

REGIONWIDE

HSC study name of game

Smith, Nguyen, Lee and Jones top surnames among students

Stacy Thomas

ELIZABETH Smith is among almost 50,000 Sydney students sitting down for their HSC exams from Monday.

The Our Lady of Mercy College student also holds the title for having the most popular last name completing their Year 12 exams this year.

Data released by the Department of Education shows the rich variety of names that pepper our city.

The most common surname is, as you might expect, Smith. Other Anglo-Celtic surnames such as Jones, Brown, Williams make a strong showing, too.

Family names with Asian heritage – like Nguyen, Lee, Tran and Chen – are becoming more common.

And while female students make up the bulk of those sitting the exams (40,133 enrolments of the 77,975 total), Joshua is the most common first name.

The most popular subjects

are English, mathematics and biology. Languages continue to be popular with Japanese and French attracting the most students.

More than 21,000 students are enrolled in a vocational education and training course.

For Elizabeth, 18, her stress levels are increasing as the HSC draws closer.

"The last few weeks have definitely been more intense. I'm studying in three-hour blocks," she said.

Her approach is completing past papers and rewriting her notes and using a whiteboard in her bedroom.

Education Minister Rob Stokes said the "business end" of the school year was now just days away. He has reviewed the papers for the courses that are being distributed to 750 exam centres.

"I encourage all HSC candidates to look after their health, take time out to exercise and keep the right balance in preparation for the exams ahead," Mr Stokes said.



Elizabeth Smith, 18, at Our Lady of Mercy College. Smith is the most common last name in students sitting the HSC this year.

Top surnames

- » Smith
- » Nguyen
- » Lee
- » Jones
- » Tran
- » Chen
- » Brown
- » Li
- » Wang
- » Williams

Top first names

- » Joshua 754
- » Emily 719
- » Thomas 707
- » Jessica 700
- » Jack 699
- » Matthew 681
- » James 671
- » Daniel 661
- » Lachlan 656
- » Sarah 648