

# Celebrate

Year Twelve 2018



Hunter Valley  
Grammar School



# FROM THE PRINCIPAL

## AN EXCEPTIONAL GROUP OF YOUNG ADULTS



Along with more than 76,700 students across the state, our 103 HSC students received their HSC results on Thursday morning. As you read this Celebration (of Year 12) Magazine you will appreciate that the 2018 Year 12 group have performed extremely well in the HSC. The group showed unique commitment and dedication to the values and ideals of the School, at the same time affording special respect for their peers, their parents and the School alike, this alignment always guarantees excellent results. We are all proud of our 2018 HVGS cohort, on achieving our best-ever results in the HSC, and on graduating as the quality young adults they are.

The Sydney Morning Herald publish the HSC school rankings based on Distinguished Achievers (Band 6 performance). This is a very narrow measure of a school's effectiveness and the success of a student, nonetheless it draws great interest. I am pleased to report that HVGS has been ranked 70<sup>th</sup> (by the SMH) in the state from more than 800 high schools. When we consider ALL

the independent schools across NSW outside of Sydney, Newcastle Grammar School and Central Coast Grammar are the only schools ranked higher.

It has been a privilege to share the learning journey with these Year 12 students; I have known many of them for thirteen years, it has been an honour to be part of their school years, to watch them develop, grow and thrive. I wish them all only the very best as they leave our care and continue their journey as young adults; we wish them every possible good thing that life has to offer. I trust that you will enjoy reading this Magazine, a new initiative this year.

My wife Pip and I would like to wish everyone in our community a Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous 2019.

**Paul Teys**  
Principal

## HSC RESULTS

- 46 students achieved a total of 113 Band 6s (our best result to date). This earned these students a place on the state's Distinguished Achievers List
- 20% of all results were at a Band 6
- 65% of all results were at a Band 6 or Band 5 (topped only once in our history)
- 94% of all results are at Band 6, Band 5 or Band 4 (topped only once in our history)

## ATAR RESULTS

- One quarter of students received an ATAR above 90
- One half received an ATAR above 80

## ALL ROUNDERS LIST

Congratulations to **Gabriella Blissett**, **Elke Mitchell**, **Kieran Parkinson** and **Caitlin Woodfull** who were honoured on the NSW Education Standards Authority All Rounders List for achieving Band 6 in ten or more units of study. Kieran achieved this studying 14 units!

## SOME HIGHLIGHTS

- **Gabriella Blissett** and **Shawn Hui** received perfect scores (50/50) in Extension Music. A first for the School!
- Every student who studied Music achieved a Band 5 or Band 6
- HVGS is ranked #3 of *all* the independent schools outside of Sydney
- And ranked #3 from more than 60 high schools across Newcastle and the Hunter, behind only Merewether Selective High and Newcastle Grammar

Highest ATAR  
**CAITLIN WOODFULL**  
99.05



70

Rank in SMH Top 100  
Schools Report



113

Band 6 results  
(from 46 students)



4

Students on the  
All Rounders List



46

Students on the  
Distinguished Achievers  
List



1/4

Of students received  
an ATAR above 90



5

HSC major work  
nominations & 2 selections  
for ARTEXPRESS





### ELKE MITCHELL

Elke has just had her HSC Visual Arts major work selected for ARTEXPRESS, but surprisingly it's the sciences which she enjoyed most at school.

"I really enjoyed biology. I'm very interested in the cause and effect principle that runs through every science subject," says Elke. "I love it when bits of information click together to suddenly make sense. Everything in the course was interesting."

The future is looking very interesting for Elke as she prepares to tackle the next stage of life – a bachelor degree, then master's degree and a career as a neuropsychology researcher. Her advice for students tackling the HSC in future years is to operate with a future self in mind.

"Think about the future and make sure everything 'current you' does makes your future self's life easier," says Elke. "Also, ask lots of questions!"

Elke credits friends, teachers and her parents on giving her the confidence to manage the demands of the HSC. A good dash of self-belief went a long way too!

"Self-belief and self-motivation are so important because at the end of the day it's your brain telling your hand what to write in the exam and that becomes a lot more difficult if you're simultaneously trying to block out negative thoughts," says Elke.

## HSC NOMINATIONS

### ARTEXPRESS: VISUAL ARTS

**Thomas Monnox** and **Elke Mitchell** were nominated and selected for ARTEXPRESS 2019.

ARTEXPRESS is an annual exhibition featuring a selection of outstanding student artworks developed for the artmaking component of the HSC examination in Visual Arts in NSW.



Thomas' work titled *L'oeuvre sur la biologie des plantes* will be shown at the New England Regional Art Museum and Tamworth Regional Gallery.

Elke's artwork *Ganggali (transform)* will be exhibited at The Armory, Sydney Olympic Park.

### ENCORE: MUSIC

**Gabriella Blissett**, **Shawn Hui** and **Kieran Parkinson** were nominated for ENCORE; a program of outstanding performances and compositions by students from schools across NSW.

**Kieran** was included in ENCORE for his outstanding essay and his achievement will be recorded in the ENCORE program.

The three nominations were the highest number received for Music 2/Extension students in the School's history.



Gabriella Blissett



Shawn Hui



Kieran Parkinson

## DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVERS

Congratulations to the following students who were named on the NSW Education Standards Authority Distinguished Achievers List for achieving 90 marks or above in one or more of their subjects.

Darcee Anderson	Jackson Barton
Gabriella Blissett	Annabelle Bridge
Cooper Brown	Madeline Butler
Brittany Carroll	Macey Collet
Tarryn Collison-Marsh	Elizabeth Coren
Georgia Cox	Laura-Anne Frost
Aiden Fuller	Kyle Furness
Claire Hancock	Thomas Heffron
Laura Higgins	Samuel Hope
Lewis Howells	Shawn Hui
Ethan Innis	Katie Jolliffe
Amelia Lewis	Molly Loveland
Courtney Lawrence	Nevin Manchanayake
Lachlan Mayfield	Darcie McFayden
Maddison McNally	Isabelle Mills
Elke Mitchell	Sabine Mitchell
Thomas Monnox	Edwin Nicholson
Tharushi Palipana	Kieran Parkinson
Olivia Peters	Chelsea Rollings
Naomi Saywell	Nicholas Simmons
Olivia Stephenson	Hao Sun
Min Sun	Yuqing Wang
Mackenzie Whitten	Caitlin Woodfull



### GABRIELLA BLISSETT

Gabriella is intending to study Medical Engineering at the University of Newcastle, gain honours, a master's degree and a PHD, with the ultimate career goal - a medical engineer specialising in medical signal analysis or prosthetics.

It sounds like Gabi is going to be very busy in the next few years so it's lucky she enjoys a challenge.

"I really liked the academics at school," says Gabi. "My favourite subject was Maths Extension because everyone is expected to struggle and fail just a bit. It forces us to push ourselves which I found motivating and exhilarating. Because of this I achieved more than I thought possible. I developed the ability to work hard for what I wanted."

Gabi's belief in self-encouragement helped her through the tricky times.

"After the first Year 12 exam, I felt scared and a little defeated. It wasn't my best effort and I wondered if I had just set myself up for a year of failure," says Gabi. "I went home and created a masterpiece on my wall - large yellow letters that read 'I am going to BLITZ the HSC'. Every night as I went to sleep those words helped me find the strength to work harder."

It must have worked because her self-encouragement and self-determination saw her achieve so well in her internal exams, that she has gained un-conditional entry into Medical Engineering at UoN."

## YEAR 12 UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS

### Aiden Fuller

Heffron Technologist of Tomorrow donated by Heffron SMSF Solutions

### Erin Meredith

Teaching Scholarship donated by Hunter Valley Grammar School

### Laura-Anne Frost

Tassell Financial Services Scholarship donated by Tassell Financial Planning

### Courtney Lawrence

Jason Johnston Memorial Scholarship for Health Sciences

### Alanna Coleman

Built Environment Design Technologies & Engineering Scholarship made possible due to the HVGS Awards in Perpetuity Fund

### Shawn Hui

Tassell Performing Arts Scholarship donated by Tassell Financial Planning



## KIERAN PARKINSON

“When I was really young, I wanted to be an astronaut. Science has always been a passion of mine and up until Year 10 I wanted to pursue a career in post-Newtonian theoretical physics,” says Kieran. “For now, I’ve decided to focus on a career in law, politics or economics. The only foil to this would be if I get accepted into space engineering at USYD, which I’d probably pursue.”

While Kieran’s keeping his options open in regard to space engineering, it’s the Australian National University and a double degree in a Bachelor of Laws/Bachelor of Politics, Philosophy and Economics which will likely set him up for the future.

While Kieran approached school with an academic mindset, some his most treasured HVGS memories are the non-academic aspects of school life.

“HICES Music Camp was one of the things that I enjoyed most, lots of likeminded people and such,” says Kieran. “Music was enjoyable, but it was probably the people that I got on very well with that made schooling fun.”

For those about to embark on the road to the HSC, he has some sage advice: “There’s no real secret to it. It’s hard, and while complaining might feel therapeutic, just sit down and get on with it. You’re doing it anyway, so might as well make it beneficial.”

We look forward to seeing future Kieran in the courtroom, or perhaps in parliament or maybe studying some far-flung corner of the universe. Watch this ‘space’.



# STUDENT PROFILES



## NICHOLAS SIMMONS

Nicholas, a HVGS endeavor student, has proven himself to be a conscientious student, with a motivated and enthusiastic approach to his academic progress.

With an interest in computing and technology, Nicholas was a key contributor to the HVGS Create4Space initiative which sent a coded programme into space to the International Space Station for testing.

Nicholas has excelled in many aspects of his schooling. He was the recipient of the Mathematics Medallion for Excellence 2018 and recipient of the University of Newcastle Prize for a top academic student in Year 12.

Nicholas intends to study a double degree in Mechatronics Engineering and Computer Science.

## CAITLIN WOODFULL

Caitlin approached her academic studies with maturity and diligence and worked hard to apply feedback and seek improvement.

After school, Caitlin intends on studying a Bachelor of Veterinary Biology/ Doctor of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Sydney.

Not to let an opportunity pass, Caitlin could be seen treading the boards in School musical and drama productions, including a standout performance in the 2018 hit musical Grease.

Caitlin was awarded the Au Family Prize for Dux based on Internal Assessment.



# YEAR 12 STORIES OF SUCCESS (MUSIC)

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## A MARVELLOUS MUSICAL YEAR

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Year 12 students have shone on and off the stage in a variety of musical endeavours over 2018.

**Gabriella Blissett** was awarded one of the most prestigious awards a classical musician can obtain – the Associate in Music, Australia (AMusA). Not only did Gabi pass but she passed with Distinction, while recovering from a severe wrist injury.

**Shawn Hui** was awarded the Licentiate of the Trinity College London Diploma (with High Distinction). He has also been accepted into Elder Conservatorium of Music – one of Australia’s oldest and most distinguished tertiary music schools.

**Annabelle Bridge** graduated Level 11 Suzuki (highest grade) for cello and performed a Concerto (in A min) by Saint Saens at the Sydney Opera House.

**Laura Higgins** won the HVGS Student Song Writing Composition at the HVGS Symphony Orchestra Concert with her fantastic song, Mr Catfish. Congratulations also to **Shawn Hui** and **Chelsea Rollings** who were awarded Composition Encouragement Awards.

# YEAR 12 STORIES OF SUCCESS (SPORT)

## STUDENTS PUSH THEIR LIMITS



Year 12 students were awarded exceptional sport representative honours.

**Brittany Carroll** won silver medals in the 100m and long jump at the NSW State Championships and silver in the 100m, 200m and long jump at the NSW Combined Independent Schools (CIS) Championships.

**Brittney Randell** and **Kaylah Redhead** won a silver medal in the Open Double at the NSW Independent Schools Rowing Championships, then each went on to win a silver and two bronze medals at the NSW State Championships. **Amelia Lewis** also won a silver at the State Championships.

**Krystal Taylor** and **Naomi Saywell** both made the NSW InterSchools Equestrian team in 2016 and 2017 respectively and both attended the NSW State Equestrian Interschool Championships in 2018.

**Laura Higgins** squad, The Pink Ladies, finished 1st at the State Aerobics Championships and backed that up with a 1st place at Nationals in 2018. She also won a silver medal at the State Championships.



**Lucy Kell** was selected for the CIS representative football (soccer) team in 2018, and in 2017 we celebrated her selection to the Australian Youth team.

**Hannah Berry** was selected into the CIS representative team for the NSW All Schools Volleyball Championships.

**Bianca Green** was selected into the NSW Schools Basketball team which won Nationals in both 2016 and 2017.

All-rounder **Edwin Nicholson** is a Triple Age Champion in swimming, athletics and cross country for six years in a row (Years 7 -12). A feat never achieved before at HVGS.

# YEAR 12 STORIES OF SUCCESS (STEM)

## ICT ACCOLADE AT NATIONAL LEVEL AIDEN FULLER



Following his win in the NSW Young ICT Explorer's Competition, Aiden presented his project at the Young ICT Explorer's National Competition – finishing in 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Australia for his age group.

Aiden's project was an Arduino based remote terminal system that can be accessed via an SMS message. It has the capacity to change electrical relays, log hours of input relays, find its own latitude and longitude and return desired values to the user.

Congratulations Aiden.

## HSC MAJOR WORK: A STEM AWARD WINNER JETT DERRICK



Jett's HSC major work, the RatStrap, won the 'Best creative thinking for a business idea or an existing business (student category)' at the Hunter Young Business Minds Awards recently.

The RatStrap is a winding mechanism for truck tie down straps. It aims to improve workflow and productivity in the transport industry.

Jett was awarded \$1,000 cash and a mentoring program to assist him commercialise his product.

Take a look at Jett's project here:  
<https://youtu.be/jTgZ7huxQRA>



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Celebrate is a Hunter Valley Grammar School publication.

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