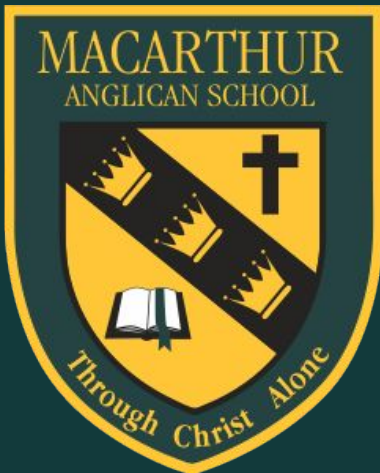


---

# Macarthur Anglican School

Academic Success  
2021



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 2021 continued Macarthur Anglican School's tradition of proven academic success. Macarthur ranked 84<sup>th</sup> out of over 850 schools which had candidates sit the HSC in 2021, placing the School in the top 10% of all schools in NSW. As with the last ten 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 2021 the students achieved the following ATAR results:

**17%** of students received an ATAR of 95 or higher

**22%** of students received an ATAR of 90 or higher

**52%** of students received an ATAR of 80 or higher

**77%** of students received an ATAR of 70 or higher

### Top Performers

Macarthur was ranked 65<sup>th</sup> in the State for the number of students who achieved Band 6 or E4 results in at least 10 units.

Congratulations to the following students:

Arnav Gupta	All Rounder 7 <sup>th</sup> in English Advanced
Reuben Gomez	All Rounder
Laura Whitelaw	All Rounder
Amelia Wood	All Rounder

### NESA Exhibition and Performance Showcases

**Ethan Byatt** - selected for OnSTAGE (Drama)

**Jonathan Lin** - selected for ARTEXPRESS (Visual Arts).

**Zoe Byatt** - selected for TEXStyle (Textiles and Design)

**Thomas Noakes** -nominated for ENCORE (Music 2) showcase

**Bailey Pickles** - nominated for ENCORE (Music 2) showcase

**Jack Guyer** - nominated for **SHAPE** (Design and Technology) showcase

# In Detail



Macarthur Anglican School's Year 12 students have excelled in 2021, having achieved some of the school's best ever HSC results despite a challenging two years. The level of resilience students have demonstrated and their ability to maintain motivation and persevere through difficulties has been humbling.

Headmaster Dr David Nockles is "absolutely delighted" for the students and their outstanding effort. Over one-half of this year's cohort achieved an ATAR over 80 and 77% of students received an ATAR over 70.

"With all the talk of declining educational standards nationally, it is wonderful to see our school consistently bucking this negative trend, especially in our part of Sydney. We have a strong academic culture at Macarthur. We set the bar high and share the students' joy when they rise to meet the challenges set before them."

"This cohort have learned many lessons, the most important being that the senior years of schooling is about far more than just studying and

memorising content. It is about developing skills to be able to think critically and apply content to different contexts. It is about creating a positive work-life balance, learning from mistakes, and examining feedback carefully. Learning can be and should be uncomfortable at times. When we are uncomfortable this is when we are learning the most."

Although the School has consistently ranked in the top 100, it achieved one of its best performances this year with a rank of 84 state-wide. "What makes me particularly proud," said Dr Nockles, "is that we can achieve these terrific results without being academically selective, but welcoming students of all abilities."

Among Macarthur's top performers was Arnav Gupta. Arnav achieved 7<sup>th</sup> in the State in English Advanced. Arnav was also DUX of the cohort and achieved an ATAR of 99.65. Arnav is planning on studying a combined degree of Civil Engineering and Architecture.



# Celebrating

## HSC Result Highlights

Macarthur was ranked 84<sup>th</sup> overall out of over 800 schools which had candidates sit the HSC in 2021 and was the top scoring school in the region.

Macarthur was ranked 42<sup>nd</sup> out of all NSW Independent Schools.

Of the 98 students who sat the HSC, 107 Distinguished Achievement results were recorded on the NESA HSC Honour Roll for students who attained a Band 6 or Band E4 Extension result.

Macarthur was ranked 65<sup>th</sup> in the State for the number of students who achieved Band 6 or E4 results in at least 10 units.

40% of students were recognised as Distinguished Achievers on the NESA Honour Roll for achieving Band 6 or Band 4 Extension results.

Macarthur was more than 5% above the State mean for 40% (16/40) of courses and 10% above the state mean for 10% (4/40) of courses studied.

The Ancient History course results were more than 17% above the State average this year. 75% of students received a Band 6 in this course.

Courses where students achieved greater than 10% above the State mean included Agriculture (10.55% above State mean), Geography (11.85% above the State mean) and Society and Culture (10.03% above the State mean).

Arnav, along with Amelia Wood (ATAR 98.75), Laura Whitelaw (ATAR 98.45 ) and Reuben Gomez (ATAR 96.35 ) were deemed 'Best All-Rounders', with scores over 90% across 10 units of study. Amelia will be studying Politics, Philosophy and Economics at ANU. Laura is planning to study Exercise Physiology or Physiotherapy and Reuben is planning on completing a combined degree in Arts and Law.

Dr Nockles, who has published research on what makes effective schools, advocates that, "Students who balance their academic study with co-curricular, extra-curricular involvement and sport have the greatest opportunity for success in the HSC as they are far more likely to study hard when they are engaged and happy with their wider school life."

Perhaps the difficulties faced by this particular cohort can be summed up by one of the students themselves - Ruth Alexander. "Sometimes you have to be like a duck swimming upstream; working hard to keep moving forward while letting the unforeseen challenges splash over you. Sometimes challenges drag you back but if you persevere you can get where you want to even if you have to take a harder path at times."

"Our School motto is 'Enter to Learn and Go out to Serve'. "Many of our students see their futures in serving their local community with the skills they have gained at school and will develop further at university." Dr Nockles remarked, "It's not just about the great results. Education is about the formation of character and in the 2021 cohort we have it in spades."

## High Achievers (98+)

**Arnav Gupta**  
99.65



### Subjects Studied

English Advanced  
English Extension 1  
English Extension 2  
Physics  
Visual Arts  
DUX

**Amelia Wood**  
98.75



### Subjects Studied

Economics  
English Advanced  
Geography  
PDHPE  
Society and Culture

**Muthuli Gunawardena**  
98.65



### Subjects Studied

Biology  
Chemistry  
English Advanced  
Mathematics Advanced  
Mathematics Extension 1  
Physics

**Madeline Mingay**  
99.30



### Subjects Studied

English Advanced  
English Extension 1  
English Extension 2  
Geography  
Legal Studies  
Mathematics Advanced  
Society and Culture

**Laura Whitelaw**  
98.45



### Subjects Studied

Biology  
English Advanced  
English Extension 1  
English Extension 2  
Mathematics Standard 2  
PDHPE  
Society and Culture



## High Achievers (95+)

**Anabella Cabrera-Yee**  
97.55



**Subjects Studied**

Business Studies  
English Advanced  
Legal Studies  
Mathematics Advanced  
Mathematics Extension 1  
Society and Culture

**Rhys Jensen**  
97.25



**Subjects Studied**

Chemistry  
English Advanced  
Mathematics Advanced  
Mathematics Extension 1  
Modern History  
Physics

**Daniel Xie**  
97.05



**Subjects Studied**

Chemistry  
English Advanced  
Indonesian Continuers  
Mathematics Advanced  
Mathematics Extension 1  
Software Design and  
Development

**William Kennedy**  
97.00



**Subjects Studied**

Chemistry  
English Advanced  
Mathematics Extension 1  
Mathematics Extension 2  
Physics  
Software Design and  
Development

**Jasmine Sherrell**  
96.80



**Subjects Studied**

English Advanced  
Geography  
Indonesian Continuers  
Mathematics Advanced  
Mathematics Extension 1  
Society and Culture

## High Achievers (95+)

**Reuben Gomez**  
96.35



### Subjects Studied

Ancient History  
English Advanced  
English Extension 1  
English Extension 2  
History Extension  
Legal Studies  
Modern History

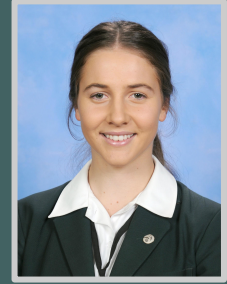
**Bùi Văn Khanh (Katie) Võ**  
95.85



### Subjects Studied

Biology  
Chemistry  
English as an Additional  
Language  
Mathematics Extension 1  
Mathematics Extension 2

**Grace Tyson**  
95.75



### Subjects Studied

Business Studies  
Economics  
English Advanced  
English Extension 1  
English Extension 2  
Legal Studies  
Mathematics Advanced

**Ruth Alexander**  
95.65



### Subjects Studied

Biology  
Chemistry  
English Advanced  
Geography  
Mathematics Advanced  
Science Extension

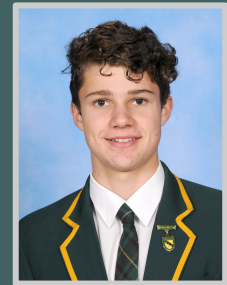
**Liam Mrkonja**  
95.50



### Subjects Studied

Chemistry  
English Advanced  
Mathematics Advanced  
Mathematics Extension 1  
Physics  
Science Extension

**Alexander Frankum**  
95.20



### Subjects Studied

Business Studies  
Economics  
English Advanced  
English Extension 1  
English Extension 2  
Legal Studies  
Mathematics Standard 2

# Individual Success

## HSC All Rounders

Macarthur was ranked 65th in the State for the number of students who achieved Band 6 or E4 results in at least 10 units.



**Arnav Gupta**

7th English Advanced

Arnav is planning on studying a combined degree of Civil Engineering and Architecture.



**Amelia Wood**

Amelia will be studying Politics, Philosophy and Economics at ANU.



**Laura Whitelaw**

Laura is planning to study Exercise Physiology or Physiotherapy.



**Reuben Gomez**

Reuben is planning on completing an Arts/Law combined degree.

## Top performers included:

**Arnav Gupta** - 99% English Advanced (7<sup>th</sup> in the State), 48/50 English Extension 1, English Extension 2 47/50, 96% Visual Arts, Completed as an accelerant in 2020. 97% Mathematics Advanced, 48/50 Mathematics Extension 1

**Madeline Mingay** - 96% English Advanced, 96% Geography, 96% Society and Culture

**Laura Whitelaw** - 95% English Advanced, English Extension 2 48/50, 95% Mathematics Standard

**Amelia Wood** - 95% Geography, 96% PDHPE, 96% Society and Culture

**Muthuli Gunawardena** - 100% Mathematics Advanced

**Katie Võ** - 98% Mathematics Extension 1, 96% Mathematics Extension 2

**Anabella Cabrera-Yee** - 97% Mathematics Advanced

**Anna Patmore** - 97% Visual Arts

**Alexander Frankum** - 96% Mathematics Standard

**Rhys Jensen** - 96% Mathematics Advanced

**Bailey Pickles** - 96% Music Extension

**Micah Paki** - 96% Chinese Beginners

**Daniel Xie** - 95% Mathematics Advanced

**Matthew Eder** - 95% Music 1

**William Kennedy** - 95% Software Design and Development

**Sophia Ellsmore** - 95% Ancient History

**Liam Mrkonja** - 95% Mathematics Advanced



## **Student Voice**

### **From the Graduating Class of 2021**

"Sleep is definitely important to function at your best. I really needed teachers for communication and feedback. I actually set a goal for myself to email my teachers once a day. It might have got a little annoying, but it was really important to get the active feedback, so I wasn't making the same mistakes over and over again."

**Arnav Gupta (DUX)**

"You need to prioritise time alone to unwind. As lockdown went on I discovered getting outside and exercising had a massive impact on how well I was able to function. Keeping a balanced lifestyle is so important for maintaining your academics"

"The biggest stand out for Macarthur was the help and support teachers provided. I felt comforted to always have a teacher around the corner (email, phone calls, Zoom calls) they definitely made the whole experience a lot better."

**Madeline Mingay**

"Not all learning is comfortable. Some learning is super uncomfortable. My advice is to find someone to tackle it with and just take it as it comes, break it down to whatever you can, and go from there."

**Laura Whitelaw**

"Work with your teachers. The drafting process is essential. In terms of the HSC, mistakes were probably the biggest thing that helped me to get better throughout the year. Although it was a difficult year, Macarthur gave us lots of opportunities to enjoy ourselves. Even through lockdown teachers set lots of activities to engage us academically and socially as well."

**Reuben Gomez**

"To do well in a subject manage your time well and be patient with a question. Just because you can't do it now, doesn't mean you can't do it later on."

**Katie Vö**

"You need to move away from just memorising information. Rather, you need to break down concepts into their core components to understand how different parts of the syllabus relate to each other. If you link each topic, rather than studying them all separately, it becomes easier to remember information and apply it to more abstract questions in an exam."

**Muthuli Gunawardena**

"When I couldn't figure something out on my own I would always go to my friends doing the same course or my teachers as they would often have a more detailed understanding. Whenever I was in the learning pit it was really important to me to never give up because if I did, I never would have learnt anything."

**Anabella Cabrera- Yee**

"I always looked at the blessings in my life and the incredible school, teachers, friends I had surrounding and supporting me. It's about letting the challenges shape and build character rather than hanging like a burden on your back."

**Emily Groves**

"Try to remember Yr 12 isn't the end of the world, look forward to the future and the infinite possibilities, and no matter what you face there will always be a way to push through. Sometimes you have to be like a duck swimming upstream; working hard to keep moving forward while letting the unforeseen challenges splash over you. Sometimes challenges drag you back for a bit but if you persevere you can get where you want to even if you have to take a harder path at times."

**Ruth Alexander**

## **Student Voice**

### **More from the Graduating Class of 2021**

"Consistency is key for absolutely EVERYTHING. Creating a habit of revising/studying everyday will pay off. It doesn't have to be for hours and can only be for 5 minutes, maybe revising a concept you learnt yesterday, or writing a practice paragraph for English. It is also super important that you try and make it fun for yourself as it will keep you motivated and make it feel less of a chore."

**Alina Hill**

"Sometimes you need time to process and reflect on setbacks. Give yourself that space away and let yourself feel those emotions because it is okay to be disappointed when you are working so hard for something and you experience a setback. After that talk to a teacher for more in depth reasoning as to where you went wrong so you can learn from this set back and go better next time."

**Amelia Wood**

"Year 12 is not just about study. It's about creating balance and learning how to think critically. The skill of time management is something you'll pick up on and one of the most applicable skills for everyday life."

**Lucy Wood**

"To best utilise your teachers, don't ever be embarrassed to ask any questions, ask them to repeat or explain something again, or be honest and say you weren't listening. Chances are someone else is in the same boat. Also, do your assignments EARLY so you can ask them questions. Trust in Jesus, don't be lazy, go to bed early."

**Ethan Kezelos**

"Hard work, patience, dedication, motivation and commitment is central for academic success."

**Tristan Scaglione**



## General Tips for Success

### A range of advice from recent graduates

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.

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 as this is a good way to learn.

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.

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



**Address** 605 Cobbitty Road, Cobbitty NSW 2570 Australia

**Post** PO Box 555, Camden NSW 2570 Australia

**Email** [administration@macarthur.nsw.edu.au](mailto:administration@macarthur.nsw.edu.au)

**Phone** +61 (0)2 4647 5333

**Web** [macarthur.nsw.edu.au](http://macarthur.nsw.edu.au)

ABN 58 390 019 481    CRICOS 02269K