

HSC Results

YEAR 12
2025



Principal's Message

We are often measured using numbers. How tall we are, how much we weigh, how much we can lift, how fast we can run. If we watch sport, it's about the score, the winners and the losers, player ratings. There are metrics for everything: heatmaps, statistics, and workloads, but it is safe to say that the numbers never quite capture the full picture.

The HSC feels a bit like this. Each student receives a mark for each subject, thereby reducing study to one single mark for the past year's work and a school lifetime of development. The ATAR, even more so. It is the ultimate attempt at a player index, which seeks to put all aspects of performance into one simple measure, comparing each student to their whole cohort across the state and across the country.

The HSC results and the ATAR, released today, provide us with part of the picture. And while it measures a combination of ability, aptitude, effort and application, it isn't the whole picture.

Today is a day of celebration. Results are out, efforts are rewarded, doors are opened, and the final chapter of school life comes to a full stop.

We celebrate the success of Year 12 2025. We congratulate them for their growth, and their care for each other. We know that their learning, effort, and character will propel them towards big, open horizons.

We acknowledge them for the community they have led, and for the people they have become. They take with them the values, opportunities, and friendships that they developed along the way.

AS WE RECOGNISE THE PARTICULAR SUCCESSES OF SOME, IT IS IMPORTANT TO ACKNOWLEDGE AND CONGRATULATE THE SILENT ACHIEVERS, THE STUDENTS WHO FINISHED DESPITE ADVERSITY, WHO DID BETTER THAN THEY IMAGINED, AND WHO FEATURE IN OUR HEARTS IF NOT ON THE LISTS.

As Maria Popova puts it, "We move through the world as surfaces shimmering with the visibility of our accomplishments, the undertow of our suffering invisible to passers-by." It remains a quiet joy to celebrate the successes of all our students. Year 12, your teachers and families know those students who gave it their all and are delighted for you and proud of you. Well done.

Tim Watson
Principal, NBCS

Outstanding Achievers

Highest ATAR

98.20
ATAR



Max Humphries

Congratulations to Max Humphries who achieved the highest ATAR.

Chemistry
Engineering Studies
English Advanced
Mathematics Extension 1
Mathematics Advanced
Physics

High Achievers by ATAR



Maya Koch
97.65

Biology
Chemistry
English Advanced
Mathematics Advanced (2024)
Mathematics Extension 1
PDHPE



Ramey Smit
96.55

Chemistry
Engineering Studies
English Advanced
Mathematics Advanced (2024)
Mathematics Extension 1
Mathematics Extension 2
Physics



Toby Simpson
96.25

English Advanced
Legal Studies
Mathematics Extension 1
Mathematics Advanced
Modern History
Physics



Abigail Macmillan
96.1

Biology
English Advanced
Legal Studies
Mathematics Standard 2
PDHPE

SHOWCASE Selections

ENCORE
Music 2
Musicology



Arque Dang



Julia Pearce

YOUNG WRITERS
SHOWCASE
English Ext 2
Creative non-fiction

HSC Snapshot



19%

Students who achieved an ATAR of 90+



98.20

Max Humphries achieved the highest ATAR of 98.20



12.27%
Band 6s and E4s

The percentage of Band 6/E4 results across all HSC courses at NBCS



93

Band 6/E4 results achieved by 53 students across all HSC courses out of a cohort of 146 students



35%

NBCS students with an ATAR of 80 or above



152nd

NBCS rank in *The Sydney Morning Herald* Schools HSC Ranking in NSW



21

HSC NESA Showcase Nominations received by 23 students across 5 courses

Outstanding Achievers

High Achievers by ATAR



Sophia Murrell
95.4



Erin Bovington
95.3



Liam Downs
95.1



Matthew Southey
94.65



Andrew Bartlett
94.3



Michael Jeffrey
94.1



Brianna Laforest
93.45



Tamara Bourke
92.75



Thomas Ivanac-Escobar
92.7



Lola Epthorp
92.5



Leon Koike McDonnell
92.1



Benjamin Lenehan
92



Emily Bennett
91.95



Felisa Gonzalo
91.9



Maximus Cogley
91.7



Oliver Chiew
90.9



Laura McGregor
90.7



Finn McClung
90.6



Brooke Lawson
90.55



Lucy Abbott
90.35

Meet our Dux

WHAT DID YOU STUDY FOR YOUR HSC, AND WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING FOR 2026?

I did English Advanced, Mathematics Extension 1, Chemistry, Biology and PDHPE. I think I will study undergraduate physiotherapy, and from there sit my GAMSAT and do medicine. I want to help people. And I feel like that's a way I could do it because I really enjoy learning about it. I do like anatomy and the study of the human body. It's fascinating.

WHAT WERE HIGHLIGHTS FROM NBCS SCHOOL CAMPS?

I loved Urban Challenge and the freedom teachers gave you in Year 10. It was heaps of fun. The relationships you develop with your teachers on camps was also a highlight. Year 12 study camp was actually fun as well. We got a lot of free time and still felt productive.

SHOUT-OUT FOR YOUR FAVOURITE TEACHERS?

Definitely Ms Penna and Mrs Meakes. Ms Penna has helped me through a lot of Maths. She was always there for me and I always went to her for advice. She told me what I needed to hear.

HOW HAS YOUR MENTOR GROUP BEEN?

In the earlier years it's a bit harder, but in the past two years it's been really nice. I feel like the Year 11 and 12 mentor groups are what they strive to be from the very start, if that makes sense. I feel like you only really get that closeness in Year 11. People put their differences aside and they're just mature.

HOW DID YOU BALANCE YOUR WORKLOAD?

I optimised my time as much as I could by making the most of the smaller moments. I feel like I'm not much of a procrastinator. I just get stuck in, which is definitely an advantage. I like to mentally organise myself, and write out a schedule, with priorities to get done. I use my notes app on my phone.

WHAT PIECE OF ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE YOUR YEAR 11 SELF?

Just do things one step at a time. In Year 11, I was very stressed and was always thinking ahead. I was like, 'if I'm so stressed now, I'm going to be so much more stressed in Year 12'. But it's best not to think about the bigger picture. Just think about the here and now. Everything passes and you're capable of doing it and getting it done.

WHAT DO YOU DEFINE AS SUCCESS?

If you feel proud of yourself, if the effort meets the reward, if you feel fulfilled, I guess. I try really hard to not only make myself proud, but make my family proud. I work for them. I want to be successful, so I'm able to help them, whether it's financially or emotionally. I can see the sacrifice they make for me, so I want to be able to make that back one day.

ANY OTHER ADVICE FOR YOUNGER STUDENTS?

Don't sacrifice who you are for your friendships. And although people say 'put friends first', sometimes if you need to get things done at school, you've just got to sacrifice that lunch that you could spend with them and just work. Be authentic, be yourself.

I've been very blessed because I've had my best friend with me since Kindy and we've just gone through school together. But the friends that you have now might not be forever. You've still got so many years ahead of you to meet new people.

Maya Koch

97.65
ATAR

High Achieving Courses

PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS ACHIEVING IN THE TOP BANDS

Course	Percentage in Bands 5, 6 or E4	
	NBCS	NSW
English Extension 2	100	34.57
Textiles and Design	100	48.52
Food Technology	75.00	32.34
Physics	71.42	37.73
Drama	91.67	58.77
Society and Culture	75.00	46.76
Design and Technology	76.92	48.88
Visual Arts	90.00	64.18
Music Extension	100.00	76.29
Music 1	87.50	66.89
English Advanced	85.25	65.24
PDHPE	51.11	35.29
Economics	66.67	52.68
Music 2	100.00	86.09
English Standard	25.88	12.87
Engineering Studies	41.18	28.61
Legal Studies	57.14	44.70
Chemistry	50.00	38.05
Mathematics Advanced	63.16	51.46
English Extension 1	50.00	42.16
Geography	50.00	42.45
Business Studies	44.68	37.59
Modern History	42.86	35.90
Biology	42.50	35.73

COURSES WITH AVERAGES SIGNIFICANTLY ABOVE STATE AVERAGE

Course	Average HSC Course Mark (%)	
	NBCS	NSW
Textiles and Design	89.37	77.44
Food Technology	81.80	73.11
Engineering Studies	80.66	73.20
Physics	80.39	73.58
Legal Studies	81.77	75.21
Music 1	87.04	81.27
Science Extension	42.65	37.09
English Extension 2	46.40	40.94
Industrial Technology	75.87	70.62
Society and Culture	82.60	77.36
Earth and Environmental Science	79.24	74.10
Drama	86.28	81.30
PDHPE	78.97	74.15
Geography	80.07	75.66
Modern History	78.13	73.72
Biology	77.33	73.04
Visual Arts	85.64	81.38
Mathematics Advanced	82.82	78.83
Design and Technology	81.86	78.25
Enterprise Computing	77.10	73.52
English Standard	75.19	71.62
English Advanced	85.23	81.80
Mathematics Standard 2	74.97	71.56
Software Engineering	77.90	74.60

Distinguished Achievers

THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS ACHIEVED A BAND 6/E4 IN THE SUBJECTS LISTED

Lucy Abbott	English Advanced, Society and Culture
Daniel Baker	Mathematics Standard 2
Andrew Bartlett	Business Studies, Engineering Studies
Jordan Bedard	Mathematics Standard 2
Emily Bennett	Drama, English Advanced, English Extension 2, Music 1
Tamara Bourke	Personal Development, Health and Physical Education, Textiles and Design, Visual Arts
Erin Bovington	Biology, English Advanced
Jethro Browne	Mathematics Standard 2
Willow Buckland	Visual Arts
Charlotte Buttrose	Music 1
Oliver Carroll	English Extension 2
Oliver Chiew	English Advanced, English Extension 1, Music 1
Ted Clark	Music 1
Maximus Cogley	Mathematics Standard 2
Patrick Crighton	Retail Services Examination
Liam Downs	Engineering Studies, Mathematics Extension 1
Lola Epthorp	English Advanced
Elizabeth Gardner	Textiles and Design
Felisa Gonzalo	English Advanced, Spanish Beginners
Max Humphries	Engineering Studies, English Advanced, Mathematics Extension 1, Mathematics Advanced, Physics
Thomas Ivanac-Escobar	Mathematics Advanced
Kiran Jacobsen	English Advanced
Michael Jeffrey	Business Studies, Physics
Maya Koch	Biology, English Advanced, Personal Development, Health and Physical Education
Leon Koike McDonnell	Legal Studies, Mathematics Standard 2
Brianna Laforest	Mathematics Standard 2, Personal Development, Health and Physical Education, Textiles and Design

Brooke Lawson	Visual Arts
Benjamin Lenehan	Business Studies
Andrew Lowe	Business Studies, English Advanced
Manon Lynch	Drama, English Advanced, Visual Arts
Abigail Macmillan	English Advanced, Legal Studies, Mathematics Standard 2, Personal Development, Health and Physical Education
Julia Mann	English Advanced
Lily Masselos	Drama, Music 1
Laura McGregor	Mathematics Standard 2, Textiles and Design
Arabella Morgan	Music 1
Sophia Murrell	Mathematics Extension 1
Julia Pearce	Earth and Environmental Science, English Extension 1, English Extension 2
Cedar Petrulis	Food Technology
Emilie Richards	Visual Arts
Toby Simpson	English Advanced, Legal Studies, Mathematics Advanced, Modern History
Ramey Smit	Engineering Studies, Mathematics Extension 1, Mathematics Extension 2
Niamh Smith	Legal Studies, Mathematics Standard 2
Matthew Southey	Business Studies, Mathematics Standard 2, Music 1
Evan Taylor	Modern History
Jasper Thompson	Music Extension
Joshua Wangler	Mathematics Advanced
Jack Wilson	Mathematics Standard 2

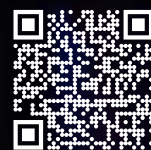
YEAR 11 ACCELERATED STUDENTS

Zoe Bird	Mathematics Advanced
Archie Buttrose	Mathematics Advanced
Rebecca Gonzalo	Mathematics Advanced
Jack Huie	Mathematics Advanced
Tyler Kesby	Mathematics Advanced
Ophelia Morgan	Mathematics Advanced

Showcase nominations

NBCS HSC STUDENTS
RECEIVED 21 NOMINATIONS
FOR THE 2025 HSC SHOWCASES.
A NOMINATION INDICATES
THAT PERFORMANCES AND
MAJOR WORKS CAUGHT
THE EYE OF MARKERS AS
EXEMPLARY AND REFLECTING
HIGH ACHIEVEMENT.

Nominated students are in the running for the NESA Young Writers Showcase, SHAPE, OnSTAGE, ARTEXPRESS or ENCORE events in 2025. Their nominations validate their dedication and talent, and reflect the commitment of their teachers who have guided them through every step.



Scan to view
complete 2025
HSC Showcase

1

Music | ENCORE

With Ms Rowsell

Nominated for ENCORE

1. Matthew Southey | *Spain* (Drums)
2. Arque Dang | *Musicology*



1



Scan to listen to
Matthew's performance

2



FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE ENTIRE TEXTILES AND DESIGN HSC CLASS WAS NOMINATED FOR INCLUSION IN THE NESA SHAPE EXHIBITION OF MAJOR WORKS.

“This year is arguably the most successful Textiles cohort,” says Mrs Gray, Textiles teacher. “Students who select Textiles are inspired by everything around them. They’ve seen what students before them can produce, so they’re inspired by the quality of the work.”

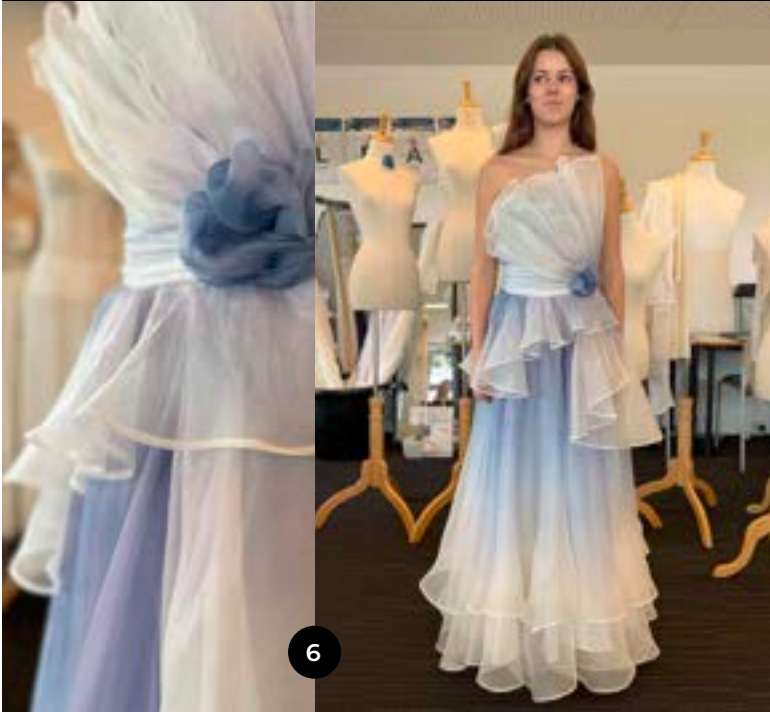
“What they learn in Textiles is to manage a process and a timeline. It’s not like building something and then putting a next level on it. A lot of little pieces come together quite suddenly. It’s as if there’s a magnet pulling them all in.”

Textiles and Design | SHAPE

With Mrs Gray

Nominated for SHAPE

- 1. Tamara Bourke | *Oceans of Indigo*
- 2. Elizabeth Gardner | *Petals of Swans*
- 3. Brianna Laforest | *Victorian Translucence*
- 4. Laura McGregor | *Gradation of Beauty*
- 5. Ashlee O'Reilly | *Victorian Whisper*
- 6. Gabriela Spence | *Variegation of Blue*



Selected for TexStyle

Brianna Laforest | *Victorian Translucence*

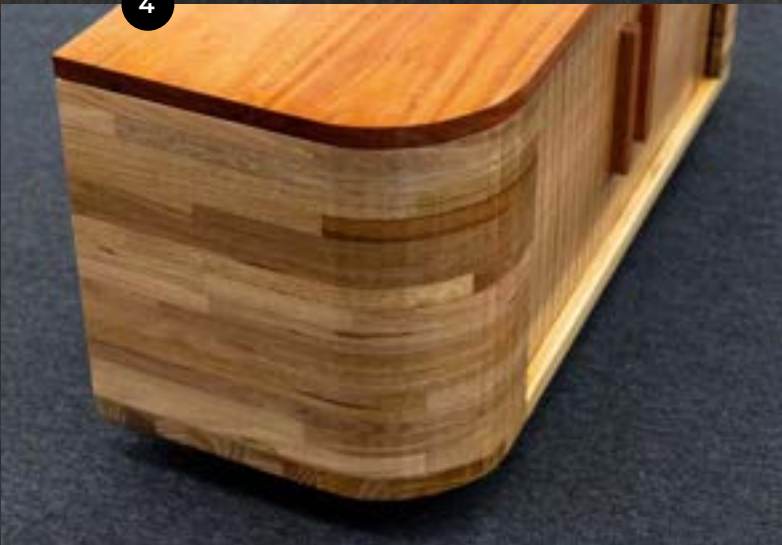


Industrial Technology | SHAPE

With Mr Bannister

Nominated for SHAPE

- 1. Finn Denman | Modern Desk
- 2. Matisse Douglas | Double Helix Display Case
- 3. Markus Sampson | Remote Control Boat
- 4. Angus Smith | Tambour Door TV Cabinet
- 5. Jack Wilson | J45 Dreadnought Guitar



“WE SHARE WITH OUR 21 SHOWCASE NOMINEES THEIR JOY AT BEING NOMINATED, AND OUR PRIDE AND PLEASURE IN THEIR WORK ACROSS A RANGE OF SUBJECTS. WE VALUE AND APPRECIATE THE OPPORTUNITY THAT MAJOR PROJECTS PROVIDE FOR STUDENTS TO CREATE AND DEVELOP WORK THAT DEMONSTRATES DILIGENCE AND EXPERTISE. WORK OF THIS CALIBRE REQUIRES STUDENTS AND TEACHERS WORKING TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE MASTERY.”

Mr Tim Watson

English Extension 2
YOUNG WRITERS SHOWCASE

With Mr Clarke

Nominated for YOUNG WRITERS SHOWCASE

- 1. Oliver Carroll | *The tragical history of the life and death of Emma Lukham* (Script)
- 2. Julia Pearce | *Immanent Failure* (Creative Non-Fiction)



Drama | OnSTAGE

With Mr Owen

Nominated for OnSTAGE

- 1. Emily Bennett | *Empty* (Film)
- 2. Skye Dix | *Tartuffe* (Costume Design)



Scan to watch
Emily's film

Drama | OnSTAGE

With Mr Owen

Nominated for OnSTAGE

3. Manon Lynch | *Surfer Chick* (Monologue)



3



Nominated for OnSTAGE

4. Emily Bennett, Skye Dix, Julia Van Der Linden, Emily Jones | *Dangerous Criminals!* (Group Performance)



4



Nominated for OnSTAGE

5. Lily Masselos, Lucy Scott, Aiden Cooper-Driver, Manon Lynch | *The Tradies* (Group Performance)



5



Nominated for OnSTAGE

6. Lily Masselos | *Titanique* (Monologue)



6



Meet some of our graduates ...

"The passion each teacher has for their subject really shows in the classroom. NBCS has exceptional teachers willing to sacrifice their time, effort, and energy for any personal or academic problems you have."

Lucy Abbott



Abigail Macmillan

YOU CAME TO NBCS IN YEAR 8. WHAT HAVE YOU LIKED ABOUT IT?

It's easy to do well if you try because people care, and the teachers are very supportive. And obviously, it's a beautiful school. I've got good friendships. Most of us all want to do well.

I think NBCS has definitely supported my enjoyment of school and learning. It could have been easy for me to stop liking school as things got harder. I think instead the school encouraged me to aim to do better.

WHAT ARE YOU HOPING TO DO AT UNIVERSITY?

Originally, I wanted to do medicine, but now I want to do a double degree in medical science and law. Legal Studies was my favourite subject. When I was younger, I was in all the debating teams, and I loved Mock Trial.

WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED AT NBCS?

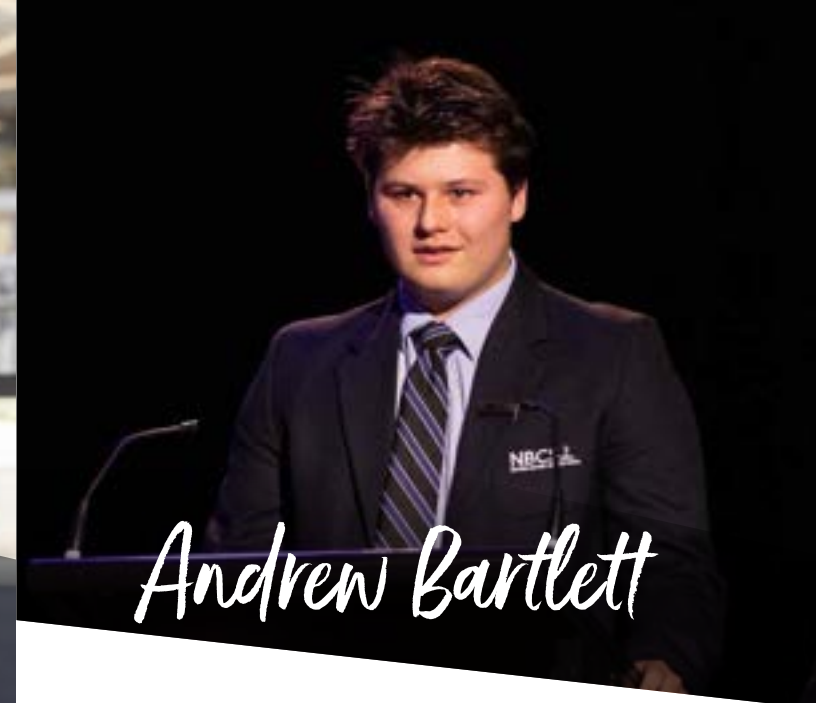
Probably that it is really a privilege to learn. I know that sounds cliched, but I think I will miss being at school with all my friends, having everything in one space at school, and knowing that my teachers are here to help me.

HOW DID YOU MANAGE YOUR WORKLOAD?

When I study, I study properly. I'd do blocks of three or four hours and then I'd let myself rest and not stress. When you're stressed about school, it makes everything harder.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE YOUR YEAR 11 SELF?

Make sure you have a good balance and still keep all your friendships because that's good for after school. You don't want to finish school and get a good mark but then think, 'oh, I didn't invest in my friendships as well'.



Andrew Bartlett

WHAT'S NEXT FOR YOU?

I'm aiming to do civil engineering at UNSW, maybe focusing on transport engineering.

AS SCHOOL CAPTAIN, WHAT DID YOU HOPE TO LEARN?

I wanted to grow my skills in being a leader, especially with public speaking, communication and teamwork – which will all be important post-school.

HOW IS YOUR TIME MANAGEMENT?

Having a full plate forces you to be good at time management. When you've got heaps of time, you stretch the task out to the time frame that you have, instead of doing things efficiently. At the start of each week, I write out a daily plan and what I'm going to achieve on each day. At night I update that.

ARE YOU GLAD TO HAVE DONE THE ACCELERATED MATHS PROGRAM?

It was a shock to have the anxiety and pressure of an HSC exam, but it helps you know what to expect, and the things that worked and didn't work when you're under a lot of pressure.

YOU PLAYED CRICKET AND DID YOUR GOLD DUKE OF ED AWARD. WHAT'S YOUR MOTIVATION FOR ALL YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS?

This is the only time in your life you can completely dive into everything without work or family commitments. My siblings and my friends are motivated people, and it's contagious being around people who are going to drive you and push you.

DID YOU GROW TO 'LOVE LEARNING' (THE SCHOOL'S VISION)?

When you get in the mindset of 'I get to learn', versus 'I have to learn', that changes a lot. I'm not just doing this to get a certificate. I'm doing this as the next step in my career.



Arabella Morgan

WHAT'S NEXT FOR YOU?

I've tossed around speech pathology, or maybe a degree in humanitarian aid or foreign relations. I want to get my hands into something that helps others, but in a practical way. I prefer being outside, and doing things with people.

WHAT HAVE YOU LOVED DOING AT SCHOOL?

I've really loved the musicals. The community that comes out of it is insane, and we have great resources! In Year 12, I loved the Manhattan study centre. I feel like our grade has grown closer, and gotten to know each other really well.

WHAT ABOUT YOUR ACTIVITIES OUT OF SCHOOL?

I do a lot of church activities and lead youth groups. My church community provides a lot of balance for me.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE YOUR YEAR 11 SELF?

Keep going. Stay consistent. It might seem hard now, but trust God, and don't try and do it all by yourself.

WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED AT NBCS?

I've learned how to go outside my comfort zone, to be more confident and push past anxiety. I've learned just to go for it and to be okay with fear. School is a good place to allow that to happen, because you're not out in the big wide world yet.

WHAT DOES 'LOVE LEARNING' MEAN TO YOU?

I think it's a good motto. It reminds us why we learn. You need to love what you're doing, and you need to go out and use the knowledge from school. Do something with it. It's more than just having stuff in your head.



Benjamin Lenehan

WHERE ARE YOU HEADED IN 2026?

I'll start a Renewable Energy Engineering degree at UNSW, probably part-time while I focus on building my business, Watergate Labs.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR BUSINESS.

It's a renewable energy company built around a device I developed that turns water into electricity. The idea began in Year 10, and I've since worked in UNSW's post-grad labs with a team there. This year, we were accepted into the Federal Government's Industry Growth Program, for start-ups commercialising new technology, and now have a climate-tech advisor and funding. We also made the Peter Farrell Cup startup competition final in September, being one of 10 teams selected from 600 entries, and placed second, receiving \$10,000, which was exciting. I also got to install my product in a new home - which I did straight after my HSC English exam. I can now monitor it remotely through a dashboard I built. [The home will appear on Grand Designs Australia.]

WOULD YOU CALL YOURSELF A SCIENTIST OR MORE OF A PROBLEM SOLVER?

There's a bit of a debate between scientists and engineers. Engineers like to solve a problem, so I lean a bit more towards the engineers.

WHERE DOES YOUR MOTIVATION COME FROM?

I think you have to be internally motivated for success. I have a vivid vision of having my company's logo on the top of a skyscraper.

WHAT THINGS HAVE YOU LEARNED AT SCHOOL THAT ARE HELPFUL FOR YOUR BUSINESS?

School has taught me that when you put in the hard work, you can see results. That might not be marks or percentages, but your understanding of a topic.



Brianna Laforest

WHAT'S YOUR PLAN FOR AFTER YEAR 12?

I definitely want to go down the path of helping people - maybe through physiotherapy, OT or nursing. I have some plans to do some traveling at the end of this year with my family, and after that I'll go straight into university.

WHAT DOES BEING A CRU PREFECT INVOLVE?

My co-leader and I run the CRU Christian group at lunchtimes on Friday. We also help lead in chapels a lot as well. In this role, I've learned so many skills, and gained in confidence in public speaking.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR TEXTILES AND DESIGN MAJOR WORK?

It's a bodice with boning, and seams, made out of satin and georgette. All the women in my family have done textiles - my grandma, mum and sister. It's a bit of a lost art.

DO YOU HAVE ANY FAVOURITE TEACHERS?

I feel I'm very lucky - all my teachers are amazing. I've been with my mentor teacher since Year 7. Mentor groups are good, because it brings together a whole group of people who you don't normally hang out with to make a relaxed space, away from school work.

IF YOU LOOK BACK IN FIVE YEARS, WHAT WILL YOU SAY YOU LEARNED AT NBCS?

I think a big one is to carry yourself well, because people respect that. Show that you have kindness and love for others. Another thing is to take every opportunity that you're given.

HOW HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED THE CHRISTIAN TEACHING ASPECT OF NBCS?

What's cool about this school is that we're shown what Christianity is, and then it's ours to do with what we want.



Evan Taylor

WHAT'S NEXT FOR YOU?

I want to travel around the globe backpacking for about three years. Ideally, I want to visit almost every country. I'd like to go to China, the Middle East, sub-Saharan Africa, Europe - Italy, France, Germany, and maybe Brazil, Bolivia and Mexico, and the US. It's about comparing my life with others, seeing how things work, understanding what motivates other people, and absorbing the full range of human experiences. I want to try to make meaning out of why we live, why we do things and what we all have in common.

DO YOU HAVE ANY CAREER GOALS?

I'm interested in agriculture and farming. It seems very challenging but also very rewarding. I'd like to do crop farming out west somewhere.

WHAT ARE SOME FAVOURITE MEMORIES OF YOUR 13 YEARS AT NBCS?

I've really enjoyed the excursions over the years. The history trip to the Holocaust Museum was incredibly moving. Cooking camp was great fun, and I loved the Urban Challenge in Year 10, finding our way around the city. I still remember Year 7 camp - kayaking on the river under the sun in the most idyllic, scenic setting.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE SOMEONE GOING INTO YEAR 11?

I think study habits are very important. I have terrible habits. But if you can get into the habit of studying every week, that will help you to get good academic results.

DESCRIBE YOURSELF IN THREE WORDS

Lazy, but interested and curious. I'm interested in knowing things. I think you should enjoy education. Learning is an opportunity, and everyone should strive to be more informed and more intelligent.



Emily Bennett

WHAT SUBJECTS DID YOU DO AND WHAT TERTIARY STUDIES ARE YOU LOOKING AT?

English Advanced, Maths Standard, Music 1, Drama, English Extension 1 & 2. I did three major works for Music, Drama and Extension English, including two films. I'd like to do music composition at ANU or film making.

HOW DID YOU MANAGE THE WORKLOAD?

Making a to do list and schedule each day helped me. Getting things done early in Year 12 has helped. For example, I finished filming for my two major works by the end of January. That left me a lot of space to do the rest of the work.

WHAT PIECE OF ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE YOUR YEAR 11 SELF?

Do the research into what Year 12 subjects will entail. I've been surprised by the size of some of the tasks and major works. If I chose to do three major works again, I wouldn't make two of them films because even though film is my passion, it's been a lot of work.

WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED FROM SUCH BIG PROJECTS?

I've always loved creative writing but putting it on the screen and doing things like organising actors, story boards and do the lighting and sound editing myself, has been such a learning process. Despite it being incredibly stressful, it was really rewarding in the end.

DO YOU HAVE A TOP TIP FOR BUDDING FILMMAKERS?

Having movement in your shots is important, but you need a dolly to push the camera around. I didn't have one, so for one scene, I taped the camera to a scooter and pulled it along. I've learned so many problem-solving skills, and practised thinking outside the box.



Emily Jones

WHAT ARE YOU STUDYING AND WHERE ARE YOU HEADED WITH IT?

English Advanced, Maths Standard, Ancient History, Modern History, Drama and History Extension. I want to do a double degree of international relations and arts, which could end up in mission aid, diplomacy, or even teaching. When I went on the UNIS Conference trip to New York in Year 11, I thought, 'I could see myself doing this.' I'll defer for a year, work and travel and then head to uni.

YOU'VE BEEN AT NBCS SINCE YEAR 10 – HOW WAS YOUR EXPERIENCE OF BEING NEW?

I moved to Australia at the beginning of Year 9. I've been very happy with the decision to come to NBCS. I made friends immediately and there are so many opportunities. I can't stress enough how amazing the global opportunities are at this school – and Student Opportunity Week.

WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN INVOLVED WITH?

I was Sports Captain and I've done a lot of sport – triathlons and swimming mainly. Swimming carnivals are my favourite days. Last year I helped run World's Greatest Shave, raising over \$10,000.

WHICH CAMPS HAVE YOU BEEN ON?

Urban Challenge in Year 10 was great for making friends and getting to know people. In Year 11, I did performing arts camp which was amazing with a musical every night. The 10-day UN tour to New York in Year 11 was a highlight. And Year 12 study camp – I didn't want to go home.

WHAT'S YOUR BEST HACK FOR STUDYING?

My phone distracts me, so I prop it up and film a time lapse video of myself studying. Later, I watch through the sped-up video and see how much I've achieved.



Jasper Thompson

TELL US ABOUT YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN MUSIC AT NBCS.

I studied Music 2 and Music Extension and I play the cello. I also play a fair bit of guitar, and sing a bit. I've been involved in the rock bands, performing at R&B Live lunchtime events. It's been awesome to have a rehearsal each week and work towards performance goals. I'm looking at music-related options for further study, like sound design or sound audio engineering. My main aim would be to be a successful musician, or be involved in that kind of thing.

YOUR MOST MEMORABLE EVENTS AT NBCS?

I went on the surfing camp on the Gold Coast for four years in a row. It's an insane thing the school offers; I can't believe I got to do that. Also, being one of the co-curricular captains meant I could be involved with music and the creative side of things. I helped organise the talent show; it was cool to see the stuff you've been working on turn out well! Being a leader was really rewarding.

HOW HAS THE SCHOOL HELPED YOU DEVELOP YOUR INTEREST AND SKILLS IN MUSIC?

It's been really great having Ms Rowsell, who ensured I could do Music Extension. It enabled me to get a lot better at cello.

WHAT DOES A SUCCESSFUL YEAR 12 LOOK LIKE FOR YOU?

One of the main things is keeping good relationships with my friends and teachers during difficult times of study and stress. Also, doing as well as I can, and feeling happy with the effort that I've put in. The effort is more important than the result for me.

WHAT SKILLS HAVE YOU LEARNED AT NBCS?

To persevere when things are difficult and try to keep going until it makes sense.



Felisa Gonzalo

WHAT ARE YOUR FAVOURITE SUBJECTS AND FUTURE PLANS?

I've enjoyed Earth and Environmental Science and Maths Advanced. It is challenging, but when I know how to answer a question, I get a good thrill out of it. I'm hoping to go into a Bachelor of Health Science to try and get into medicine. It was either going to be education or medicine because I want to help people.

HOW DID YOU BALANCE YOUR ELITE SWIMMING COMMITMENTS AND SCHOOL WORK?

My family all swims, but we're very organised and have a routine that works. I don't miss that much school. Competitions are usually on the weekend. I often take my laptop and get a lot of work done between races. Nationals was a whole week in April, but it was in the holidays. I did cut back my training for Year 12.

WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED AT NBCS?

To go out of your comfort zone to grow as a person, don't be scared to give everything a try. For example, as a leader, I had to deliver speeches and I don't like public speaking, but after doing it many times, I found it was fine. NBCS has been such an encouraging and warm environment to learn this. In Year 11, I did something out of my comfort zone and went on drama camp. It showed me a different side of myself! It was a lot of dancing and acting, but I gave it a shot. It was a fun opportunity.

WHAT DOES A SUCCESSFUL YEAR 12 LOOK LIKE FOR YOU?

Giving it my very best. If the results are not what you want, move on, because there's always another exam, and then outside of school, there's the rest of life.



Lachlan McFadzean

AS AN ELITE TENNIS PLAYER, HOW HAVE YOU BALANCED DOING YEAR 12 STUDY?

I train three times a day every day and up to 25 hours a week. I'm at school about a third of the time because of tournaments. A lot of people in my position would do online school, but it's isolating. For me, school provides balance, and I get to see my mates. When I'm playing tennis, I'm super focused on that, and when I'm at school I focus hard on that.

WHAT ARE YOU HEADING TOWARDS?

My ultimate goal is to be a pro tennis player. My schooling will definitely help me in the long run, after my tennis career. It might also help if I head down the US College route.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR TENNIS CAREER SO FAR

I started tennis when I was six, but I started to make a lot of sacrifices for it around Year 7. I won the Under 18 Australian Championship in singles and doubles in 2024, and I played in the Australian Open juniors and the Davis Cup for juniors in 2025. Now I have a pro ranking.

HOW HAS NBCS SUPPORTED YOUR TENNIS CAREER?

Mr Watson has been very supportive of letting me take all this time off school, trusting me to put in the time when I'm at school. It's helpful to be able to email my teachers, and I use Canvas, which has all the classwork online so I can still do work when I'm away.

WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED AT NBCS?

The main one would be time management. I can have a tennis mindset, and a school mindset, and the ability to turn off at the end of the day. Also, I've learned to value school. I ask more questions during lessons, because each lesson has more value to me.



Lily Masselos

WHEN DID YOU START AT NBCS?

I started in Year 8. For the first two years, I was really shy. As I got to know everyone, I came out of my shell.

WHAT ACTIVITIES HAVE YOU LOVED?

There were so many service opportunities, so I just kept putting my hand up – even overdoing it a bit! I joined the dance group, and the Salvation Army service projects like sleep-outs and charity events. But musicals have been my main involvement. I started with Strictly Ballroom as ensemble, then had a line, then a song, then lead roles. Performing really built my confidence and showed me what's possible when you work hard.

WHAT'S BEEN A HIGHLIGHT AS SCHOOL CAPTAIN?

The behind-the-scenes stuff – like expos – where you see how small things have big impacts. I'm also passionate about fostering a strong culture of performance and acceptance in the school. It's great to see more students getting involved – speaking at assemblies, performing, giving speeches. It helps build confidence in a big way.

As a leader, I've realised how important it is to truly listen. Our leadership team isn't just one person making all the decisions – we collaborate. If we don't listen to each other, nothing gets done. That's been a huge learning curve, and I'll carry that with me.

WHAT'S NEXT?

I'm applying for early entry, hopefully studying psychology. I'll always keep performing too, even just for fun.



Max Humphries

HOW DID YOU MANAGE YOUR HEAVY STUDY LOAD?

I studied Physics, Chemistry, Engineering, Maths Advanced, Maths Extension, and English Advanced. I do the work when it's set, so I don't procrastinate. From Year 7, I put real effort into tests, which prepared me well – it doesn't feel like I'm working all that much now. It also helps that I like all my subjects. When I study Physics, it doesn't feel like work; I just want to know more. I even finished the Physics syllabus over the summer holidays, just because I was interested and knew it would help in class.

WHAT TERTIARY COURSE ARE YOU HOPING TO DO?

I'd like to pursue Physics and Engineering, preferably at UNSW.

WHAT HAS BEEN A MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE AT SCHOOL?

The STEM New Zealand Tour was unforgettable. New Zealand is beautiful, and being there with friends was amazing. We met people who've been to space and zip-lined across forests – it was incredible.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE YOUR YEAR 11 SELF?

Do things for your future self. I always made consistent notes and summary sheets for every subject. When exams came around, I could go back to them and it felt manageable – I didn't have to relearn a whole year's content.

HOW HAS NBCS IMPACTED YOU PERSONALLY?

I've made lifelong friends and become more of my own person. I've worked hard, and it's paying off now.



Lucy Abbott

WHAT ARE YOU HOPING TO DO AFTER SCHOOL?

I'm hoping to become a primary school teacher, as I've always been drawn to leadership and caring for kids. I had really encouraging, inspiring primary school teachers and I lead each week at our kids program at church.

WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN INVOLVED AT NBCS?

I'm very proud of being a Cru leader. I worked with younger grades, and as a House Captain this year, I've learned how to work a crowd, communicate clearly, and fill in the gaps.

HAS NBCS HELPED YOU DEVELOP INTERESTS OR PASSIONS?

Yes, definitely in Christian leadership. I've been encouraged to pursue my gifts in Christian teaching and ministry. Having teachers walk alongside me has confirmed my desire to be a teacher and shown me how much impact teachers can have on students.

WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED AT NBCS?

To enjoy learning! I've learned to appreciate different perspectives and be okay with feeling uncomfortable as you learn. You have to take criticism and refine your skills to actually grow.

WHAT HAVE YOU APPRECIATED ABOUT YOUR TEACHERS?

The passion each teacher has for their subject really shows in the classroom. NBCS has exceptional teachers willing to sacrifice their time, effort, and energy for any personal or academic problems you have.

WHAT'S SPECIAL ABOUT NBCS?

I love the integrated relationships across years. It shows up in the Cru space, and in the musical. Younger students get to know older students. It makes you feel valued.



Ramey Smit

WHAT ARE YOU STUDYING, AND WHERE ARE YOU HEADING WITH IT?

I'm studying STEM subjects – all the physics, chemistry, and maths I can do, and Advanced English. I'm hoping to go to UNSW to do maths and engineering. I got interested in engineering in Year 10, when maths got really interesting.

WHAT CO-CURRICULAR HAVE YOU BEEN INVOLVED WITH?

I've participated in the past five musicals in the tech team, which has a good sense of community. I mixed the audio of the band. Mamma Mia was the hardest one to mix, but also the most fun. You can't go wrong with ABBA. I've done a couple of Da Vinci decathlons; it was a nice challenge being around smart people and working together.

WHAT DO YOU DO OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL?

I have a part-time job in Newport, and I play tennis a couple of times a week.

HOW HAVE YOU MANAGED TO KEEP ON TOP OF YOUR HSC STUDIES?

I give myself a cut-off point where I just stop studying. I do procrastinate a bit, but I'm working on that. I'll think, "I've got three weeks, that's heaps of time," then suddenly it's two weeks and I'm like, "I'll start now." Two weeks feels long, but it's really not. I actually looked forward to the HSC trials and exams because I do better in written tests than in investigations or practical tasks. I'm good at preparing for exams, and once you get the technique down, you're set up to do well.

WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED AT NBCS?

It's definitely made me better as socialising. Having the time at school forces you to be social and communicate.



Lucy Scott

WHAT ARE YOUR HOPES FOR THE FUTURE?

I want to take my drama further and be an actor one day. Next year I'll be pursuing dance full time.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN DANCE AT NBCS.

I've been dancing since I was three. In 2024, I was invited to be NBCS Dance Captain and I was co-captain with my friend this year. We assisted the teacher by organising the dancers and running warm-ups. It's really enjoyable.

In competitions, we have done really well, and the Junior team is incredible.

DID YOU ENJOY BEING PART OF THE MUSICALS?

The musicals have been one of the biggest parts of my high school life. I met some of my best friends through it. I auditioned in Year 7 but didn't make it. My friend Lily encouraged me to try again, which I'm so glad about. Without the musical, I wouldn't be the person I am. It's given me confidence and a sense of belonging. With every musical, I grow a little more and discover something new about myself.

In Mamma Mia, I played a boy's role – that was massive, and I was so proud of myself for really taking that character on. In Bring It On, I had a small acting role, but since dance is my thing, I asked the choreographer if I could help. Just having the confidence to ask meant I was in every dance number that year.

WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED AT NBCS?

I've learned how to set goals and do the best I can to achieve them, and to be authentically myself in every situation. Working with other people and listening to other people is also so important.



Niamh Smith

WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING TO DO AFTER THE HSC?

I'm looking to do something in law, and I'm hoping to go to the USA to play college basketball.

WHEN DID YOU DECIDE TO PURSUE BASKETBALL SERIOUSLY?

In Year 10, I went on a basketball tour to the US, visiting colleges and playing games. It was the moment I thought, 'This is what I want to do'. I love it. I'm very competitive by nature and just want to do well – that's what drives me. I've also loved the friendships I've built through it. I started playing in Year 5 or 6 at NBCS and now play in an NBL1 development team, which is semi-professional. I know a few girls older than me who have played US college basketball, and they say it's the best opportunity.

HOW HAS THE SCHOOL SUPPORTED YOUR BASKETBALL?

I give 15 to 20 hours a week to basketball. It's a big commitment but the school has been genuinely supportive. Mr Harding helped me put a plan together in Year 11 to balance basketball with the exams. I'm very deliberate with my time, and in Year 11, I started coming to school early when it's quiet. Having the Manhattan space to get work done has been great and I've met with teachers outside of class to get any help I need.

WHAT PIECE OF ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE YOUR YEAR 11 SELF?

Slow down and take everything in. We talked about it in chapel – don't rush the time away. Sitting down and being more patient will help take stress away from everything too.



Sophia Murrell

WHERE ARE YOU HEADED AFTER SCHOOL?

I want to study science, probably at the University of NSW. I'm not sure if I'll end up in research or in an education role. I'm interested in conservation work, and a lot of that is analysing statistics, so I'll use my maths.

WHAT PUT YOU ON THE SCIENCE PATH?

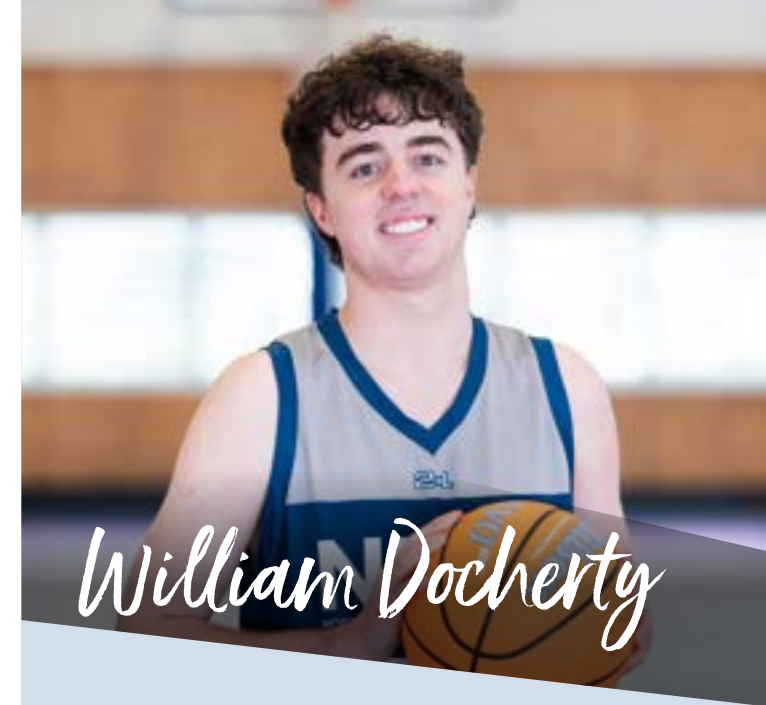
I've always been interested in science, and in Year 10, I did a great work experience organised by our careers teacher, which solidified it for me. I went to the University of Western Sydney and worked in the research institute at their Hawkesbury campus. I was able to do lab work and I loved it. The best part was seeing how science translates to the real world. I saw them grow different bacteria for a project on soil biodiversity and there were also scientists analysing people's DNA to diagnose if a condition was hereditary.

WOULD YOU RECOMMEND DOING THE ACCELERATED MATHS PROGRAM?

Yes, I did the first two Maths Advanced units in Year 11. It was quite tough but definitely worth it to be able to only do eight units of study this year. It's good experience knowing what the exam room is going to be like and how the day will run.

WHAT WILL YOU MISS ABOUT SCHOOL?

I've been here since Kindergarten, so finishing up feels like stepping into a bit of an unknown, but I feel prepared for it. The teachers have been amazing, supportive and giving of their time to make sure we're learning and developing. I'll definitely miss the structure and organisation that comes with school.



William Docherty

WHAT ARE YOU STUDYING FOR YOUR HSC AND NEXT YEAR?

Maths Extension and Advanced, Physics, Engineering, Business Studies, and English. I'm heading for Electrical Engineering. My dad's an engineer who worked with fibre optics, and the most interesting people at his business were always the electrical engineers! I'm still deciding between Sydney University, Wollongong, or Newcastle.

WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN INVOLVED IN AT SCHOOL?

I've done lots of basketball. I coach a few school teams and went on the US Basketball Tour. In Year 10, I did the Rural Fire Service Program. We got to see how it all works and talk to the firefighters.

HOW DO YOU BALANCE ALL THE STUDY AND HOMEWORK?

You've got to set what's important and cut out the rest – like spending two hours on your phone after school. That's got to go if you want time for basketball or to get your work done. I can't study with my phone in my room. Actually, I don't even study in my room; we've got a cabin out the back where I work without distractions. I'd rather focus completely and get it done faster.

WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED AT NBCS?

Definitely time management. Also, how to work with people and communicate ideas respectfully while being mindful of others' thoughts and feelings.

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