

Queensland Certificate of Education

Achievement Awards

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QCAA

Queensland Curriculum
& Assessment Authority

For all Queensland schools

*Recognising and rewarding
Queensland's top-performing 2018 Year 12 graduates
for their outstanding academic achievement
in senior schooling.*

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About the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority

The Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA) is an independent statutory body of the Queensland Government.

We develop and revise syllabuses and guidelines, and provide assessment, reporting and certification services for Queensland schools. We also register schools to deliver vocational education and training (VET) qualifications and accredited courses. Our work covers Kindergarten to Year 12.

Vision Supporting Queensland’s world-class education system through excellence in curriculum and assessment.

Purpose To provide curriculum and assessment leadership that enables schools to achieve quality learning outcomes for their students, and to maintain public confidence in the integrity of senior certification.

Values Our work and relationships with our stakeholders are guided by values of:

- service
- innovation
- partnership
- trust.

About the QCE Achievement Awards

The annual Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) Achievement Awards recognise and reward Queensland's top-performing Year 12 students for outstanding academic achievement in their senior school studies.

The 34 award winners attended 23 different State, Catholic and Independent schools. Their results put them ahead of more than 50 000 of their peers.

What makes the QCE Achievement Awards unique is that it is possible for a student to be recognised regardless of their approach to senior schooling. Among the award winners are students who chose a traditional school program and those who combined school subjects with university courses, vocational studies or other types of learning. They are united by having achieved to an exceptionally high level on a statewide basis and against a variety of measures.

Further information about the award categories, criteria and selection process is available at www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/qce-awards.



Outstanding Academic Achiever

The Outstanding Academic Achiever award is for the student whose accomplishments were the most outstanding in the state. The winner is drawn from the final list of Distinguished Academic Achievers who demonstrated exceptionally high achievement across a diverse range of learning.

The selection panel considered Maya Lamont from Indooroopilly State High School to be the Outstanding Academic Achiever for 2018 based on her exceptional achievements and breadth of learning.

Maya achieved outstanding results in seven Authority subjects and a university subject. Based on her achievements, Maya also received a Distinguished Academic Achievers Award.





‘I owe my success to the support, commitment, positive attitude and good humour of my family and friends, as well as my teachers.’

Maya Lamont

Indooroopilly State High School

Career goal: I’m passionate about social and environmental issues, particularly global warming. I’m not exactly certain what I want to do, but I’d love to work in environmental law or government policy to help make positive changes in the world.

Study plans: I have accepted a Vice-Chancellor’s Scholarship at The University of Queensland to study a Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Laws (Honours).

Favourite subject in Year 12: Modern History was my favourite subject. The topics were fascinating and often very relevant to the world today. And I enjoyed the freedom of choosing what to study for research assignments. My favourite class was Spanish because a class taught in a different language was a really challenging and rewarding experience.

Who inspires you? Young people who are actively trying to make a difference for the future.

Extracurricular activities: I was involved in a lot of activities, including debating and public speaking. I was also school captain and dux.

Distinguished Academic Achievers

This award is for students who demonstrate exceptionally high achievement across a diverse range of learning options. The number of recipients varies from year to year, with the selection panel using student achievement information to determine the top students.

Students were initially shortlisted because they achieved all of the following:

- a QCE
- an OP1
- an A on the QCS Test
- 20 or more semesters of Authority subjects at VHA standard.

The winners were selected by comparing the students' achievements in the following areas:

- overall QCS Test performance
- tertiary entrance ranking
- number of semesters at VHA standard
- performance in Authority subjects
- QCE credit for Authority subjects, university subjects, VET diplomas and advanced diplomas
- total QCE credit.



Emily Appleby

Brisbane School of Distance Education

Career goal: To complete further study in a specialty area of medicine.

Study plans: I hope to start an undergraduate medical degree at Griffith University and have received the Sir Samuel Griffith academic scholarship.

Favourite subject in Year 12: I found it impossible to choose a favourite.

‘ My parents have always inspired me. They’ve always been a great support and encouraged me to strive to reach my full potential. ’



Georgia Bartley

All Hallows’ School

Career goal: I’d like to become a doctor who works with patients and in research.

Study plans: I intend to study Medicine but haven’t yet decided where.

Favourite subject in Year 12: I found Chemistry fascinating and always looked forward to learning the next topics.

‘ In Year 12 I was a member of the Queensland senior fencing squad and represented Queensland at the national Open and Under 23 fencing championships. ’



Daniel Butcher

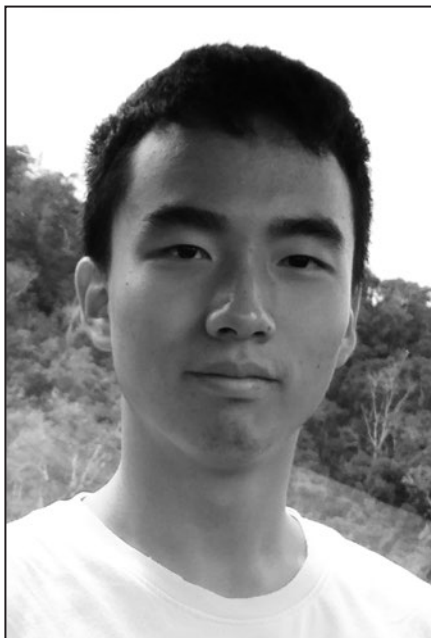
Genesis Christian College

Career goal: To pursue a career in scientific research, particularly medical or physics research.

Study plans: I will be studying a Bachelor of Advanced Science (Honours) at The University of Queensland and have been awarded a Vice-Chancellor's Scholarship.

Favourite subject in Year 12: I particularly enjoyed the challenge of Physics and its ability to relate real-world observations to mathematical formulae.

‘ I was very excited when I found out I'd won a QCE Achievement Award, and extremely grateful for all those who supported me throughout 2018. ’



William Chen

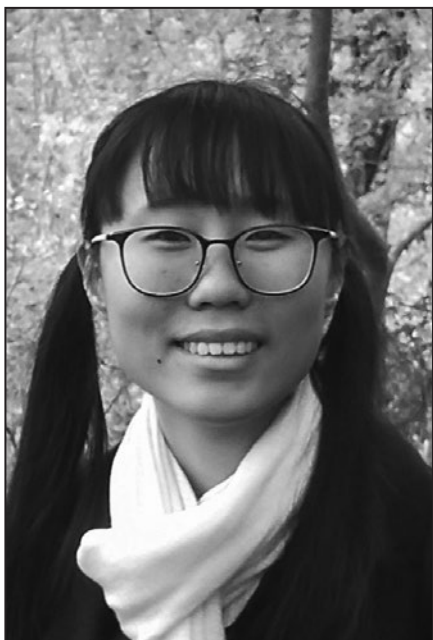
Brisbane State High School

Career goal: I would like to become either a medical researcher or a surgeon.

Study plans: I will be starting the Doctor of Medicine at The University of Queensland.

Favourite subject in Year 12: Mathematics was a favourite because it had definite answers — a solution is either right or wrong. Not many things are like that. There is also the feeling of accomplishment after solving a difficult problem.

‘ I'm inspired by the perseverance of Chen Jingrun, the Chinese mathematician who proved Chen's Theorem. ’



Jisu Choi

Brisbane State High School

Career goal: I'm planning to become a doctor, potentially specialising in pathology.

Study plans: In 2019 I will be studying a Bachelor of Science (majoring in Genetics) at The University of Queensland.

Favourite subject in Year 12: I loved Modern History because the research assignments gave me the freedom to choose a topic and study it at a deeper level.

‘ My friends and teachers have been so supportive the past few years, but huge thanks must go to my family for being understanding and doing their best to make my life easier. ’



Aidan Demmers

Mount Gravatt State High School

Career goal: My dream is to become an author, and I'd like to enter the field of creative writing.

Study plans: I'm taking a gap year in 2019 and plan to work and travel. I wanted to allow myself time to mature and see the world before starting at university.

Favourite subject in Year 12: My favourite subjects were English and Film, Television and New Media because I enjoyed the challenge both subjects posed and the opportunity to be creative.

‘ My parents were a source of constant support throughout Year 12. I'd also like to thank my teachers for bringing their subjects to life and shaping my educational experience. ’



Yishu Ding

Brisbane State High School

Career goal: I'm planning to become an actuary.

Study plans: I've received a scholarship at the University of Melbourne and will be studying Actuarial Science.

Favourite subject in Year 12: Mathematics B was my favourite because I had the best teacher.

‘ I was never sure what I wanted to do after I left school, but in Year 12 I decided to pursue Actuarial Science after realising how much I enjoyed maths. ’



Ava Disney

St Rita's College

Career goal: I don't have a specific career goal in mind yet, but I'm hoping my time at university will help me decide.

Study plans: I'll be undertaking a Bachelor of Science at The University of Queensland in 2019.

Favourite subject in Year 12: I loved all my subjects, but Mathematics B and English made the most sense to me and I actually enjoyed the assignments and exams.

‘ It's important to have a positive outlook — the more you think you enjoy something, the easier it is to get the work done and achieve well. ’



Marc Eksteen

Somerset College

Career goal: I hope to work as an economist for an organisation such as the World Bank or International Monetary Fund. I'd like to apply economics to help people in need, both in Australia and internationally.

Study plans: I will be studying a dual degree in Mathematics and Economics at The University of Queensland in 2019.

Favourite subject in Year 12: I was lucky to have an amazing group of teachers. They managed to make each subject interesting.

‘I was fortunate enough to receive a Vice-Chancellor’s Scholarship from The University of Queensland and a domestic student scholarship from the School of Economics.’



Zoe Hulme-Peake

Downlands College

Career goal: I'm not sure where my study will lead, but it's important to me to integrate an element of social justice and change for the better into my future career.

Study plans: I've been offered a place at Homerton College in Cambridge and plan to study Philosophy Tripos, which I hope to pair with Physics after the first year.

Favourite subject in Year 12: I loved all my subjects, but was especially passionate about English, Music Extension and Physics.

‘I'm fascinated by the diverse interplay of science and the arts, and particularly interested in the relationship between physics and philosophy.’



Maya Lamont

Indooroopilly State High School

Career goal: I'm passionate about social and environmental issues, particularly global warming. I'm not exactly certain what I want to do, but I'd love to work in environmental law or government policy to help make positive changes in the world.

Study plans: I have accepted a Vice-Chancellor's Scholarship at The University of Queensland to study a Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Laws (Honours).

Favourite subject in Year 12: Modern History was my favourite subject. The topics were fascinating and often very relevant to the world today. And I enjoyed the freedom of choosing what to study for research assignments. My favourite class was Spanish because a class taught in a different language was a really challenging and rewarding experience.

‘ I owe my success to the support, commitment, positive attitude and good humour of my family and friends, as well as my teachers. ’



Phillip Le

Brisbane Grammar School

Career goal: I don't have a specific career goal at this stage, but I am interested in the possibilities of automation and how it can be used to analyse massive volumes of data.

Study plans: I've been awarded a Vice-Chancellor's Scholarship at The University of Queensland and plan to study a Bachelor of Computer Science.

Favourite subject in Year 12: I loved Japanese because I could relax and learn at my own pace.

‘ It's important when juggling multiple commitments that you make the time to both relax and study. ’



Adelene Luong

Brisbane State High School

Career goal: I intend to work as a general dentist or specialise in dental surgery or orthodontics.

Study plans: I plan to study at Griffith University in 2019.

Favourite subject in Year 12: Chemistry — although it is a challenging subject, the concepts are all different and interesting. The experiments were also fun.

‘*I’ve always been fascinated with the world around me. Seeing the impact of my church’s medical mission trips made me want to contribute as a health professional, particularly in developing countries.*’



Phoebe McAuliffe

St Aidan’s Anglican Girls’ School

Career goal: I’d love to work for a big company in the mining industry, such as Rio Tinto or BHP.

Study plans: In 2019 I will be studying a Bachelor of Mining Engineering at the University of New South Wales through an industry-partnered scholarship. As well as study support, it offers two six-month work placements with a mine in the Hunter Valley.

Favourite subject in Year 12: I loved Physics and Mathematics C — the concepts were interesting, the work was challenging, and my teachers were incredibly supportive.

‘*My little brother is an inspiration. He died from cancer when I was five and I remember he would say ‘brave me, brave me’ when he had needles. It’s a mantra that helped me through the hard times.*’



Javan McGuckin

Bremer State High School

Career goal: To have a varied and interesting career in the field of chemical engineering.

Study plans: In 2019 I'll be studying an Integrated Bachelor of Engineering (Honours)/Master of Engineering at The University of Queensland.

Favourite subject in Year 12: Chemistry was the most enjoyable. The content was interesting and our teacher allowed for exploration of the topics, which I found motivating and engaging.

‘I'm inspired by people who achieve their goals despite setbacks or disadvantage.’



Grace Nakamura

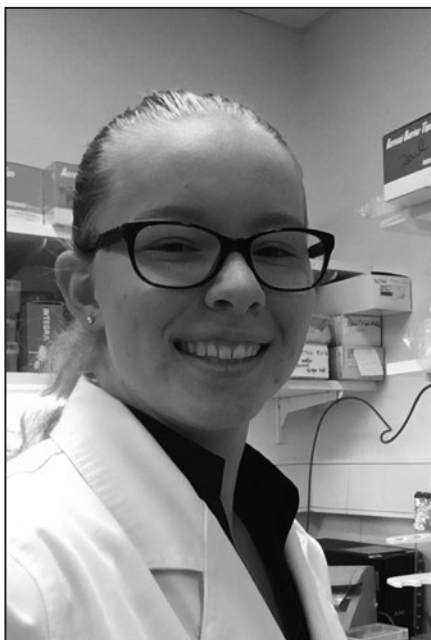
Lourdes Hill College

Career goal: I've always wanted to host my own radio or TV show. Wherever I end up, I'd like to incorporate public speaking, music and comedy into my career, and contribute to social justice and activism.

Study plans: I will be studying a double degree in Journalism/Arts at The University of Queensland.

Favourite subject in Year 12: I loved music as it gave me the freedom to express myself and push myself creatively.

‘I'm very thankful to my parents for my academic success. Their support and encouragement helped me reach my goals, and they taught me how to achieve a balance between working hard and playing hard.’



Arwen Nugteren

Centenary Heights State High School

Career goal: I hope to go into research in quantum chemistry or quantum biochemistry. These fields are fascinating and contain many of the underlying mechanisms for why everything works the way it does.

Study plans: I've been accepted into an Advanced Science degree at The University of Queensland but will be taking a gap year to work as a lab assistant. In 2020 I plan to study Chemistry.

Favourite subject in Year 12: I found the patterns and laws of Chemistry interesting because they describe why things happen in a certain way. English was also a favourite because I love to write.

‘ I wanted to do science from a very young age because I just love to ask “why” and “how” everything works. ’



Max Orchard

Grace Lutheran College

Career goal: I would love to become an academic. I've been interested in maths and physics since I was young, so will probably do something in those areas.

Study plans: In 2019 I'll be studying a Bachelor of Advanced Science at The University of Queensland.

Favourite subject in Year 12: I really enjoyed Physics because I found it interesting and my teacher made it really fun and engaging.

‘ In Year 12 I represented Australia at the FIRST Global Challenge robotics competition in Mexico City. Our team won a silver medal in the Walt Disney Award for Imagination and Creativity. ’



Benedict Panizza

St Joseph's College, Gregory Terrace

Career goal: I hope to work in a job that I love and be able to make a positive change in people's lives.

Study plans: I will be studying Engineering and Mathematics at The University of Queensland.

Favourite subject in Year 12: I found Mathematics C and Japanese very interesting.

‘*My parents and siblings inspire me through their hard work and dedication to doing what they love. My mum stands out the most – she worked hard to get into her career and also juggled the truly full-time job of parenting five children.*’



Flynn Pearman

Padua College

Career goal: I'm very indecisive, so I'm not sure at this stage. I'll be happy if I can earn enough money to travel and ski and watch the cricket.

Study plans: I'll be studying a Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) and Bachelor of Mathematics at The University of Queensland, and was lucky enough to receive a Vice-Chancellor's Scholarship.

Favourite subject in Year 12: I loved all my subjects, but Japanese and Mathematics C were stand-outs.

‘*I'd like to thank my parents for not letting me get a PlayStation 4. Otherwise I'm not too sure I would have won this award!*’



Georgia Perry

Brisbane Girls Grammar School

Career goal: I hope to become a barrister and work internationally in the area of human rights.

Study plans: I will be studying a dual degree in Arts/Laws at The University of Queensland.

Favourite subject in Year 12: I enjoyed all my subjects, but Modern History was my favourite. Learning about historical events and hearing others' varying opinions about them was a unique experience.

‘ I’d like to thank all of my incredible teachers for their knowledge, support and genuine care throughout Year 12, particularly my Modern History teacher who went above and beyond for me. ’



Dominic Previtera

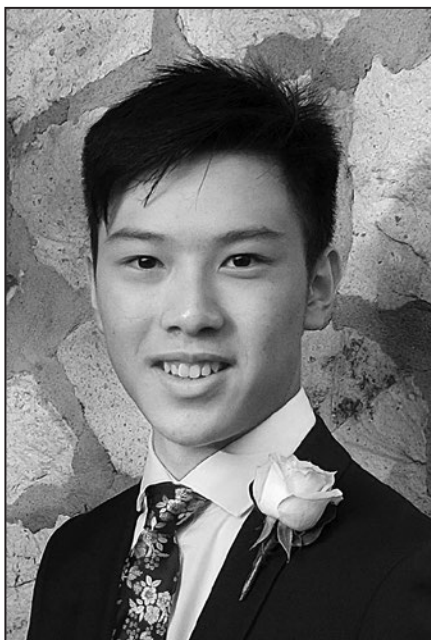
St Joseph’s College, Gregory Terrace

Career goal: To become a doctor in the field of cardiology.

Study plans: I hope to study Medicine at The University of Queensland, where I have received a Vice-Chancellor’s Scholarship.

Favourite subject in Year 12: I enjoyed Mathematics B and C, as well as Physics and English, due to the challenges they posed and the teachers I was able to work with.

‘ I was inspired to pursue medicine by my nonno, who was a pioneering physician in North Queensland. ’



Deren Teo

Brisbane State High School

Career goal: To have a career in robotics, especially artificial intelligence and machine learning. I'm fascinated by how closely a machine can approach human learning and behavioural patterns.

Study plans: In 2019 I'll be studying a Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) and Bachelor of Computer Science at The University of Queensland.

Favourite subject in Year 12: My Chemistry class was always full of laughs and was one of the most productive in terms of learning.

‘I'm inspired by the innovation and entrepreneurship of Elon Musk, particularly the non-profit OpenAI organisation he co-founded.’



Luke Waldie

Brisbane State High School

Career goal: My main goal is to get into Medicine and I hope to look at some specialities once I'm a bit more informed about what is available.

Study plans: I've applied for provisional entry into Medicine at The University of Queensland and have received a Vice-Chancellor's Scholarship.

Favourite subject in Year 12: Modern History was my favourite. I had a great teacher who was so enthusiastic and knowledgeable, which was great, and also some fellow students who enjoyed it as much as me.

‘It was such an incredible way to finish this rollercoaster of a year. I was so happy to know all my hard work paid off and honestly was shocked. It is such an honour. I rang all my family members and told them straight away.’



Thomas Waldie

St Joseph's College, Gregory Terrace

Career goal: I'm not sure at this stage, so I will see where engineering or medicine take me. Neuroscience or cancer research would be cool.

Study plans: I'll be studying Biomedical Engineering as an undergraduate for Medicine at The University of Queensland and have received a Vice-Chancellor's Scholarship.

Favourite subject in Year 12: Mathematics has always been my passion, but I really enjoyed the challenge of producing literature in English.

‘ My parents played a big role in my academic success. ’



Alec Walsh

Kilcoy State High School

Career goal: I'd love to work in any field of developing robotics, specifically those that directly improve human lives such as bionics, artificial organs and robotic surgery.

Study plans: I will be studying Engineering at the Queensland University of Technology.

Favourite subject in Year 12: It would have to be Graphics. I had the best teacher and absolutely love designing things.

‘ I'm inspired by innovators like Steve Jobs and Elon Musk — people who have built businesses and their careers from the ground up through persistence and determination, despite setbacks and failures. ’



Maximilian Windsor

Brisbane Boys' College

Career goal: Science has been a passion of mine for a long time, so I would love to pursue a career in a related field such as meteorology or chemistry.

Study plans: I will be studying a Bachelor of Mathematics and Bachelor of Science dual degree at The University of Queensland.

Favourite subject in Year 12: Chemistry and Physics were my favourite subjects, but I also really enjoyed Geography as it was an excellent balance for the science and maths subjects I studied.

‘I’m very grateful to my teachers. They spent countless hours helping me to succeed and fostered my love of learning through their enthusiasm and dedication.’



Samuel Wong

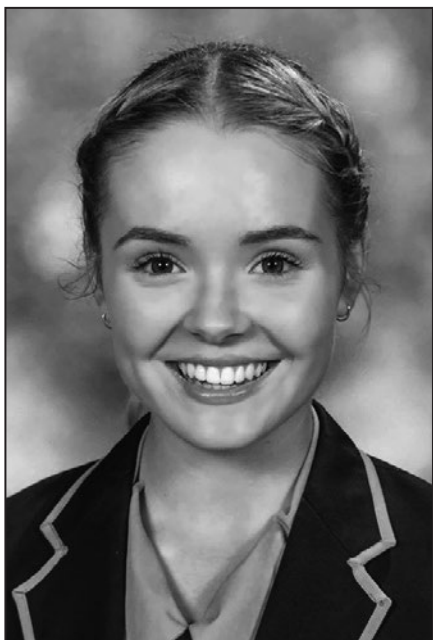
Brisbane Grammar School

Career goal: I hope to specialise in a field of medicine that challenges me daily.

Study plans: I plan to commence a Doctor of Medicine at The University of Queensland.

Favourite subject in Year 12: French was my favourite subject. I was horrible at it, but my teacher and fellow students brought a unique excitement to the classes.

‘My teachers were a great source of inspiration, particularly my Chemistry teacher who passed on her extensive knowledge.’



Olivia Wormwell

Redeemer Lutheran College

Career goal: I would like to work as a family or corporate lawyer.

Study plans: I've applied to study a double degree of Laws and Business Management at The University of Queensland.

Favourite subject in Year 12: Legal Studies was my favourite subject. I enjoyed the variety of topics and it helped me figure out what career path to follow.

‘ My parents instilled a strong work ethic in me and always encouraged me to do my best without making me feel pressured. ’



Claire Zemek

Lourdes Hill College

Career goal: I'd like to become a specialist veterinarian and am interested in working in the equine industry in rural Australia.

Study plans: I've been accepted for the Bachelor of Veterinary Science at The University of Queensland and the Bachelor of Veterinary Biology and Doctor of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Sydney.

Favourite subject in Year 12: Mathematics B and C, Physics, and Chemistry were my favourites because they're very logical and I liked the objectivity.

‘ I'd like to thank my family for my academic success, particularly my brother for his unceasing faith in my abilities, positive reinforcement and understanding. ’

Highest Achievement by an Aboriginal Student or Torres Strait Islander Student

This award is for the highest-achieving Aboriginal student or Torres Strait Islander student awarded the QCE. Students were shortlisted based on their achievements in the following areas:

- a QCE
- highest tertiary entrance rank based on a profile of information, including OP ranking and QCS Test score
- number of VHAs in Authority subjects
- QCE Advanced learning achievements
- other achievement information.

This year's award winner is from the Bidjara people.



Jayden Webster

Mount Gravatt State High School

Career goal: I hope to have a career in a research field involving physics or chemistry.

Study plans: I'm planning to study a Bachelor of Advanced Science at The University of Queensland.

Favourite subject in Year 12: I enjoyed Chemistry and Physics. However, I also enjoyed Graphics as the class was more relaxed and it allowed me to explore creative and imaginative design concepts and ideas.

‘My teachers, friends and family have all inspired me and motivated me to do well.’

Highest Achievement by an International Student

This award is for the highest-achieving international student awarded a QCE.

Students were shortlisted based on their achievements in the following areas:

- a QCE
- an equivalent OP1
- an A on the QCS Test
- number of VHAs in Authority subjects
- QCE Advanced learning achievements
- other achievement information.

The selection panel considered relevant achievement information to determine the award recipient.



Enle Yin

Citipointe Christian College

Career goal: I'd like to become an educator and help students achieve their personal best.

Study plans: I will be starting a Bachelor of Mathematics/Education at The University of Queensland.

Favourite subject in Year 12: I liked Mathematics C because it was very interesting and reasonably difficult.

‘ I want to thank my parents, who are far away overseas, for the opportunities they provided for my education, and my teachers, mentors and friends for their constant support and guidance throughout my school journey. ’

Highest Result on the Queensland Core Skills Test

This award is for the student who achieves the highest scale score across all components of the QCS Test – Writing Task, Short Response and Multiple Choice.

The QCS Test is an annual statewide test designed for Queensland Year 12 students. It contributes information for the calculation of Overall Positions (OPs) and Field Positions (FPs), which are used to select students for tertiary entrance.

Conducted over seven hours, it tests a set of generic skills identified in the Queensland senior curriculum known as the Common Curriculum Elements (CCEs).

In 2018, more than 25,000 students sat the test.



Grace Kennett

Somerset College

Career goal: I hope to graduate as a medical doctor and go on to specialise, although I'm not sure in which area.

Study plans: In 2019 I hope to study Medicine at Monash University.

Favourite subject in Year 12: Mathematics C was my favourite subject. Not only did I have a phenomenal teacher (who made phenomenal brownies!) but the class itself was always interesting and challenging.

‘I'd like to thank my parents for making sacrifices to give their children the best education possible, as well as the incredible teaching staff at Somerset College.’

Highest Achievement in the International Baccalaureate®

More than 450 Queensland students complete the International Baccalaureate® Diploma (IBD) each year as an alternative to the Queensland curriculum.

This award is for the highest-performing student who successfully completes the IBD and is awarded a QCE.



Serena Chen

Queensland Academy for Science, Mathematics and Technology

Career goal: I'd like to pursue a career related to finance.

Study plans: In 2019 I'll be studying a Bachelor of Advanced Finance and Economics at The University of Queensland.

Favourite subject in Year 12: I enjoyed Business Management because it taught me to think logically and critically.

‘ I'd like to thank my family for making Year 12 more bearable, and my teachers and school community for their support and guidance. ’

QCE Achievement Awards Sponsors



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QUT is a major Australian university with a global outlook and real-world focus. Our campuses offer high quality learning, teaching and research spaces to better meet the needs of students, academics and researchers.

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University of Southern Queensland

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