



HSC Achievements & Highlights 2023



PLC
PRESBYTERIAN
LADIES' COLLEGE
SYDNEY
— 1888 —

‘Do what you have a *passion* for, what gives you *joy*, what you find challenging, what pushes you. Our school provides us with many *opportunities*, and you never know what you may grow to love or surprisingly have a *talent* in, so my advice would be to take up as many of the opportunities that you can while in school, try something new, *explore your passions* further as high school is a once in a lifetime experience that you will never have again. *Treasure your friendships* and invest time into them, because these friends will *support* you and get you through life’s ups and downs and are what lasts after you finish school.’

Madeline Chang, Year 12 2023



On behalf of the Council, Staff and Community of PLC Sydney I congratulate our 2023 Year 12 students on their fine results in the 2023 NSW Higher School Certificate and Cambridge ‘A’ level examinations.

I have been very impressed by the Year 12 cohort. It has been a wonderful year and our students have all worked extremely hard, the outcome of which can be seen in their results.

I am proud of these results: both by the numerous students who have earned individual accolades, and by their positive work ethic and dedication to the task at hand. Our 2023 cohort made a superb contribution to the College. As I look through the list of students I remember their initiatives as much as their commitment to studies. As students they were highly energised and committed to each other and to the College as a whole.

We congratulate each and every one of our students and wish them the very best in their future endeavours.

I also congratulate staff on their excellent teaching and leadership of the cohort.

It is with great pleasure that I share with you this year’s HSC and Cambridge results, some individual stories of success and student reflections.

Dr Paul Burgis
Principal

2023 ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

77%

PLC Sydney students were in the **top 20% of the State**

47.5%

PLC Sydney students were in the **top 10% of the State**

6.5%

PLC Sydney students (10 students) were in the **top 1% of the State**

2.9%

PLC Sydney students were in the **top 0.5% of the State**

99.95

Top ATAR

43.39/50

PLC Sydney School Mean **Average mark** was **86.7** out of 100



All-rounder Achievers List

Students who scored over 90% in every subject



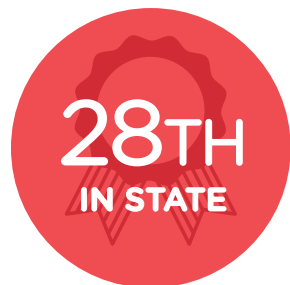
Top Achievers List

Students who earned top 20 places in individual subjects



5 Selected

For student showcases and exhibitions



PLC Sydney ranking in SMH ranking

AUSTRALIAN TERTIARY ADMISSIONS RANK*

Congratulations to the following girls who achieved an Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank (ATAR) of 99 or more in the Higher School Certificate.

Name	ATAR	Name	ATAR
Grace Du	99.95	Vahini Naidoo	99.45
Olivia Thompson	99.95	Jennifer Su	99.45
Yuqing (Amy) Feng	99.95^	Madeline Chang	99.35
Yoo Jin (Eujiny) Cho	99.9	Laura Grehan	99.2
Olivia Stavrakis	99.85	Raehana Taoube	99.15

*The above list may not be a full representation of these achievements as we are reliant on Year 12 students providing their ATAR or other information. Details are not made public or provided to the College.

^Amy's ATAR estimate is between 99.9 - 99.95 based on her Cambridge results.

UNIVERSITY ENTRY IS CHANGING

As you read these results we ask you to remember that university entry is changing. PLC Sydney students do exceptionally well in receiving early offers to university, as well as achieving results through the ATAR pathway. Much of what you read in this booklet covers only the ATAR pathway. The Australian National University in Canberra, for example, does not take ATARs into account at all for most entries. We also note that UNSW added ten ATAR points to some student results based on their portfolios. Further, Cambridge 'A' levels are growing at PLC Sydney. We are very proud of Amy Feng, who achieved direct entry to Oxford University through the Cambridge 'A' level exams. Any parent looking at PLC Sydney should recognise:

1. Our students achieve many excellent ATARs
2. Our superb PLC Sydney Futures program assists students with early entry, overseas pathways, and portfolio entry
3. We are a leading Australian school offering Cambridge 'A' levels.

TOP ACHIEVERS IN COURSE



Tsz Ying (Kimmy) Kwok
English EAL/D



Antonella Khodr-Chah
Music 1



Christy Voutos
Modern Greek Beginners



Olivia Stavrakis
English Advanced



Grace Du
English Advanced



Olivia Thompson
Mathematics Extension 2

UNIVERSITY RECOGNITION GAINED FOR EXCELLENCE IN CO-CURRICULAR PURSUITS

With a holistic approach to education, PLC Sydney encourages active participation and engagement in both academic studies and co-curricular activities.

All our students are challenged to strive for excellence and inspired to achieve their personal best. We believe strongly in personal integrity and social responsibility, while supporting each girl as she develops the skills, knowledge and values required for her to make a meaningful contribution to her community and lead a happy and fulfilled life.

Many of our 2023 cohort did this through their varied co-curricular pursuits, from achieving the Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award, to gaining a Diploma of Communications with ASCA (Australia Speech Communication Association).

These achievements are recognised by universities in the form of Adjustment Factors that, although not included in the official HSC statistics above, do contribute to the excellent university placements that you will read about at the end of this booklet.

PREMIER'S ALL ROUND ACHIEVERS

Ten (10) students were recognised on the All Rounders List (achieving more than 90% in all their courses ie the highest band possible in at least 10 units)

10
students
recognised

Madeline Chang

Yoo Jin (Eujiny) Cho

Grace Du

Laura Grehan

Tsz Ying (Kimmy) Kwok

Vahini Naidoo

Olivia Stavrakis

Jennifer Su

Raehana Taoube

Olivia Thompson

EXCELLENCE IN HSC

Proportion of Students in the Top Two Bands by Subject

100%

Chinese and Literature, Chinese in Context, Drama, Earth and Environmental Science, English EAL/D, Food Technology, Italian Continuers, Music 1, Textiles and Design and Visual Arts. Extension Courses: English Extension 1, English Extension 2, History Extension, Italian Extension, Music Extension and Science Extension



Design and
Technology,
Economics



Business Studies,
English Advanced,
Geography, Legal Studies,
Modern History, Music 2,
Mathematics Extension 1
and Mathematics
Extension 2



Chemistry,
Chinese Continuers,
French Continuers
and Chinese
Extension



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT
IN TOP 2 BANDS WITH A MARK
OF 80% OR HIGHER

COMPARED TO THE STATE AVERAGE

COURSE	% Bands 5-6 or E3-E4	
	PLC SYDNEY	ABOVE STATE
Ancient History	40	8.9
Biology	69.6	9.53
Business Studies	82.9	11.02
Chemistry	79.3	11.42
Chinese and Literature	100	8.27
Chinese in Context	100	0.81
Chinese Continuers*	75	-1.98
Community and Family Studies	63.2	6.37
Design and Technology	92.3	11.29
Drama	100	9.69
Earth and Environmental Science	100	18.15
Economics	90.5	8.87
English Advanced	89.7	4.59
English EAL/D	100	22.76
English Standard	25	4.27
Food Technology	100	14.38
French Continuers	75	1.5
Geography	82.4	6.24
Italian Continuers	100	7.3
Latin Continuers*	20	-11.65
Legal Studies	80	9.6
Mathematics Advanced	72.2	6.26

COURSE	% Bands 5-6 or E3-E4	
	PLC SYDNEY	ABOVE STATE
Mathematics Standard 2	51	7.94
Modern History	81.8	10.32
Music 1	100	12.18
Music 2	85.7	-1.08
Personal Development, Health and Physical Education	63.3	7.89
Physics	60	5.61
Studies of Religion II	40	1.25
Textiles and Design	100	11.74
Visual Arts	100	9.9

EXTENSION COURSES

Chinese Extension*	75	-2.01
English Extension 1	100	1.91
English Extension 2	100	4.06
History Extension	100	5.58
Italian Extension	100	1.28
Latin Extension	66.6	-6.57
Mathematics Extension 1	86	2.64
Mathematics Extension 2	88.9	1.89
Music Extension*	100	-0.69
Science Extension*	100	4.54

*Represents a very small cohort

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS

A number of PLC Sydney students were selected for recognition as part of the HSC showcase events. To be nominated for any of these events is an outstanding achievement as it acknowledges their major works and performances as 'best in the State'

TEXTSTYLE

For exemplary work in Textile and Design

Genevieve Cummins
TEXTSTYLE (selected)

Genevieve's creation, 'Black Queen', is a costume designed to be worn to "Il Ballo Grande" at Scuola Grande di San Rocco, situated in the heart of Venice. This event celebrates the contribution Italy has had on the global fashion industry. Captivating the power of women, 'Black Queen' is an ode to three elements: Gianni Versace's legacy, reinventing a glamorous modern day 'Versace woman'; the Medici family's contribution to both society and fashion. (pictured on right)

SHAPE

For exemplary work in HSC Design and Technology and Textile and Design

Congratulations to our five nominees for SHAPE Design and Technology: Madeleine Cozens, Sienna Haigh, Michelle Hong, Charlotte Cameron and Genevieve Cummins.

OnSTAGE

For exemplary performance in HSC Drama.

Six Individual Drama Performance Nominations: Christina Cusumano - *Deliah's Clothes*, Rachel Lao - *Photograph 51*, Morgann Pratt - *The Bleeding Tree*, Kimmy Kwok - *Single Asian Female*, Alexandra Reid-Queeney - *My Name is Rachel Corrie* and Jaime Saunders - *It's Partly About Love, Partly About Massacre*.

Congratulations to the HSC Drama Group Performance, *Mary Shelley*, created and performed by Christina Cusumano, Rachel Lao, Vahini Naidoo, Miranda Raguz and Alexandra Reid-Queeney, that was selected for OnStage and will run for one week in February at the Seymour Centre.

Mary Wollstencraft Shelley is best known for her gothic novel, *Frankenstein* or *The Modern Prometheus*. Using gothic elements and striking theatrical imagery this group posed the question: *Who gets to decide what is monstrous and what is spectacularly beautiful?*

Congratulations to Vahini Naidoo who has had her Individual Project selected for OnStage. Vahini completed a series of theatre reviews and invented her own online publication to focus her voice and target a specific audience.

ENCORE

For exemplary performance in HSC Music. The three students below were nominated for their Music 1, 2 and Extension program, which consists of six performance pieces each.

Natalie Iacullo

Nominated for Drum kit

Antonella Khodr-Chah

Nominated for Voice

Stella Lin

Nominated for Violin

ENCORE

Nominated for exemplary composition in HSC Music

Stella Lin

Stella's (Music 2) core composition, *Transmarinus* was written for Clarinet, Vibraphone and Piano. This is an outstanding achievement for Stella, who also received a nomination for the performance.



Genevieve Cummins

GOLD DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARDS

The Gold Award is the most demanding of all levels of the Duke of Edinburgh Awards Scheme and is made up of five components: Service, Physical, Skill, Adventurous Journey and Residential Project. It is a mark of great dedication that Year 12 students can balance the requirements of the Gold Award with their studies. In 2023, 11 students achieved this impressive award.

Abby Alleyn

Charlotte Cameron

Sarah Fisher

Laura Grehan

Rachel Lao

Asha Macleod

Tidarat McLachlan

Julia Murphy

Alexandra Reid-Queeney

Aaliyah Steel

Amelia Wheatley

ARTEXPRESS

For exemplary work in HSC Visual Arts

PLC Sydney wishes to congratulate all five students who were nominated for ARTEXPRESS.

From 8660 students who submitted Bodies of Works for the 2023 HSC Visual Arts Examination, only a small percentage of students were nominated for ARTEXPRESS. PLC Sydney is very proud of their achievement.



1. Darcy Gralton
Selected for ARTEXPRESS for Painting
'Breathing Room' - Virtual Exhibition VX in 2023
As Sydney is in the midst of a housing crisis, confining many people to living in smaller, more compact space, Darcy says her Body of Work aims to explore *'this shrinking domestic domain: stepping inside and outside of these tiny spaces to witness the unseen lives of the individual, in a collective experience of confinement.'*



2. Frances Berryman
Nominated for ARTEXPRESS for Painting
'Depersonal'

3. Emylene Kuoch
Nominated for ARTEXPRESS for Painting
'Rations to dishes: a timeline of finding home'

4. Mary Lloyd
Nominated for ARTEXPRESS for Photomedia
'Midnight Rhythms'

5. Amelia Rand
Nominated for ARTEXPRESS for Painting
'Impressions of her'



These images are a selection of the girls' Body of Work

NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

PLC Sydney congratulates our seven Year 12 students who represented Australia in their respective curricular, co-curricular and sporting areas.



Phoebe Adam
SCIENCE

In 2021 Phoebe's Year 10 Student Research Project investigated whether BPA (a toxic chemical) is present in Australian supermarket receipts and its transfer from receipts to skin using pig skin as a model. Phoebe was awarded first place in the Years 9 to 10 Chemistry Category of the NSW Science Teachers Association Young Scientist Awards and in the Australian team to present and defend her research at the virtual Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair in May 2022 in the USA.



Yoo Jin (Eujiny) Cho
PUBLIC SPEAKING

This is Eujiny's second Australian Representative Blazer Award for Public Speaking. At the Australian Individual Debating and Public Speaking Competition (AIDPSC) in 2023, she qualified for the Australian team in 3rd place overall and a 3rd place in the Reading event. Eujiny then successfully participated in the World Individual Debating and Public Speaking Competition held in Durban, South Africa.



Antonella Khodr-Chah
PERFORMING ARTS, SINGING

In July 2022, Antonella was selected to represent Australia at the World Championship of the Performing Arts in Anaheim, Los Angeles. Antonella competed in five vocal categories – Broadway, Contemporary, Open, Pop and R&B/Soul/Jazz, against approximately 300 vocalists. She was awarded WCOPA's Senior Vocalist of the World for 2022. She also won Gold in the Vocal categories of Contemporary, Pop, R&B/Soul/Jazz, and was division winner in the aforementioned categories and Broadway.



Rachel Lao
PUBLIC SPEAKING

As part of PLC Sydney's debating and public speaking team, Rachel gained an overall rank of 8th at the Australian Individual Debating and Public Speaking Competition (AIDPSC), then attended the World Individual Debating and Public Speaking Championships (WIDPSC) hosted online by Canada. Rachel reached the finals in After Dinner Speaking, placing 10th, with her overall world position 64th from 115 competitors.



Billie Ronis
PUBLIC SPEAKING

At the Australian Individual Debating and Public Speaking Competition (AIDPSC) in 2022, Billie achieved 2nd in Impromptu Speaking and a rank of 8th overall in Australia. She then travelled to the WIDPSC in Durban, South Africa, where she was unofficially ranked 5th place overall in the 'Readings' World Final event.



Olivia Stavrakis
PUBLIC SPEAKING

This is Olivia's second Australian representative Blazer award for Public Speaking. At the World Individual Debating and Public Speaking Championships (WIDPSC), Olivia placed second overall in the World in two individual events – Interpretive Reading and Persuasive Speaking. From a field of 108 at the World Individual Debating and Public Speaking Championships in Durban, South Africa, Olivia improved her World Ranking from 11th in 2022 to 4th place overall in 2023.



Imogen Stewart
SPORT, ATHLETICS

Imogen has been at the top end of Australian middle distance running within her own age group for many years. At the age of 16, She was one of the youngest selected for the 2021 World Under-20 Australian team. Due to security concerns in Kenya and the Covid-19 pandemic, Athletics Australia made the difficult decision to not send a team. Imogen is a deserving recipient of the International Blazer (received in 2021) and is to be congratulated on her dedication, determination and athletic ability.

REFLECTIONS



PHOEBE ADAM

International Blazer Recipient
- Science
STEM Captain
Bachelor of Laws, Bachelor of Psychology (Honours), UNSW

What contributed to your final year/and or HSC success?

Planning a study routine each afternoon and weekend really helped me overcome my tendency for procrastination. Starting practice tasks early also helped me prepare and discover my weak points when revising. It also is really important to listen to your body when sick/tired and take some much needed rest to avoid burnout!



MADELINE CHANG

Achieved ATAR over 99
All-rounders List
School Vice-Captain

Bachelor of Engineering (Honours), Bachelor of Computer Science, UNSW

If you could offer advice or a tip to someone about to do their final year, what would it be?

Do what you have a passion for, what gives you joy, what you find challenging, what pushes you. Our school provides us with many opportunities, and you never know what you may grow to love or surprisingly have a talent in, so my advice would be to take up as many of the opportunities that you can while in school. Try something new, explore your passions further as high school is a once in a lifetime experience that you will never have again. Treasure your friendships and invest time into them, because these friends will support you and get you through the ups and downs of Year 12 and is what lasts after you finish school.



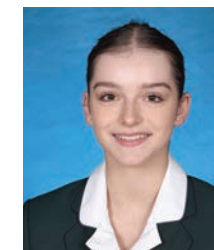
YOO JIN (EUJINY) CHO

Achieved ATAR over 99
All-rounders List
International Blazer Recipient
(Public Speaking)
Senior Prefect

Bachelor of Science & Bachelor of Advanced Studies, University of Sydney

If you could offer advice or a tip to someone about to do their final year, what would it be?

As hard as it seems, try to enjoy it! It's so easy to become caught up by the stresses of the HSC and the ATAR, but it's equally important to cherish the friends and connections that you've made in your last year of school as well - after all, long after you've graduated, you're unlikely to remember the marks that you received and far more likely to remember the positive memories!



EMILY CHRONIS

School Community Prefect
TIP Program

Bachelor of Laws & Bachelor of International Security Studies, ANU

How important was it for you to balance your academic

focus with other activities? eg co-curricular activities

Throughout my entire high school, it was vital for me to learn to balance my co-curricular sporting commitments with my school work due to my participation in Artistic Gymnastics at a high level. From Years 8-12, I was in the TIP (Talented Individual Program) which provided free periods and resources for time management for those who do a lot of co-curricular. This was very helpful and enabled me to further improve my time management, prioritising and perseverance skills.

“I am so grateful to my amazing teachers who were so supportive and encouraging, always willing to answer any of my questions and give of their time.”

Grace Herron



TAIA CREARY

Boarders' Captain
Bachelor of Business, UTS

How important was it for you to balance your academic focus with other activities? eg co-curricular activities

Extremely important. It helped me maintain the balance between school work and social life (offering a much needed break from academic work). The social opportunities within these activities allowed me to deepen my relationships with my peers.



GENEVIEVE CUMMINS

Selected to exhibit at the TexStyle Exhibition
Bachelor of Business, UTS

If you could offer advice or a tip to someone about to do their final year, what would it be?

Set clear goals, stay organised (make a monthly planner and write down your expectation of your work to be done by a specific date), and seek support from a teacher, parent or sibling if necessary.

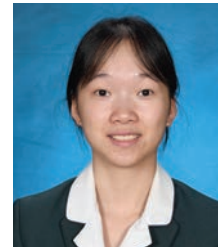


CHRISTINA CUSUMANO

Selected for inclusion in OnStage for Group Performance
Drama Captain
Bachelor of Primary Education, Notre Dame University

What is your fondest memory of your time at PLC Sydney?

I have a lot of good memories but one experience that sticks out to me is before the final night of a play or musical when all of the cast are standing in a focus circle, peppering each other up, shedding a few tears and giving a lot of hugs. On the last night of *Strictly Ballroom* especially, when we were all hugging and crying together. Although it may seem like a very sad situation, I will always appreciate the bonds and friendships I've been able to make with a lot of different girls in other year groups. I have made some of my best friends through the PLC Sydney shows and I will cherish those memories forever.



AMY FENG

Achieved three A Levels A* A* A in her Cambridge A Level Exams (equivalent to an ATAR of 99.2+)
Publications Co-Captain
Currently studying at Oxford University in the UK

What contributed to your final year and/or your success?

I choose Cambridge as a pathway because I thought it was better suited to applying for universities overseas than either the HSC or IB. Being international, many UK universities more readily acknowledge it than the HSC. The Cambridge exams schedule also fit better with the academic schedule of UK universities eg with A Levels you finish in June, meaning that if you are accepted you can enter university in October of that same year. With the HSC you have to wait until the following year, after you receive your results.



DARCY GRALTON

Selected in ARTEXPRESS
Bachelor of Biomedical Science, Bond University

How important was it for you to balance your academic focus with other activities? eg co-curricular activities?

I found that playing sport gave me time away from school and an opportunity to clear my head. I tried to get involved in as many activities as possible. I love art and sport, and played in as many teams as I could eg Football, Hockey (I was in the PLC Sydney Hockey Firsts), Softball, Touch Football, and Water Polo (where I also played in the Water Polo Firsts). During my time at PLC Sydney I also was involved in the College Choir, Art Masterclasses, Chinese Club, The Green Team/SEED and was on the Vietnam Support Committee in Year 10.

“Trust yourself, and that your hard work will pay off in the long-term. Even if it feels like you’re not making any progress in the moment, over time every hour you put in will add up.”

Olivia Thompson



ANTONELLA KHODR-CHAH

Selected for inclusion in Encore - Voice
Top Achievers in Course - 4th Music 1
School Community Prefect
International Blazer Recipient

- Performing Arts, where she won 'Senior Vocalist of the World 2022'.

Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws, University of Sydney

What is the most valuable lesson you learned at PLC Sydney?

PLC Sydney taught me how to make the most of every situation; good, bad, or busy. The college offers so many opportunities and I wanted to run at them all, and so naturally, I was someone who was very good at being overwhelmed and had to manage my time as best as I could. I would like to think it has given me a 'glass-half full' attitude i.e to always see the positives, whether little or small, and I think a smile or a "how are you" really goes a long way. Ergo, the most valuable lesson is to be kind to yourself, and others, experience widely, manage and balance your time well, and stay positive.



RACHEL LAO

Public Speaking Captain
International Blazer Recipient
Selected for OnStage Group Performance
Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award
NSW Youth Deputy Premier

and Youth Parliament Member for Parramatta

Bachelor of Law (Honours) & Bachelor of International Security Studies, ANU

What contributed to your final year/and or HSC success?

The amazing teachers were integral in helping me get through this year. I constantly went up to my teachers after class to ask them a plethora of questions and they were so patient and passionate when answering them. I remember having an idea about a tool to use for creative writing and ran to the senior staff room asking for Ms Freeman. Although the meeting wasn't planned and she was thoroughly confused at first, she helped talk through the idea and was very supportive when I was explaining what I had thought of.



AIMEE LONGHURST

Selected for the All School Girls Australian team for Soccer.

Competing in the USA (Texas) in March with a view to obtain a Sports Scholarship in the US.

What is your fondest memory of PLC Sydney?

Football. I've loved football ever since I first started at 5 years old. In Year 9 I took the opportunity to move to PLC Sydney as a boarder so I could pursue my passion of football in hopes to make a career out of it one day. In 2023, I was selected in the Opens IGSA Football team playing at the NSW CIS tournament where I was awarded the Golden Boot award as the leading goal scorer of the competition and earned a place in the NSW CIS team. I was selected in the 18 and Under Football Girls All Australian Team and in March 2024, I will travel with this squad to the USA (Texas) to compete.



AURELIA MCCARTHY

Harper House Vice-Captain
**Bachelor of Business
Bachelor of Laws, UTS**

What is your fondest memory of your time at PLC Sydney?

The fondest memories I made at PLC Sydney was during my time as a member of the Vietnam Immersion Tour. One of the best moments on the trip (apart from meeting the amazing, beautiful people at the disability centre) was definitely karaoke night with the PLC Sydney girls, Ms Hayek, Ms Underwood, Ms Eades and Ms O'Brien. We all sang the song 'You're So Vain' together whilst dancing and laughing and having fun just being together. This moment really made me reflect on my time at PLC Sydney, and I realised how much I am going to miss the beautiful girls I have spent 5 days a week with for the past 6 years.

“I have learnt that you get out what you put in. To make the most of any experience it has been crucial that I put my whole heart into everything I do.”

Sienna Haigh



VAHINI NAIDOO

Achieved ATAR over 99
All-rounders List
Selected for Inclusion in
OnStage Group Performance
Selected for Inclusion in
OnStage Individual Project
School Community Prefect

Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) / Commerce - UNSW

What is the most valuable lesson you learned at PLC Sydney?

The most valuable lesson that I learnt at PLC Sydney was to embrace the hidden talents you have. Going to a school with so many talented people can be daunting, but PLC Sydney's celebration of any and every aspects of each girl's personality is special and unique to this school. I have always been encouraged by my teachers to have self-confidence, stop doubting myself, and celebrate my successes no matter how small they may seem. I believe each student has their own talents and I am so grateful that PLC Sydney encourages us not to look around at what others have, but to look within ourselves.



ZAHRA PATEL

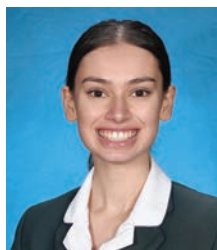
Service Learning Captain
**Bachelor of Pharmacy/
Master of Pharmacy Practise,
University of Sydney.**

What is the most valuable lesson you learned at PLC Sydney?

The most valuable lesson I have learnt from being a student at PLC Sydney is the act of service. I have participated in many service activities within and outside of school. These acts of service have been eye-opening experiences that I will cherish and continue to participate in. PLC Sydney's framework is heavily based on the principle of service and gratitude, which are fundamental values of our students. From the small bake sales, to raising money for year group fundraisers, we had the opportunity to immerse ourselves in service.

“Co-curricular activities made my high school experience so much better and it gave me a bit of a break from school work, but it was also really important for me to set a limit for myself and find a balance between school work and other activities.”

Christina Cusumano



SIMONE PERRY

School Community Prefect
**Bachelor of Law and
Journalism, UTS**

What is your fondest memory of PLC Sydney?

The majority of my fondest memories at PLC Sydney are from social events that my year group was still fortunate to have without the impacts of Covid-19 disrupting them. These social events brought me closer to my cohort and made me feel as though I belonged within the nurturing and supportive PLC Sydney community. I also have great memories from the Wind Ensemble Music Tour to Tasmania in 2022. I made amazing friendships on this tour and I'm really close with many girls who went on the trip.



AMELIA RAND

Nominated for ArtExpress
2023 Art & Design Captain
Diploma of Communication
Service
**Bachelor of Fine Art, National
Art School**

How important was it for you to balance your academic focus with other activities? eg co-curricular activities

Doing lots of co-curricular activities really helped me to gain skills in a wide variety of areas outside the school curriculum, but also helped me to develop many of my friendships. Doing lots of co-curricular activities has kept me busy and pushed me to become more organised and develop my time management skills. Although I love my Art, I also love sport and was Tennis Championships Doubles Finalist (2021), Doubles Winner (2022) and I was a Tennis 'Ball Kid' for Blind and Low Vision Tennis and the ATP Cup (2022).



BRONTE RUNCIMAN

Boarders' Prefect
**Bachelor of Nutrition and
Dietetics, University of
Wollongong.**

What is your fondest memory of your time at PLC Sydney?

I have a passion for music, and PLC Sydney has a great music program. My fondest memories are all the co-curricular activities I participated in, like the musical productions I performed in annually. I did wonderful shows like *Matilda*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and *Strictly Ballroom*. I was also in the College Choir, Chamber Choir, and Vocal Synergy (an acapella group) as well as playing netball in both the school and inner west Netball teams. I loved it all.



OLIVIA STAVRAKIS

School Captain
Top Achievers in Course - 6th
- English Advanced
Achieved ATAR over 99
All-rounders List
Australian Representative
Blazer for Public Speaking

Bachelor of Arts & Bachelor of Laws, University of Sydney

What is your fondest memory of your time at PLC Sydney?

While there are the big things - the House Choirs and the Open Days - it's a culmination of lots of little moments that bring me the fondest memories. If I had to answer, it would have to be laughing with my teammates after giving it our all on the court, or in the debate rooms, sharing in our experiences, and our sisterhood.

“I think half the battle of Year 12 is maintaining a positive attitude that will sustain you through the year. Ms Barnett told me this once; ‘It never hurts to think it will go well. It does, however, hurt to think it will go badly.’ ”

Antonella Khodr-Chah



IMOGEN STEWART

International Blazer Recipient
- Athletics
**Bachelor of Radiology,
University of Newcastle**

If you could offer advice or a tip to someone about to do their final year, what would it be?

My one piece of advice to someone about to embark on their final year, would be to embrace the journey and prioritise self-care.

Your final year can be a challenging and demanding time, filled with academic pressures, extracurricular commitments, and the anticipation of what lies ahead. It's important to remember that while achieving academic success is crucial, taking care of your mental, emotional, and physical well-being is equally important.

Additionally, don't be afraid to ask for help. Reach out to your teachers and peers when you need clarification or support. Seeking guidance is not a sign of weakness; it's a proactive step towards growth and improvement.



OLIVIA THOMPSON

Achieved top ATAR of 99.95
All-rounders List
Top Achievers In Course -
Mathematics Extension 2 - 7th
Debating Captain
**Bachelor of Medicine,
University of Sydney**

If you could offer advice or a tip to someone about to do their final year, what would it be?

Having a strong support network of friends, who you can rely on and in turn you always support them when they need it, is absolutely crucial. I am so grateful to my friends for supporting each other through it.

Prioritising family, friends, mental health, and sleep, is so crucial to maintaining balance and not burning out. Remember that, at the end of the day, the HSC is temporary, and there will be another way to get to where you want to go. It is not worth sacrificing your relationships, your mental health, or your sleep.

I think you have to trust yourself, and that your hard work will pay off in the long-term. Even if it feels like you're not making any progress in the moment, over time every hour you put into this will add up. And keep in mind that everyone reaches their potential at different points in time. Instead of comparing yourself to others, try to look back on how far you have come from where you used to be.



