

2015 WACE EXAMINATION RESULTS

In the spirit of John XXIII, Mary Ward and Ignatius Loyola, our College seeks to develop people of competence, conscience and compassion who are committed to God and the service of others.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Fundamental to John XXIII College's Ignatian approach to education is commitment to the concept of *cura personalis* – care of the whole person. The spiritual, intellectual, social and emotional development of each student lies at the core of the College's educational endeavour. The release of the results of the 2015 WACE Examinations provides feedback on one dimension of this undertaking. From the perspective of the College Mission Statement (above), these results provide a window through which we can gain insight into the 'academic competence' of the Class of 2015.

It is with the greatest pleasure – and pride – that I announce to the community that the 2015 John XXIII College results were outstanding. In fact, they are the best results the College has had for the last ten years. I wholeheartedly congratulate the students, their families and the many teachers and other people who have been involved in the students' education, encompassing much more than the formal academic curriculum of the last two years.

As a College community we congratulate all students in the Class of 2015. They were a wonderful group and their excellent results are well deserved. Without taking away from the achievement of individual students, the information provided below is a snapshot of the results of the highest achieving students in the group.

As I said to the students on their last day, they have been indelibly marked as the John XXIII College Class of 2015. It is something that they will take with them for the rest of their lives. They will always be a part of us! My prayer is that they will now go forth and use the many skills they have acquired to live a life in service of others and committed to the ideals of the College's Mission Statement.

Kathleen Negus
Principal 2015

IN A SNAPSHOT

- The class of 2015 had 100% achievement of WACE.
- 89% of the graduating students were studying an ATAR pathway.
- The Median ATAR was 90.3.
- 75 students achieved an ATAR in the 90s.
- 90% of the ATAR students had an ATAR above 70.

JOINT DUX OF THE COLLEGE

Elysia Korn

AWARDED A GENERAL EXHIBITION*

ATAR 99.7**



Accounting and Finance	List B	91.5
Economics	List A	95.8
Literature	List A	91.5
Mathematics	List B	83.3
Religion and Life	List A	92.2

George Matthys

ATAR 99.8**



Chemistry	List B	85.4
Mathematics	List B	99.5
Mathematics: Specialist	List B	97.1
Physics	List B	94.6

* General Exhibitions are awarded to the top forty students in the State and are based on five scores, with at least two from each of List A and List B.

** The ATAR is based on the student's four highest scores.

COURSE EXHIBITION



AWARDED TO THE STUDENT WITH THE HIGHEST SCORE IN THE COURSE IN THE STATE

William Nichols

MUSIC

EXCELLENCE IN CO-EDUCATION

STUDENTS WHO SCORED AN ATAR OVER 99



George Matthys
99.8



Lisa Baxter
99.75



Sandra Iacopetta
99.75



Joseph Beech
99.7



Elysia Korn
99.7



David Rankin
99.6



Stephanie Smalberger
99.55



Rachel Lam
99.45



Samuel Raschiatore
99.4



Dane Lynch
99.35



Lucas Tobar
99.25



Saahir Lalani
99.2



Emma Thwaites
99.15



Owen Burke
99

STUDENTS WHO SCORED AN ATAR OVER 98



Charlie Hosken
98.9



Kate Moriarty
98.8



Mateo Relota
98.75



Rebecca Liddle
98.7



William Nichols
98.65



Timothy Gummer
98.6



Aaron Norrish
98.55



Georgina Macri
98.5



Emily Low
98.35



Mona Foroughi
98.25



Keaton Ebeling
98.1

- Three students achieved a standardised (written) examination mark of 100, the equal top examination mark in the State.
- Nine students achieved a standardised (practical) examination mark of 100, the equal top (practical) examination mark in the State.
- 70% of students studying Mathematics 3CD achieved a final scaled score over 75 in the course.

STUDENTS WHO WERE AWARDED CERTIFICATES OF DISTINCTION

THERE WERE FORTY-ONE TIMES WHEN A JOHN XXIII COLLEGE STUDENT ACHIEVED A RESULT OVER 90 IN A COURSE. THE STUDENTS LISTED BELOW WERE AWARDED CERTIFICATES OF DISTINCTION BECAUSE THEIR RESULTS WERE IN THE TOP 0.5% OF THE STATE (STAGE 3 COHORT).

Elysia Korn	91.5 in Accounting and Finance
Elysia Korn	95.8 in Economics
Sandra Iacopetta	90.3 in English
Philippa Corry-Thomas	91.1 in Human Biological Science
George Matthys	99.5 in Mathematics
Joseph Beech	98.9 in Mathematics
William Nichols	96.7 in Music
Lisa Baxter	92.7 in Religion and Life
Sandra Iacopetta	90.8 in Religion and Life
Elysia Korn	92.2 in Religion and Life
Rebecca Liddle	90.6 in Religion and Life

STUDENTS WHO WERE AWARDED CERTIFICATES OF COMMENDATION

AWARDED TO STUDENTS WHO ACHIEVED TWENTY A GRADES ACROSS YEARS 11 AND 12

Lisa Baxter	Dane Lynch
Joseph Beech	Aaron Norrish
Owen Burke	Arabelle O'Rourke
Elysia Korn	Samuel Raschiatore
Rachel Lam	Stephanie Smalberger
Rebecca Liddle	Emma Thwaites
Emily Low	

- 48% of students studying Physics achieved a final scaled score over 75 in the course.
- Four of the eight students studying French achieved a final scaled score over 90 in the course.
- 45% of students studying Literature achieved a final scaled score over 75 in the course.
- 46% of students studying Politics and Law achieved a final scaled score over 75 in the course.
- 48% of students studying Visual Arts achieved a final scaled score over 75 in the course.

PUBLICATION OF 'LEAGUE TABLES'

Much has been said about the use of League Tables and it is well understood that they provide limited information about the overall effectiveness of a school. However, people do read them and draw various conclusions. When doing so, it is worth noting the following points:

1. Over the last couple of years, The West Australian has used the median ATAR to create a ranking of schools. This measure is of value; but it has all the disadvantages of using a simplistic measure, like the median, to summarise a set of data.
2. The second measure that has been used is the percentage of WACE course scores over 75. This measure was first introduced in 2010. It is not the same measure that was used prior to that: the percentage of scaled scores over 75.

THE WACE COURSE SCORE IS NOT USED IN THE CALCULATION OF THE ATAR.

This measure expresses the number of Stage 3 WACE course scores of 75 or higher as a percentage of the number Stage 3 units completed. This measure can be maximised by either increasing the numerator or decreasing the denominator.

- Small schools with a few strong students can rank surprisingly highly on this list. This is because the strong students can make quite an impact when the denominator is small. John XXIII College is a large school and it has a high ATAR population (89% of graduating students). The denominator for the College will always be large.
- Schools with scholarship students can generally be assured of 4 or 5 WACE course scores over 75 for each of the scholarship students. This is a great help in boosting the numerator for these schools. While John XXIII College has many strong students, it cannot be assured of a base group of WACE course scores over 75 each year.
- The WACE course score is not the same as the scaled score (which is used for the ATAR). In 2015, for example, the College had 45% of Literature students with a scaled score over 75, while only 26.5% of students had a WACE course score over 75. In Mathematics: Specialist the College had 62% of students with scaled score over 75 but only 38.5% of students with a WACE course score over 75. This pattern would be present in other schools. However, there are also less academically challenging courses where the reverse is true: there is a higher percentage of WACE course scores over 75 and a lower percentage of scaled scores over 75. John XXIII does not offer any of these courses where the high WACE course scores can be obtained more easily.

For the reasons above, John XXIII College has traditionally not been well represented by this measure.

The WACE course score will not be calculated from 2016. It will be interesting to follow what measure will replace this one in the development of League Tables.