

Queensland Certificate of Education

Achievement Awards

State Library of Queensland — 15 February 2020



QCAA

Queensland Curriculum
& Assessment Authority

For all Queensland schools

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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.

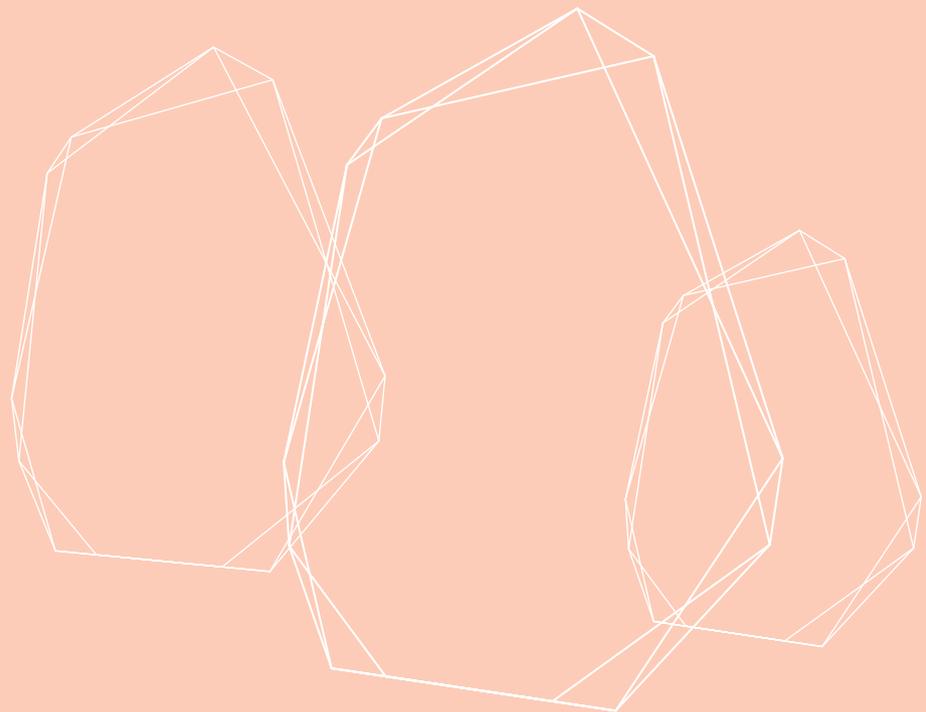
About the QCE Achievement Awards

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 27 different State, Catholic and Independent schools. Their results put them ahead of more than 37 000 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 James Vandeleur from The Rockhampton Grammar School to be the Outstanding Academic Achiever for 2019 based on his exceptional achievements and breadth of learning.

James achieved outstanding results in eight Authority subjects and completed a VET course and three Australian Musical Examinations Board courses.





‘ One of my Year 7 teachers had a big influence on me. He showed me how to think in a simple, procedural way and identify links between concepts. ’

James Vandeleur

The Rockhampton Grammar School

Career goal: My dream job would be in research science and space exploration. I hope to make a lasting mark on the physical sciences and contribute to our knowledge of the universe.

Study plans: In 2020 I will start a Bachelor of Advanced Science (Honours) at The University of Queensland. I hope to complete postgraduate studies overseas.

Favourite subject in Year 12: I enjoyed all my subjects, but Mathematics C and Physics had it ‘hands down’. I loved the investigative aspects of those subjects.

Who inspires you? The theoretical physicist, Richard Feynman. His view that you don’t truly understand something until you can explain it simply emphasises the importance in science of not only having a mind for data but an ability to communicate.

Extracurricular activities: I was awarded an Associate in Music, Australia (AMusA) diploma in trumpet, and played in school and community big bands, brass bands, orchestras and ensembles.

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 Queensland Core Skills 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.



Calder Barksdale

Brisbane State High School

Career goal: I hope to have a career where I can apply and explore mathematics and achieve a personal sense of accomplishment.

Study plans: A Bachelor of Mathematics and Computer Science at The University of Queensland.

Favourite subject in Year 12: Modern History, Mathematics B and C, Philosophy and Physics. I found them exceptionally interesting, especially quantum physics.

‘I’m lucky to have had amazing and inspiring teachers who encouraged me to learn and discover.’



Xavier Catford

Brisbane Boys’ College

Career goal: I’d like to become a doctor, but also have a family and spend quality time with the people I love.

Study plans: I plan to study a Bachelor of Science at The University of Queensland, followed by a Doctor of Medicine postgraduate degree.

Favourite subject in Year 12: Mathematics C and Chinese. The opportunity to study a language in high school is invaluable and, in my opinion, everyone should consider it.

‘To win a QCE award is a massive achievement and honour.’



Elise Chant

Lourdes Hill College

Career goal: I don't yet have a specific one. But I hope at university I'll find something I'm passionate about and can pursue as a career.

Study plans: In 2020 I will be studying a Bachelor of Advanced Finance and Economics at The University of Queensland.

Favourite subject in Year 12: Mathematics C challenged me and taught me unique skills I could transfer into other subjects. My energetic teacher always made the class lively and intriguing.

‘ I am lucky to have the opportunity to work hard and be responsible for the direction in which I steer my future. ’



Benjamin Cornwell

Marist College Ashgrove

Career goal: I'm interested in human rights law, and my degree will allow me to explore different topics and career paths.

Study plans: I will be studying an Arts/Law dual degree at The University of Queensland and hope to major in English Literature and Writing.

Favourite subject in Year 12: Legal Studies. Discussing how to improve legislation to suit modern society was fascinating.

‘ I am inspired by people of my generation who are working for positive change through their studies, careers or advocacy. ’



Tara Duckworth

St Andrew's Catholic College

Career goal: A job in the areas of social science and economics where I can make a positive contribution to our global society.

Study plans: In 2020 I will travel in Europe. I'm looking at tertiary study in 2021 – most likely in economics or philosophy.

Favourite subject in Year 12: My top three were Economics, Study of Society, and Philosophy & Reason. I'm fascinated by how societies and economies function and how our world shapes us.

‘ There are so many young people, such as Greta Thunberg, doing incredible things and challenging the status quo to help improve our world. ’



Kynan Elliott

Toolooa State High School

Career goal: To become a Royal Australian Navy submariner and progress to commanding officer of a submarine.

Study plans: In 2020 I will complete training with the Royal Australian Navy as a Maritime Warfare Officer. In 2021 I will commence a Bachelor of Computing and Cyber Security at the University of New South Wales (Canberra), in conjunction with the Australian Defence Force Academy.

Favourite subject in Year 12: Information Processing Technology because it allowed freedom in projects, and I enjoy coding.

‘ I was brought up in a family that values hard work and determination to achieve the best results, and those values alongside my competitiveness drove me to achieve the best results I could. ’



James English

Brisbane Boys' College

Career goal: To work in a rural veterinary practice and wildlife care and rehabilitation.

Study plans: In 2020 I will be studying a Bachelor of Veterinary Science at The University of Queensland.

Favourite subject in Year 12: I really enjoy the logic and structure of Mathematics and Physics.

‘ I like to focus on things I am passionate about and enjoy. It motivates me to work hard to achieve goals. ’



Sunny Fan

Brisbane State High School

Career goal: I would love to become a doctor and go into medical research.

Study plans: I hope to study Medicine at The University of Queensland.

Favourite subject in Year 12: Chemistry and Mathematics C because I found the concepts interesting and challenging.

‘ I thank my parents for all the sacrifices they’ve made and for their constant encouragement and support. ’



Mia Forsingdal

Cannon Hill Anglican College

Career goal: To become a veterinarian and assist farmers in rural and remote communities.

Study plans: In 2020 I will study a Bachelor of Veterinary Science at The University of Queensland.

Favourite subject in Year 12: I have always enjoyed English and I liked the challenge of expressing myself in a variety of different genres. I also greatly enjoyed Study of Religion. Growing up in a family of mixed cultures, it was great to study this topic in depth.

‘ *My parents have always been a guide for the kind of person I want to be. They instilled a philosophy of giving back to the community when possible.* ’



Jack Gardiner

St Joseph’s College, Gregory Terrace

Career goal: My dream job is to work as a propulsion/flight systems engineer at a leading aerospace company.

Study plans: I plan to study a Bachelor of Science and Diploma of Music at the University of Melbourne and Melbourne Conservatorium.

Favourite subject in Year 12: I’ve always had a passion for Physics and had an outstanding teacher. English forced me to develop my creative skills that can sometimes be lost in an all-STEM subject set.

‘ *My parents inspire me to be the best person I can be. Academically, I’ve been lucky to have very supportive teachers.* ’



Megan Gardner

Kenmore State High School

Career goal: In the short term, I want to pursue environmental activism. But I still have a long way to go to really work out what I want from the next part of my life.

Study plans: I don't think I will go straight to university, although I'm interested in politics and biochemistry.

Favourite subject in Year 12: Philosophy & Reason transformed my approach to all other subjects and helped me to become a better thinker.

‘ I thank my Year 12 teachers for being utterly brilliant, and my friends in the climate movement who gave me something to put my heart into. ’



George Griswold

Brisbane State High School

Career goal: I'm not sure at this stage, but I could imagine myself as a writer, a musician, a teacher, a cheesemaker, and many things besides.

Study plans: I'll study a Bachelor of Arts and Languages at the Australian National University.

Favourite subject in Year 12: Italian because I had an amazing group of students and a teacher who knew exactly how to gently inspire me and make me think I'd done it all myself.

‘ I'm inspired by a lot of people. My family, my friends, artists who make incredible things. ’



Riley Guyatt

Indooroopilly State High School

Career goal: I would love to make an impact on the relationship that humanity has with the environment, through policy, scientific research, environmental management or working with NGOs in Australia and beyond.

Study plans: In 2020 I will be studying a Bachelor of Environment and Sustainability at the Australian National University.

Favourite subject in Year 12: Chemistry and Geography. The combination of fascinating subject matter, good friends, and talented teachers made the classes something I eagerly looked forward to each week.

‘ I’d like to thank my parents and teachers for encouraging and supporting me. And my friends who reminded me to study hard and to have fun. ’



Sofie Halfpenny

The Glennie School

Career goal: I’d like to be working in a position where I can have a positive influence on the world around me.

Study plans: This year I’ll be starting a dual degree in Economics and Law (Honours) at The University of Queensland.

Favourite subject in Year 12: My favourite subjects were Modern History and Economics due to their real connections to society. I also enjoyed the research aspect, which allowed me to guide my own learning.

‘ I am inspired by J.K. Rowling, not just because she is an amazing and imaginative writer, but because she truly believed in her vision. ’



Heidi Houghton

Grace Lutheran College

Career goal: I'd like to work in pharmaceuticals, and research new medicines and treatments for diseases.

Study plans: I will be studying a Bachelor of Pharmacy at The University of Queensland.

Favourite subject in Year 12: Music Extension because I was able to take my time enjoying playing and listening to music. Physics because I enjoyed the complexity and the satisfaction when a theory 'clicked'.

‘ Thank you to my amazing family for your support and cups of tea! ’



James Hurst

St Joseph's College, Gregory Terrace

Career goal: I would love to work at an orbital launch provider or at NASA on missions to other worlds.

Study plans: I intend to study a Bachelor of Engineering/Bachelor of Arts at The Australian National University.

Favourite subject in Year 12: Every time I put pen to paper in Mathematics C, I knew the next hour would be difficult, but I might stand triumphant over a handful of problems, or just one would defeat me.

‘ I was ecstatic when I found out I'd won a QCE Achievement Award. It was one of my goals for Year 12, and knew I had to work hard to achieve it. ’



Ella Lau

St Aidan's Anglican Girls' School

Career goal: To become a chemical or biological engineer.

Study plans: Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) and Master of Engineering at The University of Queensland.

Favourite subject in Year 12: I enjoyed Mathematics C because I found the concepts interesting, and I liked the challenge of applying them to problem solving and real-world scenarios. And Chinese because I love learning about other cultures and languages.

‘ We need to make the most of life and take every opportunity because so many others are not as privileged as we are. ’



Jianan Lin

Brisbane Grammar School

Career goal: To become a doctor and medical researcher.

Study plans: I will study a Bachelor of Biomedicine at the University of Melbourne in 2020.

Favourite subject in Year 12: Although I enjoyed all my subjects, English was the one where I could find the freedom to express my thinking.

‘ What drives me is a need to do the best that I can. ’



Madeleine Orr

Brisbane State High School

Career goal: My goals are to study for a semester in Europe, reach a level of fluency in French, and figure out my career dreams.

Study plans: A Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and a concurrent Diploma of Languages in French at The University of Queensland.

Favourite subject in Year 12: I looked forward to English and a course in Philosophy that I took at The University of Queensland. My teachers were two of the most intelligent and compassionate people I have ever met. The open-mindedness and vulnerability encouraged by these subjects broadened my worldview.

‘ I have always been inspired by my mum, who embodies intelligence and kindness. ’



Teresa Poon

Redeemer Lutheran College

Career goal: I don't have a specific career in mind, but I hope to keep creating art alongside whatever I do.

Study plans: I will be studying a Bachelor of Medical Imaging at the Queensland University of Technology. I have also been offered a mentorship at Logan Art Gallery and am working toward an exhibition later in the year.

Favourite subject in Year 12: I really enjoyed Physics — the content was interesting, and I looked forward to the classes because my teacher made them very enjoyable. Visual Art was another favourite, and was a good outlet for de-stressing.

‘ My friends and teachers have inspired and challenged me to do well. ’



Lucy Robertson

Nambour Christian College

Career goal: To work as a doctor in a specialist field such as cardiology or neurology.

Study plans: I've been accepted to the Doctor of Medicine program (provisional entry) at The University of Queensland.

Favourite subject in Year 12: Mathematics C because the class members and teacher made every lesson fun and found maths puns in the most unlikely places.

‘ I am motivated by the thought of having the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of others. ’



Ella Robins

Narangba Valley State High School

Career goal: I'm passionate about international aid and policy and would love to work for an organisation like Médecins Sans Frontières or the Red Cross.

Study plans: In 2020 I'll be starting a bachelor's degree that will lead into the Doctor of Medicine program at The University of Queensland.

Favourite subject in Year 12: I had wonderful teachers and loved all of my subjects, especially French and Philosophy.

‘ I'm inspired by people who dedicate their lives to something bigger than themselves. ’



Sarah Ryan

All Hallows' School

Career goal: My long-term dream would be to join an international aid group such as Médecins Sans Frontières or International Medical Corps.

Study plans: In 2020 I will be starting a Bachelor of Science at The University of Queensland and have provisional entry to the Doctor of Medicine program.

Favourite subject in Year 12: I really enjoyed English and Physics because of the subject matter and the amazing students and teachers.

‘I’m inspired by the idea of trying to be a better person each day, and that my friends and family all help me do that.’



John Saxon

Maroochydore State High School

Career goal: To become a cardiac surgeon.

Study plans: I’ve received provisional entry into the Doctor of Medicine at The University of Queensland and will start an undergraduate degree in 2020 with dual majors in Mathematics and Physiology.

Favourite subject in Year 12: I’ve always loved maths because of the satisfaction I find in solving difficult problems.

‘My mum and younger sister have been incredibly supportive and encouraged my curiosity and passion for learning.’



Zennjo Searle

Matthew Flinders Anglican College

Career goal: To become a doctor, perhaps working in a research area to improve public health.

Study plans: I hope to study the provisional Medicine course at The University of Queensland, with an undergraduate degree in Science. I also hope to play guitar in the Conservatorium guitar ensemble.

Favourite subject in Year 12: Every subject I took was my favourite at some point. Whether it was debating the existence of centrifugal force in Physics or exploring the harmonic function of tritone substitutions in Music, each subject had interesting topics.

‘ I have been lucky to have incredible teachers who have inspired and encouraged me to pursue my love of learning, as well as friends who follow their passions without compromise. ’



Kevin Song

Somerset College

Career goal: To become a doctor.

Study plans: I will be studying a Doctor of Medicine (provisional entry for school leavers) at The University of Queensland.

Favourite subject in Year 12: Mathematics C and Music. I enjoyed solving complex maths equations in real-life situations and analysing different genres of music and performing.

‘ It is very surreal to be awarded a QCE Achievement Award and I am very proud. I’m thankful to everyone who has been on this journey with me. ’



Ameliija Swaffer-Self

Moura State High School

Career goal: I'd like to work as a lawyer dealing with humanitarian issues and have a positive impact in politically unstable or developing parts of the world.

Study plans: I'll be attending college in the United States on a tennis scholarship in 2020. I plan to major in Philosophy and Mathematics in my undergraduate studies before attending law school.

Favourite subject in Year 12: Mathematics C and Legal Studies, because you can apply a set of circumstances to a pre-existing set of formulae or laws to achieve an outcome.

‘If you want exceptional results, you have to be willing to work harder than the person sitting next to you.’



James Vandeleur

The Rockhampton Grammar School

Career goal: My dream job would be in research science and space exploration. I hope to make a lasting mark on the physical sciences and contribute to our knowledge of the universe.

Study plans: In 2020 I will start a Bachelor of Advanced Science (Honours) at The University of Queensland. I hope to complete postgraduate studies overseas.

Favourite subject in Year 12: I enjoyed all my subjects, but Mathematics C and Physics had it ‘hands down’. I loved the investigative aspects of those subjects.

‘One of my Year 7 teachers had a big influence on me. He showed me how to think in a simple, procedural way and identify links between concepts.’



Timothy Weber

Brisbane Grammar School

Career goal: I'm still unsure. But hopefully, through whatever career path I take I will be able to help people.

Study plans: In 2020 I will be studying a Bachelor of Commerce/Law at The University of Queensland.

Favourite subject in Year 12: Modern History and English allowed me to write broadly and freely.

‘ I am most inspired by sportspeople like LeBron James and Pat Cummins because of their immense work ethic and dedication to their craft. ’



Hannah Wheeler

St Peters Lutheran College

Career goal: I'm interested in the humanities and French, so a career including both would be ideal.

Study plans: A Bachelor of International Studies at The University of Queensland.

Favourite subject in Year 12: I've always had a passion for history. It's fascinating to analyse how historical events have impacted our world today. I've also studied French for eight years and adore the language.

‘ My parents have been so supportive and helpful during my schooling, and inspired me to achieve to my potential. ’



Jackson Wuoti

All Saints Anglican School

Career goal: I want to join the medical profession as a doctor and possibly specialise in cardiology.

Study plans: In 2020 I hope to study a Bachelor of Medical Science at Monash University.

Favourite subject in Year 12: I enjoyed the depth and intricacy of Mathematics C and Chemistry.

‘ I would like to thank my family and friends for their continuing support. I’d also like to recognise the epic teaching staff at All Saints Anglican School! ’

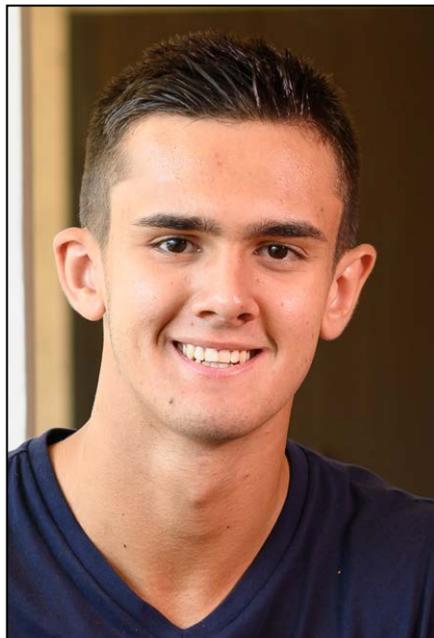


Highest Achievement by an Aboriginal Student or Torres Strait Islander Student

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 Kamilaroi people.



Lachlan Kamilaroi Toovey

Anglican Church Grammar School

Career goal: I want to study abroad, then return as a qualified engineer to my home town, Dubbo.

Study plans: I have been accepted into a Bachelor of Engineering and Commerce at The University of Queensland and am waiting to hear from Princeton and Yale University.

Favourite subject in Year 12: Physics and Mathematics C allowed me to explore my interests and provided a challenge.

‘ I am constantly inspired by the sacrifices of my family, especially my mum, to provide me with such great opportunities. The support I received from my school and the Yalari team also played a pivotal role in making my high school journey such a success. ’

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.



Taehwan Kim

Brisbane Boys' College

Career goal: To specialise in a medical field.

Study plans: I plan to study Medicine at a local university for a semester and then at a college in the United States.

Favourite subject in Year 12: My Japanese classmates were awesome and I looked forward to every lesson. I loved how Physics linked my understanding of mathematical formulae to real-world problems and scenarios.

‘ I owe my success to my parents. They have always encouraged me to make the most of my life and reach my potential. ’

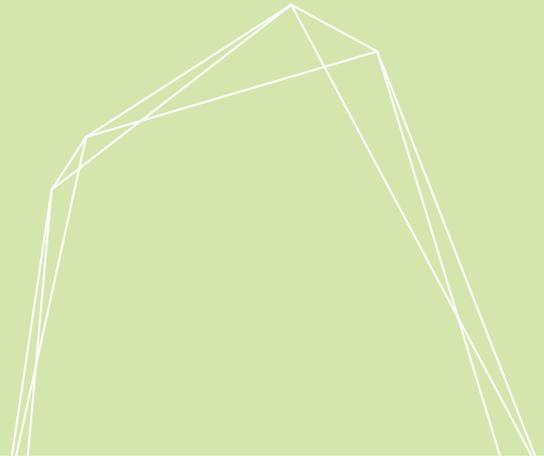
Highest Result on the Queensland Core Skills Test

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 2019, approximately 23 000 students sat the test.



Timothy Weber

Brisbane Grammar School

Career goal: I'm still unsure. But hopefully, through whatever career path I take I will be able to help people.

Study plans: In 2020 I will be studying a Bachelor of Commerce/Law at The University of Queensland.

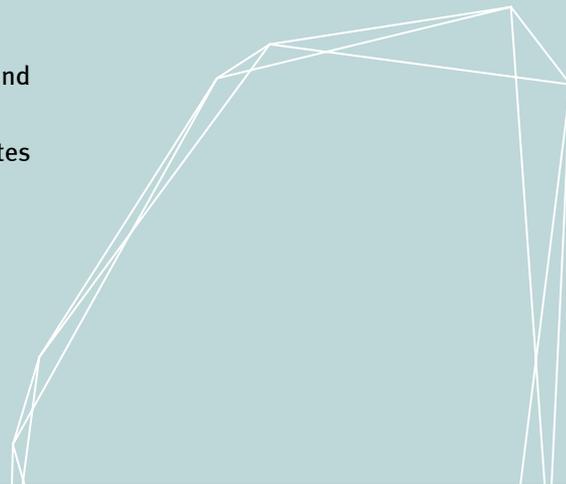
Favourite subject in Year 12: Modern History and English allowed me to write broadly and freely.

‘ I am most inspired by sportspeople like LeBron James and Pat Cummins because of their immense work ethic and dedication to their craft. ’

Highest Achievement in the International Baccalaureate®

Approximately 500 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.



Aydin Neighbour

Queensland Academy for Health Sciences

Career goal: I dream of a career in the maths and sciences where I can make a significant contribution and collaborate with others.

Study plans: I will be studying a Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) and a Bachelor of Mathematics at The University of Queensland.

Favourite subject in Year 12: It's hard to choose a favourite — I loved all my subjects!

‘ *I’m passionate about Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics and am excited about how they can be applied to solve problems such as climate change.* ’

*Recognising and rewarding
Queensland's top-performing 2019 Year 12 graduates
for their outstanding academic achievement
in senior schooling.*

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