



Results from the Class of 2017!

Congratulations to the Class of 2017! I want you all to know how proud I am of each and every one of them – they are great young women, well educated, thoughtful, caring, compassionate, and people of strength and integrity.

It is hard to convey the depth of the warm feeling I had as I heard from individual Class of 2017 students over the past month or so, as they let us know what they are doing next and telling us their story. We have spent a lot of time with them over the last 6 or 10 or 13 years ... and it is lovely to hear what they had to say at the end of their high school journey! Here are a few quotes from different student emails, which I wanted to share with you ...

- *SCEGGS has offered me a plethora of opportunities to develop my values and beliefs, and has taught me so much about what I am capable of if I try my absolute best. I am so grateful for my experiences in music and arts, as well as in my academic life. I couldn't have hoped for a better environment to learn and grow up in, so thank you from the bottom of my heart. I am truly grateful for everything I have learned about thinking deeply and critically, striving to pursue my passions and take a stand on what I believe. Thank you for the experiences which have helped me to develop a love of learning and a desire to strive for academic excellence, as well as a freedom to think creatively.*
- *SCEGGS has given me every opportunity to grow personally and achieve so many great things. I am beyond appreciative of how lucky I have been to go there. Thank you for giving our year acceptance and support - the smile on every teacher and students face as our year paraded through the school gates in our rainbow 'pride' attire was unforgettable... The love and passion which [our teachers] brought to the school every day is something I often reflect on and will take away with me wherever I end up!*
- *I obviously wasn't able to achieve [my ATAR] without the help of all of my amazing teachers. There was never a day at school when I didn't feel completely supported and inspired by the staff (and of course the fabulous girls). I'm so grateful to have gone to SCEGGS and I will treasure so many of the memories made forever.*
- *All of my teachers pushed me with their enthusiasm and passion for their subjects, they showed me that learning should never be restricted to the finite words written in a textbook. Meanwhile, my eyes were opened to a cohort of girls who are driven by a natural desire to succeed, teaching me the importance of embracing the opportunity to learn new things and gain broadened views. Beyond the academic world, I cannot say I have met girls who are universally so caring, generous and who hold themselves with such integrity as of those at SCEGGS. Although these traits may bind our year of 106 girls together, I also want to comment on how remarkably diverse we are - and in turn, respectful and accepting of our differences. Although we may travel far and wide, the friends I have made I hope will last far beyond our school and university years and I cannot wait to see the great places we will go and changes we will make.*

As I said, I am so proud of them all.

The following summary provides an overview of some of the different statistics for the different courses and highlights many successes - but naturally there is still a lot more work for us to do to understand them all thoroughly. And as always, it is important to say that these are just statistics, they are not the stories of students or individual journeys, which is a more important feature for me.

Top All-Rounders:

Sixteen of our girls made the state's "Top All-Rounders" list this year, having gained a mark of at least 90% in ten or more of their HSC units. Across NSW there are only 1,394 students on this list in total, so this is a great achievement for these girls.

They were:

- Sally Adams
- Vita Banducci
- Isabel Bremner
- Annabelle Brennan
- Jacqueline Brown
- Solene Chretien
- Mia Gruzin
- Ginger-Rose Harrington
- Sabina Heath
- Sophie Krygier
- Sofia Latham
- May Merewether
- Alexandra Punch
- Jacqueline Rousselot
- Chloe Whelan
- Claire Yin

Well done to those girls – an outstanding achievement!

Also of particular note this year:

- Jacqueline Brown came 12th in the state in Advanced English
- Bridget Malouf came 9th in the state in Standard English
- Alice Tang came 16th in Mathematics General 2

Well done to those three girls!

In individual subjects, we had 274 mentions in the Distinguished Achievers lists from 104 different girls. This means that 104 of our girls gained in the top band with a mark over 90% in one or more of their subjects – this is an excellent achievement for each of them in those subject areas, showing a particularly strong performance in one or more of their subjects. In 2017 across NSW, only 12% of HSC course results are in the top band (Band 6 or E4).

You may have seen the Leagues Tables (either online or printed) in the Sydney Morning Herald and the Daily Telegraph. They are now extensively using 'over 90' as the "success rate". For each school, this means that they count the total number of subject marks over 90% in every course and divide by the number of subject marks achieved by all of the students in the school. Our "success rate" this year is 42.28% (down slightly from 45.3% last year). The median success rate for NSW this year is 5.47%.

As I said last year, I still struggle with just how awful I think terms such as "success rate" are in this context. What message does this send to a student currently in Year 9, for example – you are only successful next year if you score over 90%? I do worry that this puts increasingly more and more pressure on the young people in our society for absolutely no gain at all. This is a great example of an educational measure and associated terminology that has been designed and promoted by the media alone. Where in our society do we say publicly to our young people that we value their diligence, their perseverance, their willingness to take on challenges, to work at them and to strive for excellence? Where do we help them see that these are such important qualities that will help them flourish throughout their lifetime? And where do we focus on values of integrity and respect, or on skills such as creativity, innovation, entrepreneurship or divergent thinking?

Percentages in the top two bands in 2017:

The table below represents the number of students, as a percentage of the SCEGGS candidature, who have achieved a mark in one of the top two bands for the course. For comparison, the state percentage achieving in the top two bands is also provided. In a 2 unit subject, such as Ancient History, a mark in one of the top two bands means a mark over 80%.

| Subject | SCEGGS Candidature | State Percentage in top two bands | SCEGGS Percentage in top two bands |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|--|---|
| Ancient History | 24 | 35.98 | 83.33 |
| Biology | 25 | 39.28 | 88 |
| Business Studies | 26 | 36.14 | 84.61 |
| Chemistry | 31 | 42.71 | 80.63 |
| Design and Technology | 18 | 43.2 | 77.77 |
| Drama | 13 | 42.13 | 100 |
| Economics | 17 | 48.98 | 88.23 |
| English (Standard) | 12 | 15.91 | 33.32 |
| English (Advanced) | 95 | 63.64 | 94.73 |
| English Extension 1 | 36 | 93.27 | 100 |
| English Extension 2 | 15 | 87.38 | 100 |
| Geography | 7 | 41.90 | 85.71 |
| IPT | 5 | 29.84 | 100 |
| Mathematics General 2 | 36 | 25.49 | 63.88 |
| Mathematics | 58 | 53.48 | 84.48 |
| Mathematics Extension 1 | 38 | 81.60 | 97.36 |
| Mathematics Extension 2 | 8 | 84.00 | 100 |
| Modern History | 43 | 38.82 | 93.01 |
| History Extension | 22 | 79.62 | 95.44 |
| Music 1 | 7 | 65.22 | 85.7 |
| Music 2 | 2 | 89.16 | 100 |
| PDHPE | 10 | 30.56 | 70 |
| Physics | 12 | 33.80 | 58.33 |
| Visual Arts | 46 | 54.57 | 91.29 |
| French Continuers | 14 | 65.75 | 78.56 |
| French Extension | 3 | 93.24 | 100 |
| Japanese Continuers | 2 | 61.02 | 100 |
| Japanese Extension | 1 | 89.56 | 100 |
| Latin Continuers | 2 | 81.75 | 100 |
| Latin Extension | 1 | 96.66 | 100 |
| Spanish Beginners | 17 | 47.65 | 94.11 |

ATARs:

As you would all be aware, we do not receive any information about the ATARs (Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank) achieved by our girls. These were released to the girls directly online but we do ask girls to email or ring in and let us know how they went– we love to hear from them all – whatever mark they achieved.

We have again used an external consultant to estimate the ATARs and help us analyse the results so that we can advise students in future years, and to build up our knowledge base of processes and procedures.

It is important to remember:

The ATAR is a rank, not a mark, so for example an ATAR of 90 indicates that the student has performed well enough in the HSC overall to be placed in the top 10% of their age group.

Overall, it appears that we gained the following ATAR rankings:

- 9 girls over 99
- 18 girls over 98
- 42 girls over 95
- 64 girls over 90
- 91 girls over 80

Congratulations to Mia Gruzin who gained the highest ATAR at SCEGGS - 99.70. What a great achievement!

Where to from here:

We will continue to undertake a more careful analysis in the next couple of months of all the data we can acquire. So, we will look at how individual girls performed against their ability level; we will construct graphs of Year 10 results against HSC results, comparative information of how different subjects did against each other and so forth. We will look at the ATAR each student gained, which subjects counted in the calculation of her ATAR and which didn't. We will look at which options and electives we chose within courses, and how our students performed in each of these. We will use all of this to help us assess how this group of girls performed against their potential. And next year, as with all years, we will identify the areas that we can do even better for the following year. And of course we will continue to work on all aspects of our programs to ensure we are delivering the best education possible in every area.

Our full analysis of all the results has yet to be completed, and of course each year's cohorts are different – they select different subjects based on their differing interests, strengths, talents and abilities, and hence there will always be variation between years, but overall the Class of 2017 appears to have done well, and we are all very happy.

Jenny Allum