



14 December 2023

2023 Victorian Certificate of Education results

2023 Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning results

The month of December is a significant one for all Year 12 students across the State. Not only does it mark the official end of secondary school for these students, it is also the time when they receive details of their academic performance in the Victorian Certificate of Education and/or the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning. All members of the Penola Catholic College community share an interest in the academic performance of the Year 12 class. It is a time to celebrate the academic excellence and endeavour of individual students and of the year level as a whole. Following is a summary of the academic achievements of the Year 12 class of 2023.

2023 at a glance.....

- 224 students completed Year 12 studies at Penola Catholic College in 2023. 35 students were enrolled in the VCEVM/VCAL program with 189 students enrolled in the VCE.
- 100% percent of these students attained their VCE/VCEVM.
- Students participated in 57 different VCE Unit 3/4 studies in 2023.
- There were 17 study scores of 40 or above before scaling and an additional 16 study scores of 40 or above after scaling. These scores were attained in 12 different VCE and VET studies. (see following page for a complete list of those students who achieved a study score of 40 and above)
- Traditionally, an ATAR of 90 or above has been used as a measure of academic excellence. In 2023, eight students attained this outstanding result.

Isabelle Valiamplackal 97.35, Sarah Sona 94.75, Henry Anderson 94.55, Leah McGrice 94.25, Ho Hei Sherlock Ng 93.65, Anna Nguyen 92.4, Nelana Ferguson 91.2 and Claire Adams 90.2.

- A further 15 students attained an ATAR of 80 or above. This equates to 10.27% of the Year 12 students who received an ATAR attaining an ATAR 80 and above.

When the academic performance of the fifteen students who attained an ATAR score of 80 and above is combined with these students, then it becomes clear that many students in the Year 12 class of 2023 have attained a high level of academic excellence.

- The highest ATAR of 97.35 was achieved by Isabelle Valiamplackal. She was followed by Sarah Sona on 94.75, Henry Anderson on 94.55 and Leah McGrice 94.25.
- Henry Anderson achieved the top unscaled score of 45 in English.
- There were two students who achieved the top scaled score of 45.1 in Specialist Mathematics Ho Hei Sherlock Ng and Isabella Valiamplackal.
- The average ATAR was 60.95.



- The median study score was 27.
- 76% Year 12 students applied for a tertiary place.
- 29 Year 11 students completed at least one VCE Unit 3/4 study in 2023.
- 275 students were enrolled in one of the 29 VCE VET certificates studied in 2023.
- 4 VCAL students participated in SBAT programs, 50% opted to take up employment as a direct result of this, with a further 50% opting not to pursue in this industry but gaining employment in other related industries.
- A further VCAL student had completed a 1-year SBAT prior to the commencement of 2023.
- 36 VCAL students participated in SWL programs.
- 2 VCAL students participated in dual SWL and SBAT programs in order to strengthen their employment prospects.
- 12 Students worked with dual employers over the course of the year, 32% were provided opportunities to work with at least 2 employers.
- 3 Students worked with 3 employers or more incorporating negotiated placement in the school holiday period.

In total 24 VCAL students remained with their employer from Semester 1 and received an exemption to do this.

Retail was the most popular source of placement this year, followed by Hospitality, Building and Construction and Electrical.

Penola Catholic College has been able to successfully prepare another 37 students for transition to apprenticeships or employment.



One of the other measures commonly reported on to assess academic success in VCE studies is the number of study scores of 40 and above. Following is a list of all students who attained this result both before scaling (\*) and after scaling (^):

Unscaled (*)	
Accounting	Isabelle Valiamplackal
Business Management	Isabelle Valiamplackal
English Language	Isabelle Valiamplackal
Outdoor Environmental Studies	Tara Oliva, Kelly Godfrey, Grace Jory
Health & Human Development	Sarah Sona
Psychology	Chloe Brown
Psychology	Leah McGrice
English	Claire Adams
English	Henry Anderson
Product Design and Technology	Nelana Ferguson
Product Design and Technology	Alannah Gouvas
General Maths	Anna Nguyen

Scaled (^)	
Literature	Henry Anderson
EAL	Sarah Sona
Arabic	Sarah Sona
Japanese	Anna Nguyen
Chemistry	Ho Hei Sherlock Ng
Physics	Ho Hei Sherlock Ng
Italian	Raymond Gibbard
Mathematical Methods	Ho Hei Sherlock Ng, Anna Nguyen
Specialist Mathematics	Ho Hei Sherlock Ng, Isabelle Valiamplackal



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The College challenges all students to strive for personal excellence. High ATARs and VCE study scores are two measures of excellence but there are others. Examples of 2023 Year 12 students who have strived for and achieved personal excellence include:

- A number of students from the class of 2023 who have successfully gained an apprenticeship or traineeship.
- Having satisfactorily completed the necessary requirements to attain their VCE/VCEVM, a number of students have been in full-time employment since early Term Four.

I would like to conclude by acknowledging the fine work of all Penola Catholic College teachers. The College's level of academic success in 2023 did not happen by chance. It reflects a commitment to establishing a learning and teaching culture that values and supports academic excellence and endeavour. This has happened because Penola's teachers remain committed to continually reviewing and developing classroom programmes that provide every opportunity for the students to experience academic success.

Kind regards,

**Robert Dullard**

Acting Principal