



*Pymble Ladies' College*



CONGRATULATIONS  
TO OUR CLASS OF 2019



# Congratulations to our Class of 2019



*It is a pleasure to see these young women spread their wings and grace the world with their talents.*

At Pymble Ladies' College, our girls receive a world-class, personalised education in a single-sex setting, allowing them to realise their potential and reach for the stars. As educators we pride ourselves on promoting global citizenship and sharing the importance of a worldwide educational perspective with each student. Through our well-rounded holistic educational experience – academic, co-curricular, wellbeing and service, we prepare *Pymble* girls to enter tertiary study and the workforce.

It is no surprise therefore, that our Year 12 2019 graduates have achieved exceptional leaving results and have big plans post-*Pymble*. Our girls are ready to take on the world. Research from the Alliance of Girls' Schools Australasia (AGSA) shows that an all girls' education results in a 'positive' effect on tertiary entrance scores and this year's cohort have certainly proved this is true. AGSA indicates that in a single-sex setting, girls are more aspirational, their voices are heard more readily, and they are more motivated. We know they are more likely to consider a wide variety of career choices and 'lean in' to competition.

We have seen an explosion of girls studying Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), with a participation rate of 184 recorded in Science and 240 in Mathematics. It is an exciting time for young women to learn these skills, as an estimated 75 per cent of the fastest growing occupations, including the creative industries and humanities, will require STEM-related skills and knowledge.

*Pymble* girls not only achieve great academic results, but I'm also particularly proud of our Year 12 girls' participation in community service and their co-curricular contributions to the College. In every way, our girls embodied the core values of Care, Courage, Integrity, Respect and Responsibility and I am confident they will always carry these with them.

It is a pleasure to see these young women spread their wings and grace the world with their talents, despite our sadness to wave them goodbye.

Please enjoy this publication; a true testament to our graduates' efforts throughout the year. Congratulations to our outstanding class of 2019.

**Dr Kate Hadwen**  
PRINCIPAL



## Double Dux to High Achievers

*Year 12 students Isabella Natale and Jaime Bell were jointly named Pymble's 2019 Dux of the School, these outstanding students were thrilled to share the award.*

*Pymble's SRC Vice President Jaime (pictured right) won the Ancient History, Drama, English Advanced, English Extension 1 and Legal Studies prizes at Speech Night, plus a Distinction Award. The group drama project Jaime was in, and her individual theatre criticism portfolio, were both selected for this year's HSC Drama OnSTAGE Showcase. "My final year at Pymble was quite intense, and I'm happy to be taking a break, but at the same time sad to say goodbye to my second home," she said. Her tip for future Year 12 students: "You get back what you put into it. Plan ahead and start your assessments as soon as possible so you don't get overwhelmed." Next year, Jaime is taking a gap year to work at a school in Oxford, UK, taking breaks to travel in Europe. She hopes to study Arts and Law at the University of Sydney from 2021 and dreams of becoming a criminal law barrister.*

*Isabella (pictured left) was awarded the Chemistry and English Advanced Prizes and a Distinction Award and was recognised for her role as Co-captain of Community Service. "I'm really grateful to all my teachers and peers who helped me along the way," she says. "It was lovely to share the award with Jaime, we did such different subjects, so it was great to see that Dux can recognise both equally." Her tip for next year's students: "Find ways to balance your academic studies, I went running to de-stress and I found*

*voluntary work was also a good time-out. Sleep is really important, so you can retain the knowledge you've learned and have your brain in peak condition the next day. Finally, ask lots of questions, teachers can help so much." Next year, Isabella is planning to study Medicine.*





# ATAR HSC performance

Pymble Ladies' College performed exceptionally across Best in Subject, Top Achievers in Course list and All-round Achievers with 35 students being named across the three categories.

## Best in Subject

The following students achieved first place in a course:

**Angela Santoso**

Indonesian in Context (studied at the NSW School of Languages)

**Ashley Jacobsson**

Japanese in Context (studied at the Saturday School of Community Languages Chatswood HS Centre)

In addition, 11 students earned a place in the Top Achievers in Course list across a variety of courses:

**Jaime Bell**

10th in Ancient History

**Sophia Carmody**

2nd in Investigating Science

**Shimeng (Corinna) Chen**

(Year 11 accelerant)

5th in Music Extension

**Ariana Frater**

9th in Food Technology

**Sally Guthrie**

7th in PDHPE

**Ayra Kassam**

15th in Modern History

**Ayra Kassam**

7th in History Extension

**Yejin (Jennifer) Lee**

5th in Japanese Continuers

**Sophie Mok**

4th in Latin Continuers

**Isabella Natale**

5th in Classical Greek Continuers

**Isabella Natale**

4th in Classical Greek Extension

**Saskia Newman**

20th in PDHPE

**Janani Viswanathan**

3rd in Food Technology

## All-round Achievers

28 Pymble students were named in the NESA All-round Achievers list. This list acknowledges the results of students who achieved Band 6 results (90 or better) in 2 unit courses or a Band E4 result (45 or better) in an Extension course in 10 or more units:

**Grace Abadee**

**Medani Athauda**

**Jaime Bell**

**Anhiti Bonu**

**Tin Wing (Tiffany) Chan**

**Jiaxi (Jessie) Chen**

**Alexandria Cung**

**Charlotte Dunning**

**Nini Fan**

**Ariana Frater**

**Katherine Green**

**Sally Guthrie**

**Grace Hu**

**Ayra Kassam**

**Eugenie Kim**

**Melissa Li**

**Jessie Lum**

**Sophie Mok**

**Isabella Natale**

**Saskia Newman**

**Georgina Sargent**

**Chloe Shang**

**Michelle Turner**

**Georgia Winter**

**Sophie Wruck**

**Lydia Yang**

**Carina Ye**

**Selena You**



## Stars in her eyes: Jessie Lum, Robotics Captain and Science Olympian

From competing with her team in the 2017 FIRST Robotics World Championship in Houston, Texas, to helping design and manage the Robotics as part of the College Musical, to guiding and mentoring other students, the leadership of Pymble's Robotics Captain Jessie Lum has been exceptional. She graduates from the College as an international Physics champion; Jessie's prowess in Physics saw her compete in the Australian Science Olympiads, then the Asian Physics Olympiad in Adelaide, when she was one of just two female Australians competing. Jessie, who received an ATAR of 99.70, was selected as one of the top five students nationally to represent Australia in the International Physics Olympiad in Tel Aviv, Israel. On top of all this, Jessie is an accomplished musician, playing the bass guitar in three school ensembles and in other musical performances. Her dream is to develop technology and materials that can solve some of the problems facing our world and making a real impact in everyday life.



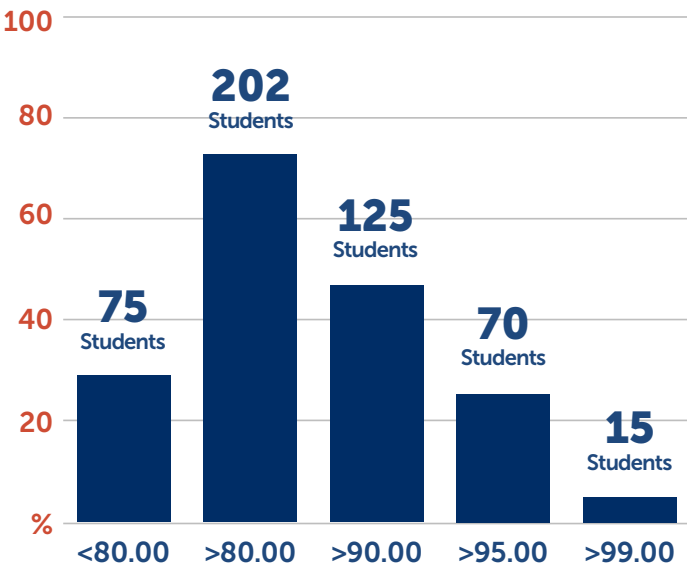
## DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVERS LIST

The NESA Distinguished Achievers list acknowledges students who earn a Band 6 result (90 or better) in a 2 unit course or a Band E4 result (45 or better) in an Extension course in one or more subjects.

In 2019, Pymble students earned 518 mentions, achieved by 184 individual students.

Congratulations to our highest ATAR recipient, Sophie Mok. ~ 99.90 ~

## ATARS AT A GLANCE



The Universities Admissions Centre (UAC) does not provide the College with ATAR results. The Director of Studies generates an estimate based on HSC results and compares these estimates with the ATAR results provided by those students who agree to provide the information. There is a high degree of correlation between the data sets. It was difficult to estimate ATARs in 2019 because a number of new syllabuses and courses were examined for the first time.

- 1 Grace Hu, Medani Athauda, Grace Abadee
- 2 Georgina Sargent, Chloe Shang and Katherine Green
- 3 Ayra Kassam, Sophie Mok and Sally Guthrie
- 4 Jessie Lum
- 5 Jessie Lum (second from right)



# Congratulations Year 12 2019

To celebrate our girls' results, we hosted a special HSC Morning Tea on 18 December. Hands up if you're feeling relieved?





## Doctors in the making



***Our girls have white coats in their futures as we have seen a gravitation towards studies in the medical fields amongst our high achievers.***

Attributing "hard work" and "good teachers" for their outstanding ATAR results, Ayra Kassam (pictured top), Xhana Tishler (pictured middle) and Alexandria Bao-Ngoc Cung (pictured bottom) share how their studies at *Pymble* shaped their decision to move into the medical world.



"Medicine for me is that perfect culmination of the humanities and the sciences," says Ayra, who received an ATAR of 99.55 and plans to study Medicine. "As an avid History enthusiast at school, as well as fostering a passion for Chemistry during my senior years, I am drawn towards a field which I believe will enable me to explore both interests. In Year 12, I found a genuine love for Chemistry, a subject I initially took up to satisfy medical entrance requirements. It soon became one of my favourite subjects, and I couldn't be happier with my decision to pursue it in Year 11."

Having been a *Pymble* girl since Year 3, the College's values have helped shape Alexandria's plans to also study Medicine.

"*Pymble* has taught me humility, kindness and the importance of serving others; it has also instilled in me a passion for life-long learning," says Alexandria, who received an ATAR of 99.45. "In Medicine, I can continue the legacy of being a *Pymble* girl who is dedicated to making the world a better place and is committed to striving for the highest."



Meanwhile, Xhana is making *Pymble* history as the second Indigenous student to have ever been accepted into Medicine.

Reflecting on the momentous achievement, Xhana says, "As an Indigenous Boarder at *Pymble* my interest in the healthcare industry was prompted by my awareness of the gap between the Indigenous and Non-Indigenous access to healthcare services. Through my *Pymble* experience, I have developed great study skills and core principles which have prepared me well for tertiary study."

"I feel proud to be the second Indigenous student from *Pymble* to be accepted into Medicine as I am able to represent my people and contribute to change regarding the healthcare inequalities that are faced by the Indigenous population."

Xhana, who plans to study Medicine at UNSW via the Nura Gili Indigenous Program, has also been offered a place at The Women's College.

*We are all going to be in very safe hands.*



## History hero:

### *Sophie Lee wins History Prize*

Year 12 student Sophie Lee was honoured by the History Teacher's Association of NSW this year, awarded Runner Up for the Extension History Essay Prize for her major project which encompasses around nine months of research into an historiographical issue in an essay of 2,500 words.

Sophie's research investigated the contention between different historians about the origins of the 'Great Divergence' – a period when Western European civilisation grew in power and wealth to dominate the world. The prize is highly competitive and *Pymble*'s History department, particularly Sophie's teacher Mr David McKinlay, are very proud of her work.

"I looked at different interpretations on whether the distinction between East and West began in the 1800s, with the Industrial Revolution, or much earlier," she says, adding that she explored the work of five different historians in her essay.

Sophie says her own history at *Pymble* has been filled with great opportunities. "I'm a long attendee and started at *Pymble* in Kindergarten," she says. As a violinist, Sophie was a member of *Pymble*'s Strings Orchestra and Chamber Orchestra in the Junior school and has continued her violin studies outside school.

Sophie did classical and contemporary Dance at *Pymble* in her early high school years, and later joined the school's debating team. "I was fortunate to be given the opportunity to represent the College at public speaking competitions such as Rostrum, where I was a regional finalist, and the United Nations Youth Voice, where I was State Runner Up and competed at the National level," she recalls.

Sophie is nostalgic about leaving the College. "My time at *Pymble* was a journey filled with a lot of different pathways and opportunities," she says, adding that some of these have become lifelong passions. Sophie hopes to study a double degree in Law and Commerce next year and plans to work in law.



## DIRECTOR OF STUDIES' REPORT

***In 2019, 277 students from Pymble Ladies' College sat for the NSW Higher School Certificate in 46 courses.***



On average, 79 per cent of *Pymble* candidates across all 2 unit courses offered at the College achieved results in Band 5 and 6, compared with 47 per cent of students across the state in the same subjects. In the 1 unit Extension courses, on average, 94 per cent were placed in Band E3 or E4, compared with 87 per cent across the state.

When compared to the state average, results in Bands 5 and 6 (2 unit courses) and Bands E3 and E4 (Extension courses) have remained consistently high, with student achievement above state level in all courses offered at the College. In 2019, the combined Band 5 and 6 results were 30 per cent or more above the state percentages in the following subjects: Agriculture, Ancient History, Biology, Business Studies, Chemistry, Dance, Drama, Economics, English EAL/D, Food Technology, Geography, German Continuers, Investigating Science, Japanese Continuers, Legal Studies, Mathematics Standard 2, Modern History, PDHPE, Physics, Visual Arts and Hospitality.

The new Science Extension course was examined for the first time in 2019. With 11 students, *Pymble* had one of the largest candidatures in the state. These students sat for the first ever online HSC examination. They were also able to access their individual projects throughout the examination, which they needed to help answer some of the questions.

The following HSC courses with revised syllabuses were examined for the first time in 2019: English (Advanced), English (Standard) English EAL/D, English Extension 1, English Extension 2, Mathematics Standard 2, Biology, Chemistry, Earth and Environmental Science, Investigating Science, Physics, Ancient History, Modern History and History Extension. The significant changes to these syllabuses meant that teachers had to develop completely new teaching and learning programs and associated resources. Teachers could not rely on past HSC papers for direction with regard to how these subjects might be examined. *Pymble* teachers worked tirelessly to assist students in navigating the demands of these revised syllabuses and should be very proud of the results the students have achieved, which are well above the state average.

In the period from 2018 to 2019, the following are examples of percentage improvement in Band 5/6 results or Band E3/E4 results: Ancient History 4 per cent, Chemistry 11 per cent, Dance 14 per cent, Earth and Environmental Science 22 per cent, Economics 17 per cent, English EAL/D 17 per cent, Food Technology 2, German Continuers 50 per cent and Mathematics Extension 1 5 per cent.

**Mr Steve Dunk**  
DIRECTOR OF STUDIES



## Indigenous Scholarship program

***We hope the catwalks of Paris, Milan, New York and London are ready for Shakira Tyson!***

A proud Kamilaroi woman, Shakira's connection to culture shone through in her love of Art and Textiles. She was thrilled to receive an Australian Indigenous Education Foundation Scholarship in 2014, starting Year 7 at *Pymble*.

"It was the best thing ever," she said. "It created more opportunities for me and opened a better pathway for my little sisters."

Shakira wowed at the Year 12 Major Textiles Project Exhibition with her contemporary evening gown, constructed from various fabrics and intricate printing and beading, taking colour and pattern inspiration from Indigenous design.

The dress was designed for an Indigenous sportswoman to wear at the AIS National Sports Awards; Shakira herself a prolific athlete, participating in AFL, Touch Football, Rugby Sevens and Diving at *Pymble*.

Despite being a Diving novice, Shakira quickly fell in love with the sport and went on to compete on a National level, receiving a 2019 Strive for the Highest Award at the annual Sportswomen's Dinner.

In her spare time, Shakira kept herself busy, volunteering at Out of School Hours Care and experiencing everything the Boarding program had to offer.

At Speech Night, the Middle School Liaison Prefect and Goodlet Boarding House Prefect received a Citizenship Award.

Next year, Shakira plans to study Fashion Design at the University of Technology Sydney and plans to return to *Pymble* as a Diving coach.



## Focus on service

Grace Jarvis is refreshingly candid about her struggles with anxiety in the lead-up to and final year of schooling, she said it made her a better person and keen to help others.

"Prior to getting into my HSC year, I was heading through anxiety and managing issues with mental health," Grace said, especially regarding friendship group changes, work pressure and timed assessments.

"My biggest achievement was getting to the end of it and not only saying that I conquered the fears and the anxieties that I had leading up to it, but saying that I grew and became a much stronger person because of those and wouldn't be the person I am today without that."

The School Prize and Chinese Prize winner also participated in Army Cadets, Debating, various bands and volunteering opportunities, as well as attaining her black belt in Tae Kwon Do. Her role as Community Service Co-captain and as Companion at Sony Camp was the catalyst to study Nursing.

After months of agonising about whether to choose Nursing or Medicine, she chose Nursing after a friend posed the most important question: did she want to look after the person, or the problem?

"And I saw that in Sony Camp as a Companion. We saw the doctor when we arrived and they took the medicine, but it was the nurses we saw throughout the whole time looking after the kids and that's where I see my future going."

But Grace, who received an ATAR of 96.55, is keeping her options open and wants to make the most of her Modern Languages skills.

"I just want to start with Nursing and we'll see where it goes from there, I want to do some time in other countries – Spain and China, as I've studied Chinese for seven years."

"Maybe [I will] do Nurse Practitioner at some point, which is a new job that's coming up, and if in 20 years I want to be a doctor, I'll retrain and do Medicine."



## Leader aims for the world stage: Onyi Nwamadi, Head Prefect

Onyi Nwamadi is proud to be *Pymble's* first Indigenous Head Prefect, she has been a talented leader. Her well-developed leadership skills will stand her in good stead for future positions, perhaps at the United Nations, where she hopes to work some day. Onyi's mother is from Mer Island in the Torres Strait. Onyi earned an Australian Indigenous Foundation Scholarship (AIEF) to study at *Pymble*. She's been an important member of the Rowing, Basketball and Rugby teams at *Pymble*, and played a starring role in the school's production of *Alice in Wonderland*. She plans to study in the US next year and undertake a career in International Human Rights Law.



***“Prior to getting into my HSC year, I was heading through anxiety and managing issues with mental health. My biggest achievement was getting to the end of it.”***

GRACE JARVIS



## How could you forget?

In 2019, our Drama students set a new record for *Pymble*, with a total of 14 nominations and two selections for OnSTAGE. Next year, Georgia Winter will deliver her Individual Performance, the monologue Bottleneck, and Jaime Bell's Portfolio of Theatre Criticism will be displayed at the Seymour Centre in February. Our Drama OnSTAGE nominees include these group performers: Erin Carley, Annabel Cole, Chloe Colfer, Jemma Charlin and Jade Everett; and Jaime Bell, Georgia Winter, Ariana Frater and Jessica Brown. Individual nominees were Jessica Brown, Tin Wing (Tiffany) Chan and Dharma Surridge.



## HSC Showcases and Exhibitions

Music student Eunice Li has been chosen to perform in ENCORE at the City Recital Hall in March next year. The following Music students are also to be congratulated on their nomination for inclusion in ENCORE: Shimeng (Corinna) Chen, Sophia Mitchell, Anna Su and Fores Qiaoke Zhang. Visual Arts student Catherine Jones has had her work 'Water and Wind' selected for exhibition at the Art Gallery of NSW as part of ARTEXPRESS. Congratulations also to Olivia Chubb and Yejin (Jennifer) Lee on having their Bodies of Work nominated for ARTEXTRESS. Textiles and Design student Antonia Maher has had her major work project (a fully-lined cape with a detachable hood that turns into a bag inspired by Japanese Koi) selected for inclusion in Textstyle and several other *Pymble* projects have been selected for Shape 2019. Textstyle and Shape exhibitions are held at the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences (MAAS), Powerhouse Museum, Sydney. Three Dance students were selected for Callback 2019, the showcase of exemplary performances and compositions by HSC Dance students. Sophie Kavanagh was selected for Callback for her Core Performance, while both Keara Gunzenhauser and Patricia Chan were selected for their Core Composition.

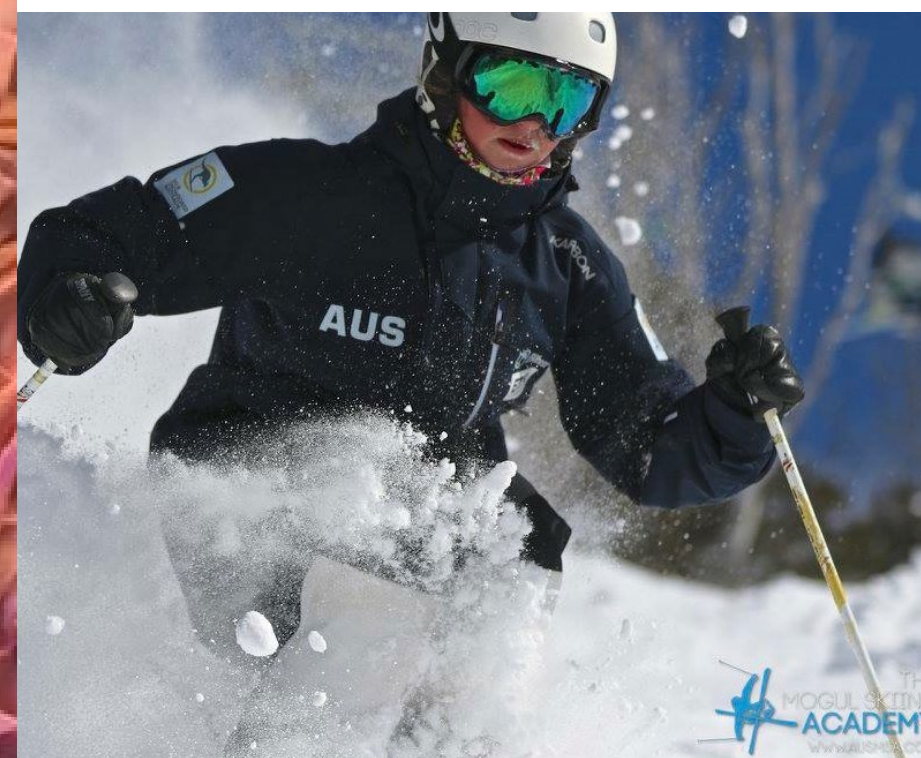


## Sports star on top of the World

*Pymble's* Sports girl of the Year, Maddison Everingham, is an Australian representative in Snow Sports and has represented *Pymble* in the Snow Sport State Championships. At the College Speech Night, she was awarded the Gold Medallion and Gold Colours (awarded to students who have represented Australia) for Snow Sports. Maddison's athletic talents extend beyond the snow, having represented both *Pymble* and IGSSA in Cross Country, and competing in the IGSSA competition for Football. She has been part of the *Pymble* Elite Sportswomen's Program for the past two years, and the *Pymble* Athlete Education Program during 2019. Maddison was granted



scholarships to the NSW Institute of Sport and Australian Winter Olympic Institute, competing for Australia in 2019 in the USA Freestyle, Rocky Mountains Freestyle and the North America Cup. Maddison left for the USA following her HSC to train for Ski and Snowboard World Cup events in Colorado, USA in December 2019 and in Utah, USA in February 2020.



## GLOBAL PATHWAYS

A *Pymble* education is a pathway to tertiary study at international universities all over the world, including England and the USA.

Prior to the release of the 2019 HSC results in December, the following students had secured interviews at Oxford University in the UK.

- Grace Hu
- Mei Ki (Maggy) Hui

Weijun (Zoe) Zhou has also received a conditional offer from the University of Warwick in the UK.





# Determined to get results

*Emily Morrison is well and truly on her way to achieving her dream to study Medicine, Law or Science at university... and she might even study them all!*

Despite attending school on a half-day schedule, Emily knew it would take grit and determination to get the results she wanted in order to make it happen. "Always catching up on the work was a big thing for me and trying to keep things in perspective," she said, adding that "not being too

hard on yourself" and celebrating small wins was her key to success. When racing toward the finish, Emily found her preparation had paid off. "Trials were a lot harder than the actual HSC," she said. "There were moments that were really satisfying but lots of moments where you've got to keep pushing. It was the whole officialness of it that was scary. It was exciting to get it done!" At the same time, Emily served as PDHPE Captain and volunteered at Sony Camp, for the Starlight Foundation and Bobbin Head Cycling Classic. She also took home a Citizenship Award at Speech Night.

"I enjoyed community service – it was nice to give back. It really helps you realise the HSC isn't everything, there's other people and other life outside of school." Not resting on her laurels, Emily is planning to study Clinical Science, Medicine or Law at Macquarie University and is considering taking on several degrees. "I think I'll be spending a lot of time at uni! My parents said, 'You're 40 or 50 years working so make sure it's something you enjoy'."



# EXCELLENCE ALL ROUND

*Winning The Jeanette Buckham Prize for All Round Excellence, the Dorothy Cowie Memorial Prize, the Symons Prize for Romance Languages and The Caltex Medal for All Round Excellence at Speech Night capped off a spectacular year for Georgina Sargent.*

According to Georgina, however, it was her ability to dedicate time to her school life outside academia that made her Pymble experience so special. Attaining her Gold Duke of Edinburgh medal, serving as Duke of Edinburgh Captain, Senior Under Officer and Head Cadet in Army Cadets and competing in Cross Country was important to Georgina, as well as volunteering for several charities, at Sony Camp and in the Preparatory School. "I would say the (Speech Night) awards were great achievements

for me, but not necessarily the biggest achievements. Those would be being able to keep up with all my co-curricular activities, being able to do my sport and being with the friends I love. "The relationships I made and the skills I learnt would be my biggest achievement; being able to balance everything throughout the HSC." Having achieved an ATAR of 98.85, Georgina will be embarking on a gap year at d'Overbroeck's School in



Oxford, United Kingdom in 2020, before studying Law and Commerce at UNSW or Commerce Advanced Studies at Sydney University, where Georgina was offered a scholarship. "The school I am going to in the UK is very different to Pymble! And I thought that doing something completely different is the best way to grow as a person."

518

mentions on the  
NESA Distinguished  
Achievers list

Combined Band 5 and 6  
results were 30% or more  
above the state percentages  
in the following subjects:

- Agriculture
- Ancient History
- Biology
- Business Studies
- Chemistry
- Dance
- Drama
- Economics
- English EAL/D
- Food Technology
- Geography
- German Continuers
- Investigating Science
- Japanese Continuers
- Legal Studies
- Mathematics Standard 2
- Modern History
- PDHPE
- Physics
- Visual Arts
- Hospitality

# 2019 HSC RESULTS OVERVIEW

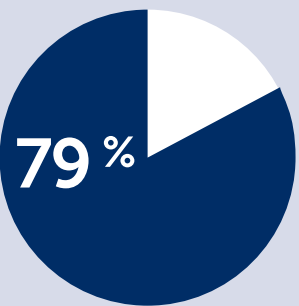
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ALL-ROUND  
ACHIEVERS

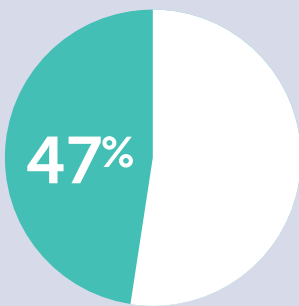


## 2 UNIT RESULTS IN BANDS 5 AND 6

PYMBLE AVERAGE



NSW AVERAGE



PYMBLE RANKED

29<sup>th</sup>

SMH TOP 100  
SCHOOLS REPORT

277

PYMBLE STUDENTS



SAT FOR

46

HSC COURSES

15

STUDENTS WITH  
ATARS  
>99.00



STRIVE FOR THE HIGHEST

2019



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*All' Ultimo Lavoro – Strive for the highest*

