Camilleri and Liliana Elhaj - developed 'Drive', an Al app designed to reduce fatalities on the roads to ensure those who are accessing their key to unlock their car on their mobile device are not intoxicated. This app concept was inspired by and is a tribute to Veronique Sakr.



• 2020 MICROSOFT AI FOR GOOD CHALLENGE

## **Creativity and practical applications using artificial intelligence (AI)**

Two teams from Year 10 and Year 11 were named as state finalists in the 2020 Microsoft AI for Good Challenge thanks to their creativity and practical applications using artificial intelligence (AI).

The national Microsoft AI for Good Challenge is designed to help Australian high school students learn about AI, understand the ethics behind the technology and innovate AI concepts that could make a difference for the earth, accessibility, humanitarian action or cultural heritage. State finalists from Year 10 – Alyssa Semaan, Eleora Rizkalla and Rahab Aftab – developed 'DeskBot', an Al robot that is connected to an app which aims to further enhance the learning of children with ADHD.



series of modules to equip them with the skills and knowledge to innovate a new concept. They then worked in teams on a design thinking challenge to dream up a creative solution that uses AI to make a difference in the world.

The competitors worked through a

Both Year 10 IST (Information and Software Technology) and Year 11 IPT (Information Processes and Technology) classes entered the competition. All students who entered the competition developed amazing concepts that demonstrated their understanding of AI technology and the ethics encompassing this technology. The two teams who progressed through to the NSW and ACT State Finals were competing against more than 600 other teams. 9-12 YEAR OLDS

HONOURABLE

## • YOUNG ARCHIES 2020 Portraits of love, admiration and friendship

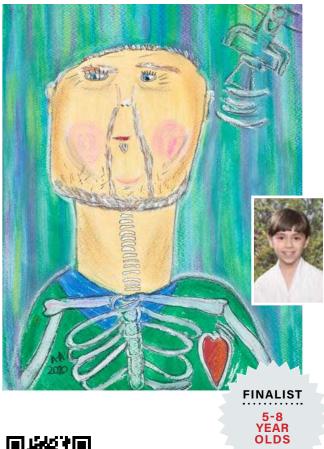
In the 2020 Young Archies competition Ava Anderson of Year 2 was named as a finalist in the 5-8 year olds' category and Mehthini Ragaven of Year 7 was awarded Honourable Mention in the 9-12 year olds' category. The Young Archies, attracting 1800 entries, is an offshoot of the renowned Archibald Prize portrait competition run annually by the Art Gallery of NSW. Ava's work, *My dad's big heart* which was displayed at the gallery, depicts her father, who works as a radiographer. According to Ava, her dad 'can detect any small changes in the human body that can be bad. He has a big and kind heart to do this.'

YOUNG ICT EXPLORERS COMPETITION WINNER

Inez started this project during our COVID-19 remote learning program and spent hours developing code that transcribes the musical notes played by a cello, generating a digital music score.

Inez Crosby of Year 8 is the NSW winner of Division 7-8 of the Young ICT Explorers competition for her PyScore software application. Inez started this project during our COVID-19 remote learning program and spent hours developing code that transcribes the musical notes played by a cello, generating a digital music score. Inez has also been fortunate to work with her mentor, our Patron of STEM Professor Jenny Edwards from the Class of 1964.

Judged by academia, industry partners and ICT professionals, each project





Scan the QR code to read more.



in the Young ICT 7-8 Explorers competition is assessed on the criteria of creativity, uniqueness, quality, level of difficulty and project documentation. The competition is run by cloud business software company SAP. SCIENCE WITHOUT BORDERS

## **Take Action: Conserve Coral Reefs**

Maree Sialepis of Year 9 won second place in an international competition and was the only Australian to become a finalist. The Science Without Borders Challenge engages students to promote the need to preserve, protect, and restore the world's oceans and aquatic resources.

Maree's compelling artwork, Holding the Key to Coral Rebirth, was a winning response to the 2020 theme: 'Take Action: Conserve Coral Reefs'. Worldwide, 700 students used their artistic talents to create a piece of art that illustrates one or more of the different actions that can be taken to preserve coral reefs.

Maree said, 'The only way I could make my artwork "speak for itself" was by highlighting and emphasising the significance of science in creating the process of lab-induced coral growth.'

Maree's process was influenced by her classroom experiences in Visual Arts lessons, through the exploration of monochromatic tone and dimension. 'This inspired me to present to the



audience that our reefs, although not visually black and white, are darkly suffering', she said.

'The more I created my artwork, the more I grew my passion in creating awareness and advocacy for science'.

Maree's Visual Arts teacher Sally Dewar said that Maree's hyper-realistic drawing using aquarelle graphite

'demonstrates conceptual strength and meaning in a highly technically resolved artwork that has utilised her skills with this medium'.

Maree used 2B, 5B and 7B lead pencils to create a monotone effect representing the reality of coral reef destruction. In her artist's statement she said: The composition's background depicts dull. lifeless monochromatic reefs captured in the sea bubbles and choked by chains. The varying tones of lead pencil create an exaggerated, colourless depiction of the possible fate of the coral reefs without intervention.

In the foreground, the power of scientific intervention is indicated through the subject of the scientist. The scientist's facial expression and eye contact with the test tube allows the audience to identify the scientist's amazement and success in unlocking the future of coral reefs through laboratory growth and nursing. The depiction of a marine biologist reaching for a key signifies the power, success and solutions scientists are working towards achieving in order to take action to conserve reefs worldwide.



LEGACY JUNIOR PUBLIC SPEAKING AWARD

## Top junior public speaker in NSW

Congratulations to Year 9 student Preethika Mathan, who in November won the 2020 State Final of the Legacy Junior Public Speaking Award. The final, whilst conducted virtually, showcased the best student speakers across the state from the competition, and Preethika impressed the judges with both her prepared and impromptu material. Her prepared speech entitled 'Medication Frustration' explored endometriosis, and how best to support women who suffer from it, and her impromptu speech 'Funny Business' spoke of how the government handles homelessness and the support for people in these desperate situations.

This State Championship was the pinnacle of Preethika's success in Public Speaking in 2020, with further notable placings in the CSDA Public Speaking Competition (third place in the Year 9 Grand Final), AHIGS Festival of Speech (second place in Junior Public Speaking), and the Australian Individual Debating and Public Speaking Championships Junior Competition 'Speakfest' (third place in Debate, fifth place in Interpretive Reading, 2nd place in Persuasive Speaking, first place in Impromptu Speaking, and second place overall).



2020 AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND ETHICS OLYMPIAD

## Australian representatives

After finishing second overall in the Australian and New Zealand Ethics Olympiad, Santa Sabina's senior team competed in the international competition against three of the best teams from Chinese International Schools. The competition took place by Zoom and each heat was judged by teams of notable philosophers and academics from around the world. Our senior philosophers all studied IB Philosophy in 2020. These students also took a lead role in Santa's Philosophy club, The Thought Experiment.

### According to Sophia Juarez.

the challenges of the Ethics Olympiad were 'such great fun'. The students trained once or twice a week for five weeks and were 'extremely excited' about their progress to the international stage.

### Sophia, College Co-Captain for

2021, has extrapolated on why she values the study of Philosophy: 'I don't think I realised what an impact the study of philosophy would have on my everyday decision making when I chose philosophy to undertake in senior years. Every lesson I am coming to appreciate not only the critical thinking and innovative thinking that prominent philosophers have demonstrated but the framework it provides from which to address global issues. Despite many people telling me, I can now testify that studying philosophy has already shifted my perspective in my day-to-day life.'

Pictured above are Sarah George, Rachel Frecker, Sophia Juarez, Andrea Murillo, Naomi Ghosen, Catherine Ryan

## Maths talent

In this annual competition run by the National Mathematics Talent Quest two of our teams won their division nationally and a third team won their NSW division. The winning entry from Year 1 investigated native microbats in a project titled Home is a Hollow. The small group win from Year 4 looked at where to stand on the service line in Tennis. Year 3 topped NSW with their mathematical thinking skills utilised to design an energy saving house, highlighting the importance of reducing our carbon footprint.



### • NATIONAL MATHEMATICS TALENT QUEST





### SCHOOL SHOWCASES



• YOUNG ICT EXPLORERS

## **Our students inspired the Tech Girls Movement**

As we celebrated Girls in ICT Day on 23 April 2020, two of our own tech girls were named in the top three of the University of Technology Sydney Girls in STEM Design Challenge.

Sienna Di Santo and Jazelle Poon of Year 5 designed 'DOCBOTDRONE' in response to the challenge, 'How might we get a Doctor to patients to collect vitals and not in person?'

The challenge organisers, Tech Girls Movement, said that although the challenge was not a competition they wanted to 'highlight three amazing solutions that knocked our socks off and are inspiring for all of us!'

STOP

PRESS

For their DOCBOTDRONE Sienna and Jazelle 'drew empathy maps to really understand the problem for each of their stakeholders and researched existing solutions. They created a very convincing pitch video that explained their solution and showed their prototype - a 3D drawing of the DOCBOTDRONE and a flowchart showing the logic of how it works. Their drone unfolds into a small robot carrying a tablet with the doctor on the screen as well as devices to measure vitals.'

The challenge took place online via the University of Technology Sydney's virtual classroom (Women in Engineering and IT Department) on 22 April. Girls had the choice of several challenges

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aimed at improving people's lives while social distancing. They worked in teams to design, create and build solutions using technology, engineering, maths and science. They had just five hours to complete the challenge.

Mentor Daniella Di Santo said she had an awesome day supporting our Year 5 Santa Sabina team, amongst the 100 other girls participating.

'The teams of girls collaborating online was a great experience DANIELLA DI SANTO

Congratulations to Bella Merlino of Year 10 who won numerous awards in film making and public speaking throughout 2020, culminating in winning Best Short Film at the Lantern & Light International Children's Film Festival with her film, Hermione.

A true Dominican, Bella also raised in excess of \$10,000 for Dementia Australia through fundraising initiatives supported by the Santa Sabina community.



The two teams were coached by Santa Sabina ex-students, Gabrielle Murphy (Class of 2018) and Krystal Youssef (Class of 2017), and further supported by Miss Aimee Sutton and Ms Jane Sulis of the Santa Sabina staff

YEAR 8A: Inez Crosby. Molly Hoogland, and Olivia Radford

YEAR 8B: Chiara Afonso, Tanisha Chari, Rochelle Dias, and Lucia Juarez



AUSTRALIAN BRAIN BEE CHALLENGE

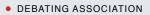
## **Brainiacs**

Sophia Witting and Loredana Leonard of Year 10 placed in the top 10% nationally in the annual Australian Brain Bee Challenge. The goals of the national competition are to learn more about the functions of the brain, neuroscience research and to dispel misconceptions about neurological and mental illnesses. The students learnt the four modules of content - the basics of the nervous system, signalling in the nervous system, the senses and integrative brain function.



'I had a lot of fun learning about how the brain functions and found it so interesting to discover the complicated nature of engaging in simple tasks. I can't ever take for granted the way my body engages and responds to the world we live in.

LOREDANA LEONARD



## Debating champions

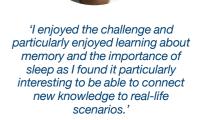
Our two Year 8 Catholic Schools' Debating Association (CSDA) Debating teams overcame more than 60 teams across 50 Catholic secondary schools to face off against each other in the 2020 **CSDA** Metropolitan Grand Final, with Santa Sabina A coming out victorious over Santa Sabina B. The aim of the competition is to encourage students to develop their debating skills, and to argue and challenge significant ideas and issues in contemporary society. For the Grand Final, our Santa Sabina teams expertly argued both sides of the topic 'That we learn from history'.



**TOP 10%** 

NATIONALLY

**BRAIN** BEE



### SOPHIA WITTING

'We are very proud of the fact that a Santa Sabina College education has played a part in shaping their journey, not only from an academic point of view, but also as strong, articulate and confident women of character.'





## November 2020

What a joy it was to experience my first Speech Night at Santa Sabina College. Albeit a little different to what is usual, which was not so unusual in 2020, we were able to experience a wonderful celebration of academic excellence. We also acknowledged students who committed themselves to service, social justice and advocacy as well as those who work to strengthen our community through building powerful relationships across the College. Congratulations to our musicians and dancers who performed for us on this occasion.



DR SOPHIA CASANOVA Awarded prizes

Special guest, ex-student Sophia Casanova (Class of 2005), delighted her audience with an inspirational story of her journey from Santa Sabina College to Mars. Her PhD research focusing on the investigation of glacial landforms on Mars has attracted strong interest from NASA and SpaceX. Her work in identifying large accessible water deposits on Mars is currently contributing to the design of imminent space missions. Sophia's message to the girls that perseverance is key when it comes to pushing through barriers was very important and something that our girls cannot hear enough. We were also

SPEECH NIGHT HIGHLIGHTS Main photo (left) and these photos (right) show highlights from Speech Night 2020

thrilled by the recent announcement by our Prime Minister that another ex-student, Dr Cathy Foley (Class of 1975), has been appointed Australia's next Chief Scientist. Both women are clearly making a significant impact and are absolutely 'shaking the world'. We are very proud of the fact that a Santa Sabina College education has played a part in shaping their journey, not only from an academic point of view, but also as strong, articulate and confident women of character.

In my own address to our community on Speech Night I spoke about a Santa education going beyond the requirements of a syllabus to ensuring our girls learn that they can be sustained by a light within in times of darkness. I reflected on the many examples of how our Dominican values in 2020 provided the embers to keep our inner lights aglow and provide hope for a better future, through our faith; through belonging to a connected community; in celebrating our students' and teachers' achievements; in helping our students search for meaning in their lives; through encouraging all of us to rejoice in one another's success; in nurturing our students to be curious and inspiring them to wakefulness, to wonder and awe, to beauty and joy; and to discovering the innate dignity and creativity of each person. I closed my address by thanking our girls for welcoming me into their world, for their approach to their studies, for their sense of humour and uplifting joy. I asked that they work to become women who support other women and who learn to be powerful and gentle, strong and compassionate, smart and contemplative. In the words of Catherine of Siena, I said, 'be what God means you to be so that you will set the world on fire.'





















## Chief Scientist of Australia **DR CATHY FOLEY AO**

On 9 November 2020 Australia's Prime Minister, The Hon Scott Morrison MP, announced that 'Renowned physicist Dr Cathy Foley AO has been appointed Australia's next Chief Scientist'.





'As we recover from COVID-19 and look to rebuild a brighter future, the role of the Chief Scientist has never been more important. Dr Foley has a big task ahead to drive collaboration between industry and the science and research community, as we look to create jobs for the COVID-19 recovery and for the future.'

Prime Ministe

Dr Foley took up the position in January 2021 and we are proud that her Santa Sabina College education has played a part in shaping her journey. As College Principal Paulina Skerman says, this is 'not only from an academic point of view, but also as a strong, articulate and confident woman of character'.

In the Prime Minister's media announcement he said, 'As we recover from COVID-19 and look to rebuild a brighter future, the role of the Chief Scientist has never been more important. Dr Foley has a big task ahead to drive collaboration between industry and the science and research community, as we look to create jobs for the COVID-19 recovery and for the future.'1

The announcement also quoted Minister for Industry, Science and Technology Karen Andrews as saying 'Dr Foley is highly regarded in the scientific community, has extensive experience working with government, but most importantly understands how to drive collaboration between industry and researchers'.

SCOTT MORRISON

Ms Andrews continued, 'We know science will play a crucial role in helping to create jobs at this critical time, and Dr Foley's skills as a talented science communicator will help sell that important message. Like me, Dr Foley is also a strong advocate for women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics and her lived experience will make her an important role model for aspiring young scientists.'

Until this appointment, Dr Foley was the first dedicated Chief Scientist of CSIRO and has held numerous leadership roles in and made outstanding contributions to Australia's science community.

According to the Australian Academy of Science, 'Dr Foley's research is in the field of solid-state physics and its applications, combining quantum physics, material science and research translation. Her remarkable career achievements have allowed Dr Foley to advance all areas of STEM nationally and internationally.'2

1.https://www.pm.gov.au/media/dr-cathy-foley-be-australias-next-chief-scientist cited 20 January 2021 5:05pm 2.https://www.science.org.au/news-and-events/news-and-mec releases/academy-welcomes-new-chief-scientist-foley cited 20 January 2021 2:31pm



## 'Santa also fostered in me a love of learning that I still carry with me today and instilled a strong sense of social justice.'

Ex-student Tonya Pavey (Class of 1989) is a senior Physiotherapist specialising in the care of people with dementia. She spoke to *Santa Scholars* in January 2021.

After graduating from Physiotherapy, I started my career at the Prince of Wales Hospital in NSW where I was introduced to many of the directions in which a Physio can specialise in. Transferring into private practice, I gained experience in community and residential aged care and the specific needs of those living with dementia. I was then motivated to undertake further formal study to strengthen my career in the field of aged care and re-joined NSW Health. Currently specialising in aged care where applying my knowledge to assist people is both inspiring and rewarding, I have the privilege to contribute to their care and to their life journey.

For me, Physiotherapy is the amazing combination of clinical problem solving, evidenced-based treatments and providing emotional support to respect patient values and goals of treatment. I've found a human connectedness with working closely with patients and aged-care residents, as this close form of care can transform people's quality of life and supports people when they are often quite vulnerable.

Santa Sabina gave me the skills to problem solve, to engage in active inquiry and to communicate effectively. Santa also

fostered in me a love of learning that I still carry with me today and instilled a strong sense of social justice. This has led me to be an advocate for people living with dementia, whose voices may not be heard.

A recent highlight was returning to Santa Sabina in 2019 to teach my daughter's PDHPE HSC class practical taping techniques. It was such a thrill and a lovely opportunity to give back to my school.

My advice to young students is this: Continue to learn, continue to ask 'why?'. Success is gained through continual learning and perseverance, the HSC is just the beginning and there is no end to education. Don't feel you have to decide what you want to be when at school, you'll be successful if you learn what you love. Find that thing that makes you feel fulfilled and pursue it. When you continue to learn and work hard, doors will open that you could never have even imagined.

My personal plans for 2021 include learning something new. I have enrolled in a bee-keeping course and plan to further my learnings of regenerative agriculture.

## TONYA'S Career highlights

Bachelor of Science (Anatomy & Physiology) 1994 Bachelor of AppliedDSciencea(Physiotherapy) 19982

ied Diploma of Health and Aged Care 2009

### Associate Degree Dementia Care 2017

### Physiotherapist NSW Health Currently working with residents who have severe behavioral and psychological symptoms of dementia

CURRENT ROLE:

Senior



## SANTA SABINA HSC and IB Diploma Honour Roll

The Santa Sabina College HSC and IB Diploma Honour Roll acknowledges students whose results include outstanding achievement. This includes students who achieved a Band 6 or Extension Band 4 within a particular HSC course. It also includes IB Diploma students receiving Grade 7 – Excellence within an IB Diploma course – or Grade 3 – Excellence for core components for Extended Essay and Theory of Knowledge. The HSC students' names were published by the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) on their Distinguished Achievers List.

### Biology (HSC) Natalie De Palo Phoebe Trainor

Biology SL (IB Diploma) Tatum Faber

### Business Studies (HSC)

Sophie Florian Patricia La Isabella Lopez Emily Wu Mary Younes

### **Chemistry (HSC)**

Natalie De Palo Charlotte Fonseca Abigail Hughes Sharanya Ramana Yuhan Zhou

### Chemistry HL (IB Diploma) Tatum Faber Lucia Sarkis

Design and **Technology (HSC)** Mia Baricevic Madeleine Bettridge Sarah Crittenden Chloe Devine Katrina Duncan Mia Francis **Clarisa Gebrayel Charlotte Hayes** Alessandra Korompay Patricia La Mia Mardini Antonia Moulos Lara Muirhead Claudia Tyree Regina Yango Siena Zadro

### Drama (HSC)

Yuhan Zhou

Olivia Ayoub Isobel Burkhard

### Economics (HSC) Bridget Crick Emily Wu

### English Advanced (HSC)

Isobel Burkhard Grace Campbell Bridget Crick Sharelle Douaihy Jessica Guerrera Charlotte Hayes Celine Ho Abigail Hughes Miriam Maher Ailish McDonagh Caitlin Murphy Isabella Salameh Phoebe Trainor Siena Zadro Yuhan Zhou

### English Extension 1 (HSC)

Isobel Burkhard Grace Campbell Bridget Crick Sophie Isgro-Attwood Ailish McDonagh Phoebe Trainor

### English Extension 2 (HSC)

Ailish McDonagh Phoebe Trainor

### English Literature HL (IB)

Noor-E-Sehar Younis Food Technology (HSC) Giulia Calandra

Sophie Florian Jordan Woods Mary Younes

French Ab Initio SL (IB Diploma) Tatum Faber

French Beginners (HSC) Celine Bazouni

Tiana Pike

### French Continuers

(HSC) Olivia Ayoub Charlotte Fonseca History Extension

(HSC) Grace Campbell Julia Favotto

IDT Examination (Networking and Hardware) (VET – External) Theresa Kyu

### Information Processes and Technology (HSC) Alyssa Facioni Theresa Kyu Caitlin Murphy Isabella Salameh

Siena Zadro Italian Continuers (HSC)

**Phoebe Trainor** 

Victoria Hanzek Georgia Hassarati

Italian B SL (IB Diploma) Lucia Sarkis

### Japanese Continuers (HSC) Celine Ho Mary Kimindiri Agnes Lee Caitlin Murphy Isabella <u>Salameh</u>

Japanese Extension (HSC) Celine Ho Mary Kimindiri

Agnes Lee Isabella Salameh Korean Beginners

(HSC – External) Celine Ho

### Legal Studies (HSC) Grace Campbell Bridget Clark Bridget Crick Charlotte Hayes Anastacia Tadros

### Mathematics

Advanced (HSC) **Beatriz Arellano** Elissa Baker Bruhathi Challapalli Natalie De Palo Hannah Duck Paris El-Masri Carissa Fitzgerald Jessica Guerrera Victoria Hanzek Georgia Hassarati **Charlotte Lowe** Miriam Maher Alyssa McKeon Caitlin Murphy Jade Richards Isabella Salameh Anastacia Tadros Siena Zadro

### Mathematics Extension 1 (HSC)

**Bridaet Crick** Natalie De Palo Sharelle Douaihy **Charlotte Fonseca** Jessica Guerrera **Charlotte Hayes** Abigail Hughes Alessandra Korompay Patricia La Iva Lawes **Charlotte Lowe** Kate Morgan Caitlin Murphy Sharanya Ramana Anastacia Tadros Clare Tran Yuhan Zhou

### Mathematics

Extension 2 (HSC) Sharelle Douaihy Yuhan Zhou

Mathematics SL (IB Diploma) Tatum Faber Pamela Pang Lucia Sarkis

### Mathematics

Standard 2 (HSC) Chloe Devine Gabrielle Harrington Maeve O'Connor Mary Younes

Modern Greek Continuers (HSC – External) Antonia Moulos

Modern History (HSC) Isobel Burkhard Julia Favotto

Music 1 (HSC) Sophie Isgro-Attwood

Music HL (IB Diploma) Rachael Pearson

Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (HSC) Bridget Clark Olivia Debs Chloe Devine Renee Lewis Philosophy HL (IB Diploma) Solange Shina Physics (HSC) Abigail Hughes Physics SL (IB Diploma) Lucia Sarkis Psychology HL (IB Diploma – External

Diploma – External) Tatum Faber Spanish Beginners

(HSC – External) Christie Nicolas Regina Yango

Spanish Extension (HSC – External) Florencia Nieto

### Studies of Religion I (HSC)

Bridget Crick Sharelle Douaihy Jessica Guerrera Charlotte Hayes Abigail Hughes Antonia Moulos Caitlin Murphy Yuhan Zhou

### Studies of Religion II (HSC)

Olivia Ayoub Grace Campbell Mia Mardini

### Textiles and Design (HSC) Natalie De Palo

India Perianayagam Rush

### Theory of Knowledge/ EE (IB Diploma) Tatum Faber Pamela Pang

Lucia Sarkis Visual Arts (HSC)

Olivia Ayoub Alyssa Facioni Celine Ho Siena Zadro