2012 Higher School Certificate (HSC) Results

Success comes in countless forms at St Augustine’s College and I am especially pleased that many of our boys achieved at a level greater than their original hopes and expectations. The school is pleased with the quality of the results and the boys and teachers must be congratulated on their combined efforts. The results are also a testimony to the love and support of the boys’ parents.

While newspaper school ratings do not take into account the ATAR, we believe that the ATAR rank for university admission is the best indicator for us of how a schools’ academic programme is travelling. In this regard, 22% of the graduating class received an ATAR rank over 90. 46% of the domestic students received an ATAR of 80 or more while the median ATAR rank was just short of 80. The results represent growth and improvement, yet more importantly there is a consistency in our results in the past few years.

Results from the Board of Studies in the HSC are given in Bands. In a 2 Unit subject Band 6 corresponds to a mark of 90+; Band 5 a mark or 80-90 and so on to Band 1. Interestingly, the media measure for publishing merit lists is based solely on the number of scores in the Band 6 range. The 2012 cohort achieved 48% of study scores in the top two bands. This result continues the upward trend in the top two bands and provides promise for the future.
Congratulations to Dux of the College, Thomas Matthews, for achieving an ATAR of 98.45. Proxime Accessit is Rory O’Connor with an ATAR of 97.35. Importantly, both boys were generous in their involvement in the life of the College and leave their mark in many domains. Furthermore, 63 students are on the NSW Board of Studies Distinguished Achievers List and 6 boys received ATAR scores above 96. A College Assembly will be held early in Term One to recognise the subject duces from the graduating class of 2012.

These very solid results indicate the strength of the performance of the cohort as a whole. Over the last few years, the College has raised expectations, as have the boys themselves, and consequently, with the support of their teachers and hard work, the overall standard of results in recent years has consolidated.

Whilst we celebrate the academic achievements of the graduating class of 2012, let us not be so naive or short sighted as to judge the end product of an education purely on an ATAR score or single result. It is human nature that we have different interests and passions in life, different ideals and goals, dreams and aspirations. St Augustine’s College always has, and will continue to foster, this diversity amongst our community. Indeed through its history the College has produced a diverse spread of people in society. From captains of industry to those in the medical field, teachers and academics to tradesmen and business owners, lawyers and welfare workers each of whom has achieved excellence.

The basis upon which we measure this excellence is not knowing more than the person next to us, being quicker than the person behind us, or smarter than the person in front; it is a personal measurement of what we achieve compared to our potential. We are not all destined to reinvent the wheel, to discover penicillin, climb Mount Everest or to be the next Prime Minister. Each of our own achievements in life cannot be measured by a ruler or scale.

Our achievements are matched by our efforts, and the ingredients of success are common. Success comes with the application of oneself to the task, to give it a full and honest effort, to know yourself, and to work to the best of your ability. St Augustine’s College offers each student the tools to achieve this excellence, learnt through academic study, by engraining the disciplines of achievement that are transferable to any part of life.

Our challenge to the boys is to adopt the school’s purpose of achieving academic excellence as their own; to strive for this goal and to accept the challenges presented to them. To do this will be to continue a great tradition and to make their own contribution to the rich tapestry that is St Augustine’s College.