

OLMC flies high

Students at the independent girls' school have excelled in HSC results this year

THE 2018 class of Our Lady of Mercy College Parramatta are still celebrating their achievements after nearly a third of students achieved an ATAR above 90.

OLMC was the eighth top Catholic Independent Girls' School in NSW and made number 80 in the state in the *Sydney Morning Herald's* Top 100 Schools List, while 53 students were named as Distinguished Achievers.

"Learning at OLMC is characterised by high expectations, motivation and a growth mindset," said principal Stephen Walsh.

"Students embrace challenge as an opportunity to learn in a well-supported environment.

"The 2018 cohort's outstanding HSC results reflect the growth these young women have made over six years at OLMC."

HSC graduate Cassidy Kealy-Ashby came sixth in the state in Community and Family Studies, achieved an ATAR of 99.15 and was named on the All Rounders List.

She said she learned early



Among OLMC's high achievers were Chloe Simone, left, Claudia Connelly and Cassidy Kealy-Ashby, seen here with principal Stephen Walsh.

that she needed to work very hard to achieve her goals and plans to study a Bachelor of Health and Physical Education in order to become a high school PDHPE teacher.

"I feel hard work bears talent," she said. "I handed in practice papers and essays to my teachers almost every day because seeking feedback is really important."

Cassidy's advice to students yet to undertake the HSC is to be consistent with study and to schedule time accordingly.

"The HSC is not a test of your intelligence but of your

work ethic," she said. "For this reason I would advise those in the junior years to extend themselves where possible in order to really test their capability," she said.

In brief

A huge day for Nathan

THE HSC results day went swimmingly well for Patrician Brothers College Fairfield graduate Nathan Truong.

He achieved an ATAR of 99.2 and was named dux of the college, receiving a band 6 in Physics and Chemistry to crown the excellent results he had gained in Maths Extension 1 and 2 in Year 11.

But on the same day he also swam his personal best in the 50m freestyle at the NSW State Age Swimming Championship at Homebush and also sat his 7th Grade classic guitar music exam.

In the afternoon he joined a Learn to Swim trainee program to become an instructor.

Driven by his desire to "strive to always be better", Nathan will pursue a degree in either actuarial studies or engineering. Students should "believe in yourself and never give up" he said.