



TRINITY
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

HSC RESULTS 2020

2 students

Named HSC
All-round Achiever

47 students

Appear on the
Distinguished Achievers list

20 courses

Achieved 50% or greater
results in the top two bands

2020 HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE RESULTS

(IB RESULTS TO FOLLOW IN JANUARY)

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

FROM THE ACADEMIC DEAN



Debbie Williams
Academic Dean

Summer Hill
dwilliams@trinity.nsw.edu.au
+61 2 9581 6057

We are delighted to be celebrating outstanding results with the 2020 HSC cohort. The New South Wales Higher School Certificate is an internationally recognised and rigorous credential that demands sustained commitment and disciplined endeavor. Once again, we are extremely pleased for the 115 students who have achieved this formal qualification in recognition of their diligence throughout their years at Trinity.

We are particularly proud of this year's cohort and the ways in which they have demonstrated the resilience and independence demanded from those completing a secondary school credential in a pandemic. Our aim, always, is to educate boys in mind, body and spirit so that they may come to understand themselves as confident, capable and committed learners; our Year 12 students have demonstrated these qualities in abundance. They are able now to step into futures of their choice. As we survey this year's results there are, once again, many personal goals and achievements that mean a great deal to individual families, as well as contributing to the strong overall School results.

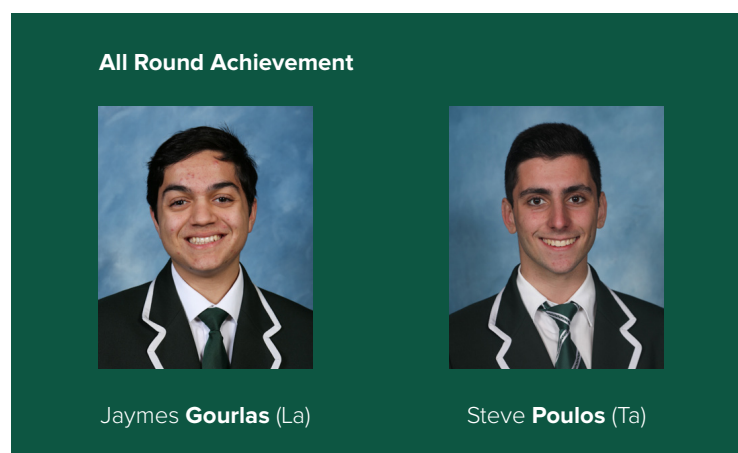
It is important to remember that while we acknowledge our HSC candidature today, the 94 students who undertook the International Baccalaureate Diploma will not receive their results until early January. We look forward to celebrating the outcomes for the entire 2020 cohort, once both the HSC and IB results are released.

Below is a first impression of the HSC results. Further, more in-depth, analysis will follow in the coming weeks.

All Round Achievement

To qualify as an All-round Achiever, a student must achieve a top band result in a minimum of ten units. Congratulations to the following students. This is a thoroughly deserved acknowledgement.

- ▲ Jaymes Gourlas (La)
- ▲ Steve Poulos (Ta)



FIRST IMPRESSIONS cont.

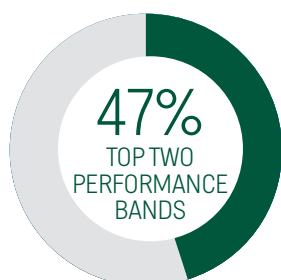
FROM THE ACADEMIC DEAN

Distinguished Achievement

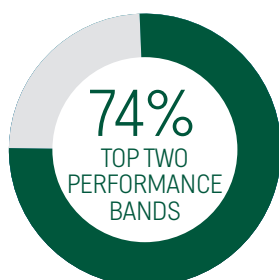
In addition to these outstanding All-round Achievements, there were 99 Band 6 or E4 results achieved by the 2020 examination candidates, resulting in 47 students appearing on the Distinguished Achievers list. This is an impressive reflection of the breadth of high achievement from our HSC students.

Looking at the broader picture, we find the results are also strong. In two unit subjects, 47 percent of results were in the top two performance bands. In Extension subjects, an impressive 74 percent were in the top two bands. These results speak to the sustained commitment of students to master knowledge, understanding and skills of critical thinking and application in their selected courses.

2 UNIT SUBJECTS
73 BAND 6 RESULTS



EXTENSION SUBJECTS
24 TOP BAND RESULTS



Strong Performance

In Extension Mathematics courses, 87 percent of students received results in the top two performance bands and in 2 unit Mathematics courses 47 percent of students achieved in the top two performance bands; 37 students achieved in the absolute top groupings of Band 6 or E4.

More than 96% of Trinity students elected to study their compulsory 2 units of English at the more demanding Advanced level, as we know that doing so can greatly assist their ATAR, and 44 percent of these students achieved in the top two bands. In contrast, across the state, less than half of the total number of candidates took this course. At the Extension English level, Trinity presented 43 candidates across Extension 1 and Extension 2; 73 percent of students achieved in the top two Extension bands in Extension 1 and 50 percent in Extension 2.

In addition to continued excellence in Mathematics and English, acknowledgement must also be made of the following courses achieving 50 percent or more results in the top two bands and well above state distributions:

- ▲ Ancient History (50% top two bands)
- ▲ Biology (53% top two bands)
- ▲ Chemistry (64% top two bands)
- ▲ Construction (70% top two bands)
- ▲ Design and Technology (62% top two bands)

School Based Traineeship



Isaac **Soldatos** (Hi)

HSC Design and Technology – Shape 2020 Nominations



Joel **Passerini** (Hi)



Tristan **Glanznig** (Ta)

FIRST IMPRESSIONS cont.

FROM THE ACADEMIC DEAN

- ▲ Drama (53% top two bands)
- ▲ Engineering Studies (60% top two bands)
- ▲ Geography (50% top two bands)
- ▲ Information Processes and Technology (57% top two bands)
- ▲ Legal Studies (52 % top two bands)
- ▲ Music 1 (83% top two bands)
- ▲ Music 2 (100% top two bands)
- ▲ Music Extension (100% in top 2 bands)
- ▲ Science Extension (100% in top two bands)
- ▲ Physics (55% top two bands)
- ▲ Visual Arts (100% top two bands)

Further commendation is made to the 27 students from the Year 11 cohort, who sat for examinations in one or more subjects (Business Studies and Studies of Religion). These students demonstrated not only the required ability in their chosen disciplines, but also the maturity to step into a HSC learning and assessment programme ahead of their peers. They are congratulated on fine results, emanating from a willingness to embrace significant challenge.

School Based Traineeships

In addition to achieving the HSC credential, one student simultaneously achieved a School Based Traineeship in Construction.

- ▲ Isaac Soldatos (Hi)

HSC Showcases and Exhibitions

In 2020 a number of nominations were received for various showcases and exhibitions. To achieve one of these nominations is a most notable honour and we extend our congratulations to these students.

HSC Design and Technology, Textiles and Design – SHAPE 2020

- ▲ Joel Passerini (Hi)
- ▲ Tristan Glanznig (Ta)

HSC Visual Art – ArtExpress 2020

- ▲ James Park (Yo)
- ▲ Euan Marshall (We)

HSC Music – Encore 2020

- ▲ Jamie Adams (St) - for both Music 2 and Music Extension

The young men who presented for the HSC in November have continued Trinity's fine tradition of supporting excellent academic pathways through this credential. The School congratulates each student and offers them our very best wishes as they make decisions about future pathways and new learning opportunities, beyond Trinity Grammar School. We are immensely confident they will contribute positively and widely to the new worlds into which they step.

Deborah Williams | Academic Dean

HSC Visual Art – ArtExpress 2020 Nomination



James **Park** (Yo)



Euan **Marshall** (We)

HSC Music – Encore 2020 Nomination



Jamie **Adams** (St)



HSC Student Profiles

Jaymes Gourlas

HSC ALL ROUND ACHIEVER



“My teachers were all exceptional,” he said. “They are passionate about their subjects, experienced and always happy to help.”

A love of Maths prompted Trinity's Dux of the HSC, achieving ATAR of 99.85, to switch courses in mid-stream, but his 11th hour transfer from the International Baccalaureate (IB) certainly added up.

Jaymes Gourlas of Caringbah South described the adjustment in Year 11 as “quite a struggle”.

“I needed to catch up on some missed work and wrap my head around the new subjects, of course.

“But my friendships changed quite significantly, and I don't think I really felt settled for another few terms. Once I became closer to the people in my classes and started to get a few good results back, I became more confident and less stressed.

“I had never really considered the HSC a possibility until it was almost too late; in hindsight, I would have been spared a great deal of anxiety if I had thought equally about both credentials and made a considered decision.

“Now, I am careful to be open-minded and pragmatic when I make decisions.”

He said that after a term and a half in the IB, he realised the style of learning and the subjects he had selected were not suitable for him.

“I felt somewhat restricted by the subject groups, and desperately wanted to do more Maths.”

Maths was always his favourite class because he enjoyed the challenge, the difficulty and the problem-solving element.

“My teachers were all exceptional,” he said. “They are passionate about their subjects, experienced and always happy to help.”

He felt privileged to attend Trinity, starting in Year 3.

“I have no doubt that the opportunities I have enjoyed at this school played an important role in my achievements and success, especially in Years 11 and 12.

“One of the aspects of my school life that I will remember most fondly, though, will be the mischief and the laughs that took place in my classes. Everyone had a great time, even our teachers.”

He said he had never considered being HSC Dux was a possibility until the end of Year 11.

“I was doubtful right until the end of my trial exams. It was a great relief to see my hard work pay off.”

He enjoyed school camps and co-curricular activities, including debating, Cadets, Science club and IT club.

He studied English Advanced, Extension 1 and 2 Maths, Business Studies, Legal Studies and Physics, and said completing four units early – he sat the Extension 1 and 2 HSC exams in Year 11 - made his workload “very manageable”.

He hopes to study Law and Science, majoring in Maths, at Sydney University.

His parents operate a café in Gymea and a pizza restaurant in Cronulla, and he hopes to spend some time over summer working with his father in his legal practice.

“My parents taught me the value of a good work ethic and provided a supportive, positive environment. They have inspired me to chart my own course.

“I acquired most of my study techniques from home, which I then refined over time.”

Steve Poulos

HSC ALL ROUND ACHIEVER



"The teachers always go above and beyond what students expect and are always committed to helping students achieve their full potential."

The sacrifice of his parents was all the motivation Steve Poulos needed to try his hardest at school; his Greek ancestry also provided his relaxation - playing the bouzouki.

The Connells Point student said his biggest incentive to do well came from his parents, who sent him to Trinity in Year 5 to give him the "best possible opportunities and resources".

"My parents inspire me every day," he said.

His mum, a teacher, and his dad, a scientist, were "extremely hardworking, caring and committed to supporting both my sisters and I in anything we set out to achieve".

"I admire and look up to them as role models and I aspire to show the same qualities as I continue to grow."

During stressful times in his study he said playing the bouzouki helped him to relax and remain positive.

The talented soccer player also looked forward to watching English Premier League matches on TV, saying: "Training once a week for soccer, Saturday games and also bouzouki lessons were outlets for me to relieve my stress from the academic workload."

His stand-out memory of high school was taking part in Trinity's football tour to the UK in 2018, when he was able to watch Manchester United play at Old Trafford.

"I will never forget it," he said. "I was able to share some of the best football experiences with my closest mates."

He also enjoyed debating, chess and music ensembles.

He said the "well-rounded" education Trinity students received was something they would carry through the rest of their lives.

"The teachers always go above and beyond what students expect and are always committed to helping students achieve their full potential, whether it be through extra lessons, emails or endless resources. This culture is what makes Trinity a fantastic school.

"The teachers motivated us not only to develop our skills but to also become better people. They were always open to having conversations with us about anything."

He studied Mathematics Advanced, Mathematics Extension 1, English Advanced, Business Studies, Legal Studies, Economics and Music 1, and hopes to study commerce at university.

One of his biggest challenges was recovering from a serious knee injury in 2019 which required an operation and 16 months of rehabilitation before he could play again.

Any HSC celebrations are likely to be enjoyed with his family, and to involve the spit-roasted Greek pork dish known as kontosouvli.

Jonathan Titmarsh



“Teachers in conjunction with loving and caring parents allowed me to handle the stress of both athletics and trying to excel in school.”

Top-ranked Australian high jumper Jonathan Titmarsh is a student who kept raising the bar and rising to the challenge, although he’s the first to admit he started low.

In Year 7 he disliked school, took sick days to avoid going and never did assignments.

Yet he envied students who excelled, and by Year 12 he was one of them, moving into the top five of Trinity’s HSC cohort.

The number one ranked under 20 high jumper in Australia also found a balance between studies and high-level sport, and found they could complement each other.

He said he owed his transformation to “engaging” teachers and “people around me who sought a well-rounded education not simply pursuing just academics”.

His teachers took an interest in the lives of students, “not just providing me with an education on the course content, but an education on the wider world”.

Under Trinity’s track and field program, run by former Olympic triple jumper Andrew Murphy and Trinity PDHPE teacher Liz Murphy, he said he was taught “not just how to grow as an athlete but how to grow into a well-rounded man”.

“The focus was not solely athletic ability, despite popular belief. Through training day in and day out I was taught about friendships, co-operation and discipline.

“Teachers in conjunction with loving and caring parents allowed me to handle the stress of both athletics and trying to excel in school.”

Jonathan placed first at the World Schools Athletics Championships in Croatia in 2019, and hopes to compete next year, COVID willing, at the World U20 titles.

His career aspiration is to compete around the world in athletics, then become an English teacher or academic.

He studied Geography, Legal Studies, English Advanced, Mathematics Standard 2, Modern History and History Extension. Working full-time in a warehouse has not forced him to cut back on his athletics training. His summer plans include emailing his teachers “to remind them they did a great job”.

Luke Nichol



"I honestly believe without Trinity I would have achieved far less. It allowed me to find and work towards my potential by opening my eyes to opportunities and abilities I never thought I had growing up."

Rising at 3.45am every day might not work for everyone but it worked for Luke Nicol, a Canterbury bus driver's son whose love of mathematics lifted him from the lower classes in Year 7 to top of the school in HSC.

He nominated his greatest achievements as being named Trinity's basketball captain and receiving the School's extension 1 and 2 maths prizes in Year 12.

"All of that seemed impossible when I walked in the gates on my first day of Year 7," he said.

Getting an early start to the day allowed him to work out and complete two and a half hours of study before school.

"This also removed pressure when coming home from school as I had already done a substantial amount of work in the morning and during free periods," he said.

"This meant I didn't have much work on some afternoons but especially leading up to trials it helped dramatically in improving the amount of work I could complete in a single day."

He said he loved being pushed "in all aspects of life" at Trinity, whether in the classroom, on tours, at sporting tournaments or learning skills on field studies.

"Being challenged in many different ways strengthened me and gave me great experiences."

He grew to love maths so much that it became a hobby rather than a subject. Trinity's Head of Mathematics Edward Habkoux said Luke "saw the light" in Years 11 and 12.

"He had passion, commitment and perseverance, which one would think are non-mathematical qualities but they actually are. I also think he wanted to prove to himself he could do it."

Luke described Trinity as a great institution.

"I honestly believe without Trinity I would have achieved far less. It allowed me to find and work towards my potential by opening my eyes to opportunities and abilities I never thought I had growing up."

"The academic staff go above and beyond for all students. I sent many essays to teachers at all times of the day, and they always managed to respond promptly with extensive feedback. Every teacher was always available."

He said his proudest moments came from mentoring younger students about "how I came from the bottom in almost every measure throughout my childhood".

"I told them how I was able to turn that around and how they can do the same."

He studied Mathematics Extension 1 and 2, Physics, Economics and Advanced English.

Unlike his twin brother, who studied for the IB at Trinity, he chose HSC because it allowed him to tailor subjects specifically to his liking.

His biggest challenge was not achieving the results he expected.

"The way I found to overcome that was just working even harder. If I felt I underperformed or didn't do as well as I thought I was going to do, I used that as motivation for future tests."

Luke hopes to study computer science and Mathematics at university.

On his summer break he plans to work as a labourer.

Thomas Thorpe



“The teachers have demonstrated a meticulous academic passion for their work, which is reflected in my joy for the subjects.”

Thomas Thorpe of Haberfield had never won an academic award, never achieved an A+ in any subject and rarely finished in the top 10 per cent in any subject – until Year 11.

But after dedicating himself to class work, he received seven academic awards in his final two years of high school and ended up ranking in Trinity’s top four HSC students in five subjects.

“I knew I was capable of doing better,” he said.

He spent all of his school years at Trinity after joining in kindergarten, and said the School was filled with opportunities and great staff.

“Students are made to engage in both theoretical, as well as practical, lessons through the wide variety of subjects offered, mandatory sporting and cocurricular commitments, and house-based activities,” he said.

“The teachers have demonstrated a meticulous academic passion for their work, which is reflected in my joy for the subjects.”

His co-curricular activities included orchestra, Mathematics Club and Economics Q and A but his favourite was Cadets.

“It combines theoretical and practical lessons to produce an enjoyable experience which is educational, fun and adaptable to real life, underpinned by respect, teamwork, courage and initiative,” he said.

“They have shaped me as a person and have guided my academic and sporting endeavours.”

He played in the School’s first eleven cricket team and his stand-out memory was a school cricket tour of the UK and Holland in 2018.

His biggest challenge was to stop procrastinating and get into a set routine of studying.

His parents are both lawyers – one a solicitor and one a university lecturer - but he wants to study civil engineering.

He studied English Advanced, Mathematics Extension 1 and 2, Economics, Engineering and Physics.

He chose the HSC because he was not inclined to learn a language and engineering was not offered in the IB.

Apart from university studies, next year he hopes to tutor in maths and start a YouTube channel for posting HSC tutorials.

He said he was inspired by his hard-working family and by public figures who were “willing to express their true opinions and do what is right regardless of the repercussions”.



Trinity Grammar School

119 Prospect Rd Summer Hill NSW 2130
www.trinity.nsw.edu.au

Cricos Provider No: 02308G

About Trinity Grammar School

Trinity Grammar School is an independent Anglican school for boys from Pre-Kindergarten to Year 12. Despite being a non-selective school, Trinity has an outstanding academic record, consistently achieving results among the best in the world.

Our mission at Trinity is to help boys discover their innate talents and unlock their full potential within the context of a supportive Christian environment. For over a century, Trinity has guided boys to grow in mind, body and spirit and to truly flourish and succeed.

For more information, please contact:

MEDIA CONTACT: Philippa Lowe | P 02 9581 6163 | M 0427 446 629