



OUR LADY OF MERCY COLLEGE PARRAMATTA

# OLMC

*Congratulations*

## Outstanding Learning at OLMC

### Congratulations to Year 12 2015 on their HSC Results

The 2015 OLMC HSC class has achieved outstanding results, demonstrating how central the pursuit of academic excellence is to a Mercy Education. These Mercy Girls join a long line of graduating classes throughout the College's history who have been encouraged to work to the absolute best of their ability and have been rewarded with impressive HSC results.



*The simplest and most practical lesson I know...  
is to resolve to be good today - but better tomorrow.*

Catherine McAuley, Founder of the Sisters of Mercy

MERCY

COMPASSION

JUSTICE

DIGNITY

EXCELLENCE

HOSPITALITY

STEWARDSHIP

SERVICE

# Celebrating Academic Excellence in the Mercy Tradition

## Highlights of the 2015 HSC

- Top 100 school
- Top ATAR 99.45
- Rebecca Ibrahim achieved an impressive fifth place in the State in Hospitality
- 24 % of ATARs were above 90
- Chelsea Briot, Rebecca Ibrahim and Justine Maroun all made it onto the All Rounders List after achieving a top band in at least 10 units
- Sixty Five OLMC students were also named on the Distinguished Achievers List, achieving a Band 6 or E4 in at least one course.
- A total of 133 Band 6s or E4s were achieved by Mercy Girls in 2015.

*"All Year 12 OLMC students from the class of 2015 should be proud of their efforts in this their final year of schooling. We are proud of the conscientiousness with which our Mercy Girls have applied themselves to their studies, their commitment to excellence and the way they have lived out their chosen Year Motto – to strive in 2015! We hope that they feel a sense of joy and fulfilment."*

Principal Stephen Walsh



## Approaching the HSC: Advice from the Dux of 2015, Justine Maroun

The HSC should be perceived as an opportunity to develop a sense of commitment and something to mark the end of your schooling life. Goal setting promotes guidance, motivation and encouragement. In saying so, it is important to understand your abilities when setting these goals, in order to achieve your full potential.

It's not about how many hours you study but rather how much work you actually get done. Taking this approach also enables you to lead a balanced lifestyle, spending decent time with friends, family and engaging in an active lifestyle. Needless to say, in order for you to be working at your optimum, sleep and rest are vital, not only to improve your efficiency but for your own sanity.

The HSC, for me, is not a measure of one's intelligence but rather a measure of one's willingness to commit themselves to an ongoing set of studies. Consistency is the key to the HSC. In my opinion, it's a measure of how well you can diligently and studiously apply yourself to your studies over an extended period of time.

## Celebrating Excellence: Deputy Principal Marie Wood Congratulates the Class of 2015

Deputy Principal Marie Wood, in her address to the class of 2015 at the HSC High Achievers' Assembly, said it was important to celebrate excellence, particularly academic excellence; "As Mercy women, this group has demonstrated how they value excellence and have committed themselves to working at their studies, acting on feedback from teachers and focussing on being the best they can be."

"To the Graduates of the class of 2015 – well done! But it is not over yet. You have not finished your education – the College and your families have sent you out into the wider world, filled with confidence and courage, well-prepared for the life-long learning we know you will embrace."

"The example that these young women have set for younger students is profound and lasting. My message to the class of 2015 is to be brave, take calculated risks and make your mark!"

## Justine Maroun *ATAR: 99.45*

Justine studied Chemistry, English Advanced, Mathematics Extensions 1 and 2, Physics and Studies of Religion 1 and achieved the highest ATAR for the class of 2015 of 99.45.

Justine's advice to younger Mercy Girls is to have a goal in mind; "know what you are working toward and have a clear mindset."

She attributes some of her success to her teachers, who she says she was lucky to have. "I would be emailing my Maths teacher screenshots in the middle of the night and he would respond by the morning – our teachers supported us so much!"

Justine has her sights set on studying a Bachelor of Applied Science in Radiography at Sydney University. "I love Physics, Science and Maths. I would like to become a radiographer and maybe a doctor one day. I have only recently been considering studying Medicine; originally I was thinking of doing engineering."

Justine likes to seek out a challenge: "I know I need a career that will constantly challenge me – that's part of the reason I love Maths – it is a constant challenge. I love learning – it's a lifelong journey for me so I see lots of study in my future."

The HSC was actually a little less painful than Justine had anticipated and she often found that she knew more than she thought she did which was a confidence booster. "I think really, if you manage your time and you know your content, they don't ask random questions, so you can't go wrong."



## Chelsea Briot *ATAR: 97.8*

Chelsea Briot achieved an ATAR of 97.8, studying Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Extension 1, English Advanced, Studies of Religion, Modern History and Mathematics.

To younger Mercy Girls yet to embark on the HSC, Chelsea emphasises the idea of endurance. "If you work consistently throughout the year, then you give yourself room to make mistakes and recover."

She also feels it's very important to keep things in perspective when doing the HSC; "you have to keep doing normal things like parties and relaxation – you cannot stop living."

Chelsea is aiming to study Dentistry and possibly become an orthodontist (for which she would study at a postgraduate level); "I like that it is hands on and you have to think outside the square."



## Karuna Narang *ATAR: 98.35*

Karuna achieved an ATAR of 98.35. She studied English Advanced, Chemistry, Studies of Religion 1, Mathematics Extension 1 and 2 and Economics.

Her advice to those embarking on the HSC is not to let setbacks irritate them; "learn from them and move on – be prepared for setbacks and have a way to deal with them."

On a practical level, she emphasises the importance of doing lots of past papers; "The HSC is based on a syllabus and follows a set pattern so if you know that, you will be fine."

Karuna pictures herself as a UNSW student for the next phase of her life; "I really want to study at UNSW – I love the campus, the reputation and the atmosphere. I am not 100 percent sure exactly what I will study at this point in time. I know I want a career that involves international travel. I don't want to be a cog in the wheel – I need something that challenges me. I will definitely be going on to study at a postgraduate level."

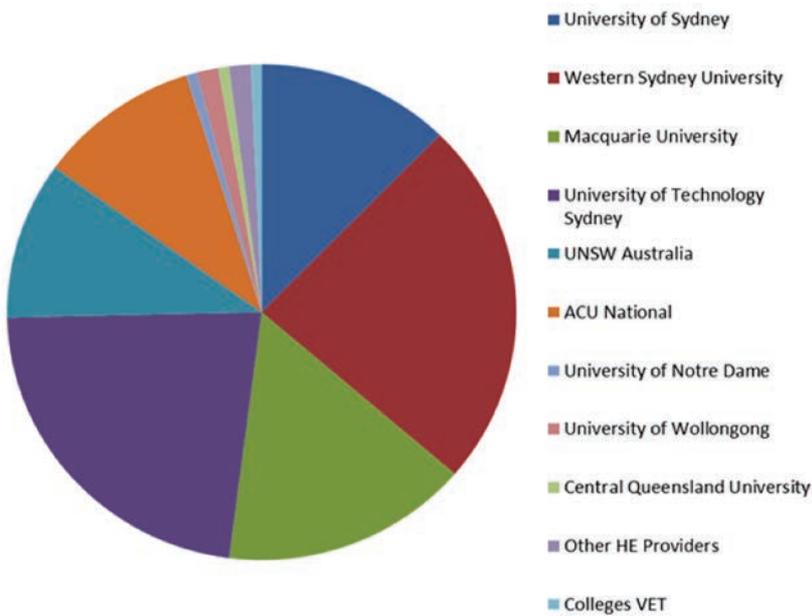
Karuna was also quite surprised about how relaxed she was through the HSC exams; "I think that was because I felt so prepared. I really feel I need to thank OLMC for their support, throughout my whole education not just the HSC year. My educational experience was so holistic and there is such a great community spirit at the College which made for a memorable education."



# The Class of 2015: Embracing Opportunities

The Class of 2015 is embracing the opportunities that a Mercy Education has made possible by embarking on new challenges! 98 percent of students are going on to higher education and 89 percent are heading to university to complete a Bachelor's degree. The tables below shows that UTS, Macquarie University and Western Sydney University are the most popular choices for Mercy Girls with a high proportion of the Class of 2015 pursuing studies in Business, Economics, Communications and Education.

## Further Education Places Class of 2015



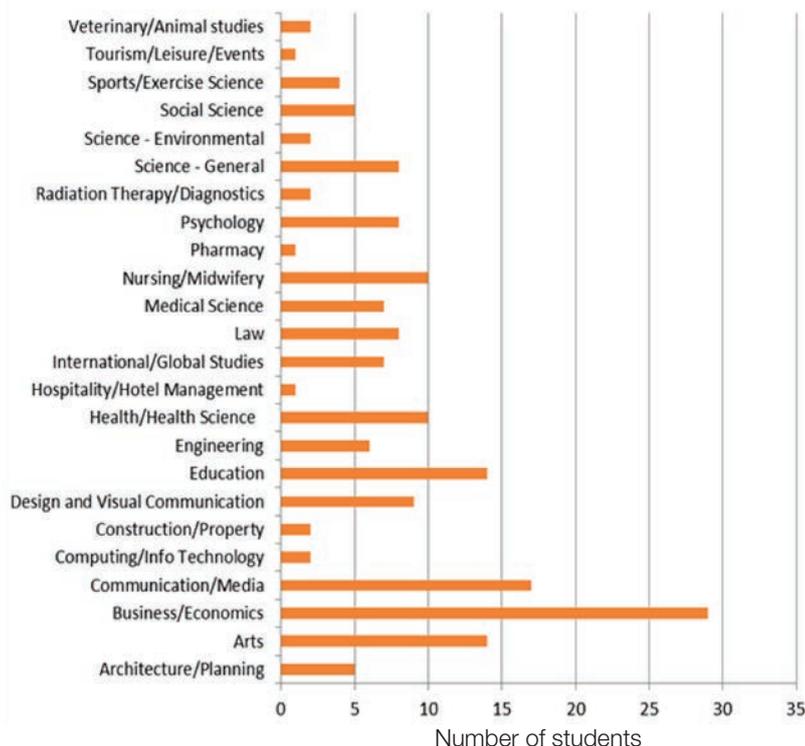
## Excellence

Excellence is the state of achievement of the highest possible standards.

***“There is nothing of greater importance than the perfect discharge of our ordinary duties.”***

Catherine McAuley

## Areas of study chosen by students



## “Strive in 2-0-1-5!”

Student Leadership Team  
Phrase for Year 12, 2015

