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# Macarthur Anglican School

Academic Success  
2020



Inspiring students to  
be lifelong learners,  
have a positive  
growth mindset, be  
agile thinkers and  
consistently work to  
improve their personal  
best.



### Overall Success

The Year 12 class of 2020 continued Macarthur Anglican School's tradition of proven academic success. Macarthur ranked 78<sup>th</sup> out of over 800 schools which had candidates sit the HSC in 2020, placing the School in the top 10% of all schools in NSW. As with the last nine years, Macarthur is the top scoring comprehensive school in the greater Macarthur, Camden, Campbelltown and Wollondilly areas.

The Australian Tertiary Admission Rank is the measure used for matriculation or university entrance. In 2020 the students achieved the following ATAR results:

13% of students achieved an ATAR of 95 or higher

29% of students achieved an ATAR of 90 or higher

41% of students achieved an ATAR of 85 or higher

50% of students achieved an ATAR of 80 or higher

66% of students achieved an ATAR of 70 or higher

### Top Performers

Congratulations to the following students:

Jayden Taylor	All Rounder
Aislinn D'Arcy	All Rounder
Jade Errington	13 <sup>th</sup> in Mathematics Standard 2
James White	Band 6 in 9 units

### NESA Exhibition and Performance Showcases

Jonathan Kennedy	OnSTAGE Nomination (Drama)
Daniel Kokic	ENCORE Nomination (Music)
Thomas Mackie	Shape Nomination (Design and Technology)

### Accelerants

Peter Cruz (Year 10)	Mathematics Extension 1 (94%) Mathematics Extension 2 (89%)
Arnav Gupta (Year 11)	Mathematics Extension 1 (90%)

## In Detail

In an extraordinary year, Macarthur Anglican School's Class of 2020 has achieved all round excellence in their HSC results. A quarter of the cohort received an ATAR of 90 or above, while Ahlana Sklenar achieved the top ATAR of 98.90. Overall Macarthur ranked 78th out of more than 800 schools offering the HSC in NSW.

The Headmaster, Dr David Nockles, is thrilled with the students' results. "The HSC is challenging for all students and in a year like no other our students have learnt many lessons other than those in the classroom dealing with syllabus content and skills. There were many obstacles for the students throughout 2020 and the pandemic prompted a revolution about thinking about schooling and the way students learn."

"At Macarthur, students have not been taught to be robotic or formulaic in what they learn. Instead, we have prepared the young men and women to be dynamic and creative thinkers. We strive to prepare our students to be resilient and adaptable in times



of difficulty and learn from challenges. These are essential skills for lifelong learning."

Top performers included:

Ahlana Sklenar who earned an ATAR of 98.90 and is DUX.

Jayden Taylor (ATAR 98.80), along with Aislinn D'Arcy (ATAR 98.50) have been recognised as 'All Rounders' for attaining Band 6/E4 results in at least 10 units. James White (ATAR of 98.75) achieved a Band 6 in 9 units studied.

Jade Errington (ATAR 97.35) achieved 13th in the State in Mathematics Standard 2.

Jonathan Kennedy received a nomination for his 'OnSTAGE' Drama monologue entitled, 'The Story of Jerry and the Dog.'

Daniel Kokic has been listed on the Honour Roll for 'ENCORE' for his Musicology Viva Voce.

Thomas Mackie's Design and Technology Major Project was nominated for 'Shape', a showcase of exemplary Year 12 HSC Major Works.



More than three-quarters of Macarthur’s students received early university offers and some have also been offered leadership or academic scholarships. Forty four per cent of Macarthur students have been recognised as Distinguished Achievers for attaining Band 6 or E4 results and eighty five per cent of students gained Band 5 or E3 results. Students also appeared on the HSC Honour Roll 92 times.

Macarthur students are planning to study a wide range of courses including Medicine, Law, International Studies, Business, Paramedicine, Security Studies, Finance, Advanced Science, Teaching, Commerce and Nursing.

“As one of Western Sydney’s leading academically non-selective co-educational schools, this year’s outstanding results are the latest chapter in a long history of high academic accomplishment.”

“Across the School, we focus on far more than exams and marks. Our students are exposed to a Christian world view and we inspire them to make a positive difference in whatever fields of endeavour they go on to pursue. The success of the cohort across a wide range of subjects has reflected the nature of

this close group of students and we have admired their commitment to study and care for each other,” concluded Dr Nockles.

## Notable Subject Results

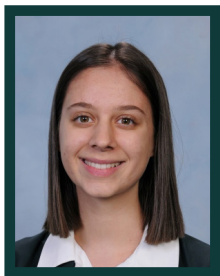
Thomas Mackie	95% Design and Technology
Jonathan Kennedy	95% Drama
Aislinn D’Arcy	95% English Advanced 48/50 English Extension 1 48/50 History Extension
Ahlana Sklenar	96% English Advanced 97% Legal Studies
Jayden Taylor	48/50 English Extension 2
Jade Errington	97% Mathematics Standard 2 96% Geography
Arnav Gupta	97% Mathematics Advanced 48/50 Mathematics Extension1
James White	97% Mathematics Advanced
Daniel Kolic	95% Music 1
Alexandra Lyons	98% Visual Arts 48/50 Music Extension 1
Bradley Speed	48/50 Music Extension 1
Katelyn Relyea	95% Society and Culture
Kyoko Ichida-Griffin	95% Society and Culture*

\*Kyoko’s Personal Interest Project was placed in the top 10 out of 4000 candidates.



# Individual Success

## Special Recognition



**Ahlana Sklenar - 98.90**  
**School DUX**

Ahlana is planning to study an Advanced Science Degree at the Australian National University in Canberra.



**Jayden Taylor - 98.80**  
**All Rounder**

Jayden is planning to study a combined Bachelor of Advanced Computing and Bachelor of Science Degrees at the University of Sydney.



**Aislinn D'Arcy - 98.50**  
**All Rounder**

Aislinn is planning to study a combined Law and International Studies Degrees at the Australian National University in Canberra.



**Jade Errington - 97.35**  
**13<sup>th</sup> in Mathematics Standard 2**

All Rounder - Students achieved a Band 6/E4 result in at least 10 units of courses in their pattern of study.

# celebrating

## HSC Result Highlights

Macarthur was ranked 78<sup>th</sup> overall out of over 800 schools which had candidates sit the HSC in 2020 and was the top scoring school in the region (SMH 17/12/20). This places Macarthur in the top 10% of all schools.

Macarthur was ranked 38<sup>th</sup> out of all NSW Independent Schools

Of the 84 students who sat the HSC, 92 Distinguished Achievement results were recorded on the NESA HSC Honour Roll for students who attained a Band 6 or Band E4 Extension result.

Two accelerated students (one in the Year 10 cohort and one in the Year 11 cohort) studied Mathematics Extension 1 and Mathematics Extension 2 with outstanding results.

44% of students were recognised as Distinguished Achievers on the NESA Honour Roll for achieving Band 6 or Band 4 Extension results.

85% of students achieved Band 5 or Band E3 Extension or above results.

Three students, Jonathan Kennedy, Daniel Kovic and Thomas Mackie were acknowledged for their outstanding practical work in Drama, Music and Design and Technology respectively.

Subjects where students achieved greater than 10% above the state mean included Geography (11.39%), Ancient History (10.5%) and Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (10.48%).

## High Achievers (98+)

Ahlana Sklenar  
98.90



### Subjects Studied

Biology  
Chemistry  
English Advanced  
Legal Studies  
Personal Development, Health  
and Physical Education  
**DUX**

Jayden Taylor  
98.80



### Subjects Studied

English Advanced  
English Extension 1  
English Extension 2  
Mathematics Extension 1\*  
Mathematics Extension 2\*  
Physics  
Software Design and Development  
**HSC All Rounder**

James White  
98.75



### Subjects Studied

Chemistry  
Economics  
English Advanced  
Mathematics Advanced  
Mathematics Extension 1  
Physics  
Science Extension

Aislinn D'Arcy  
98.50



### Subjects Studied

Economics  
English Advanced  
English Extension 1  
English Extension 2  
Mathematics Advanced  
Modern History  
History Extension  
**HSC All Rounder**

\* Jayden completed the HSC for these subjects in 2019 as an accelerant

## High Achievers (95+)

Jade Errington  
97.35



### Subjects Studied

English Advanced  
Geography  
Mathematics Standard 2  
Modern History  
Personal Development, Health  
and Physical Education

Bradley Speed  
96.90



### Subjects Studied

Economics  
English Advanced  
English Extension 1  
English Extension 2  
Mathematics Extension 1\*  
Mathematics Extension 2\*  
Music 2  
Music Extension  
Physics

Caleb Morgan  
96.80



### Subjects Studied

English Advanced  
English Extension 1  
English Extension 2  
Mathematics Extension 1  
Mathematics Extension 2  
Society and Culture  
Software Design and Development

Alexandra Lyons  
96.70



### Subjects Studied

English Advanced  
English Extension 1  
Music 2  
Music Extension  
Visual Arts  
Indonesian Continuers  
Indonesian Extension

\* Bradley completed the HSC for these subjects in 2019 as an accelerant

## High Achievers (95+)

Caitlin Mackie  
96.70



### Subjects Studied

English Advanced  
Geography  
Legal Studies  
Mathematics Standard 2  
Personal Development, Health  
and Physical Education  
Society and Culture

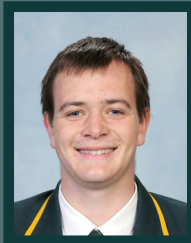
Paris Kellner  
96.70



### Subjects Studied

English Advanced  
English Extension 1  
English Extension 2  
Geography  
Legal Studies  
Mathematics Standard 2

Jake Newcombe  
95.45



### Subjects Studied

Business Studies  
Chemistry  
English Advanced  
Mathematics Extension 1  
Mathematics Advanced  
Physics  
Studies of Religion 1

# Student Voice

## from the graduating class of 2020

"Frankly the main thing that will get you the marks is working long term. There are ways of making your study more efficient. My number one tip is to get advice from peers who have done well in previous years."

Aislinn D'Arcy

"Cut down your notes as much as possible especially for content heavy subjects. It was beneficial to not memorise everything but get the core knowledge down and then it is easier to expand your discussions with things you remember from class."

Ahlana Sklenar

"What worked for me was getting feedback and talking to teachers constantly. Also repeating things a lot so it really gets into your head and you understand what you are learning."

Alexandra Lyons

"The more you give teachers questions and drafts and ask for feedback the more they will be invested in your learning. The more you put in the more they will give back. The more you do they will be inclined to help you as they will understand you are interested in their subject."

Tim Gidiess

"Highlight questions you do not understand or content you are having trouble with. Make a list and take it to your teachers and work through it with them."

Elyssa Stevens

"Keep on asking questions if you do not understand something. Try to target your weak

areas and get specific help from teachers."

Nimesh De Silva

"Put in the effort because it is not just going to come out of nowhere – you have to try."

Grace Jansen

"Don't just pick hard subjects because you think they scale well! You need to enjoy your subjects."

Bradley Speed

"Don't compare yourself to others. It's your mark, it's your course, it's your future. Be happy with what you get and work towards that."

Libbi Kynaston

"Something that helped a lot was having the right people around me and the right network for different subjects, even for subjects you don't enjoy because the networks may be able to show a different side to it and this really helps boost you in that subject."

Caleb Morgan

"Take care of your mental health. It is not necessarily true that the person that studies 12 hours a day is going to do the best because by the end of it they just hate what they do. Make sure you are actually enjoying your study and that will help you perform a lot better."

Jayden Taylor

"Seek constant feedback from your teachers, talk it through, understand it and apply it to your work."

Jessica McGlynn

# General Tips for Success

## A range of advice from recent Alumni

Ensure you are doing the subjects YOU enjoy and will get the most out of. I truly enjoyed all of my subjects this year, which really helped me become motivated to study.

Maintaining a balanced life is also very important in Year 12! Having an outlet such as an extra-curricular activity you can do a few times a week not only gives you a break from your studies, but also helps you stay focused when it's time to study.

Really use your teachers because they are there to help and want to see you succeed. Sending drafts to your teachers, organising to spend extra time at lunch or after school to practise or go over work with you is all so helpful and will really help you improve.

Know your syllabus back to front, it is vital, particularly for Social Sciences.

Identify your weak areas, and areas for improvement, and write them down. Once you feel more confident cross them off the list.

Try your best and just see what happens.

Don't stress about a bad result because stressing doesn't change anything. All you can do is use it to improve your result for the next task.

Use your teachers, get help from your friends and have some fun along the way. Make good memories of your last year together at school.

You are going to make mistakes - sometimes you need to learn from your own mistakes.

Sleep well and eat well.

Do not spend too much time on one subject. Only doing well in all subjects will give you a good ATAR.

Be up-to-date with study notes and summaries before trials so that you can do as many practice questions as possible.

Don't get too hung up on your mistakes. Definitely learn from your mistakes, but mistakes do not define your HSC. Have that winning attitude to keep on pushing until the end.

Even though it may feel like it at times, no-one expects you to be perfect - so you can make mistakes - just roll with it. Sleep and eat well.

Be organised and stay on top of assessments as it helps reduce stress later on in the year.

Balance is crucial for your head to stay clear. It is impossible to stay focussed 24/7 for a year especially considering the workload and expectations of yourself and other people. Find a study technique that works for you and it will not feel like study.

Start with your favourite subject to get you into working mode but make sure you spread your time across subjects. Know your syllabus like crazy.

Look after yourself (eat/sleep/exercise). Ask your teachers lots of questions - this is a good way to learn.



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