A SECOND CASE STUDY: THE 2020 ATARS & WHAT THEY REVEAL

With a Focus on Victoria's VCE Results & ATARs

EDITED BY PASTOR RON WOOLLEY

ACS
Associated Christian Schools

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INTRODUCTION

PASTOR RON WOOLLEY JANUARY 2021

This second case study looks outside of Queensland to Victoria. It continues to explore academic themes raised in previous papers published in ACS eBooks, and ultimately seeks to provoke further discussion on alumni outcomes of Australian Christian schooling. As with the previous extended case study, which looked at the NSW HSC results and ATARs, this second case study may contribute some further background for ACS to better understand any state differences in data in the Cardus Education Survey Australia.

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Victoria's 2020 VCE Results & ATARs

A Summary Explanation[1] of the Victorian VCE Results and ATAR:

When a student completes the VCE their results are produced by the VCAA (Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority).

EACH UNIT 3/4 SEQUENCE COMPLETED WILL BE REPORTED ON THE STUDENT'S STATEMENT OF RESULTS WITH THE FOLLOWING:

- Unit result (S = Satisfactory pass, N = Not satisfactorily passed)
- Three graded assessments (letter grades, e.g. B+)
- One study score (maximum 50)

THE STUDY SCORES ARE RAW SCORES.

VCAA sends the student's raw scores to VTAC (Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre) where they are converted into subject scores.

THE SCORES ARE SCALED SCORES.

The scaled subject scores are then used to calculate the student's ATAR (Australian Tertiary Admission Rank).

IN SUMMARY:

- VCAA is responsible for raw study scores
- VTAC is responsible for scaled subject scores and the ATAR
- The easiest way to recognise the difference is:
  - *VCE study scores are whole figures and the highest achievable is 50*
  - *VTAC subject scores have a decimal point*
  - *The ATAR has a decimal point and the highest achievable is 99.95*

Victoria's Herald Sun 31.12.2020 published an article, *'Victoria's top 100 VCE schools revealed:'*[2]

Victoria's Top 100 VCE Schools 2020

VCE class median study score / percentage of scores 40 and above

KEY: *SMALL SCHOOL **SCHOOLS IDENTIFYING WITH CHRISTIAN SCHOOL MOVEMENT

Note: For the full report on senior secondary completion and achievement, go to the VCAA website.

1. Bialik College: 38 & 39.9%
2. Mount Scopus Memorial College: 38 & 39.7%
3. Ballarat Clarendon College: 38 & 38.4%
4. MacRobertson Girls' High School: 37 & 30.8%
5. Melbourne High School: 37 & 30.4%
6. Beth Rivkah Ladies College: 37 & 30.2%
7. Loreto Mandeville Hall: 36 & 29.3%
8. Haileybury Girls College: 36 & 29.2%
9. Strathcona Baptist Girls: 36 & 28.2%
10. Methodist Ladies College: 36 & 27.6%
11. Presbyterian Ladies' College: 36 & 27.6%
12. Ruyton Girls' School: 36 & 27.1%
13. Nossal High School: 36 & 26.3%
14. The King David School: 36 & 26%
15. Huntingtower School: 36 & 24.7%
16. Korowa Anglican Girls' School: 36 & 20.8%
17. St Margaret's School: 35 & 27.9%
18. Haileybury: 35 & 26.8%
19. St Kevin's College: 35 & 25.9%
20. Ivanhoe Girls' Grammar: 35 & 25.7%
21. Brighton Grammar: 35 & 25.1%
22. St Catherine's School: 35 & 25%
23. Lauriston Girls: 35 & 24.3%
24. Trinity Grammar: 35 & 24.3%
25. Leibler Yavneh College: 35 & 23.5%
26. Scotch College: 35 & 23.4%
27. Penleigh & Essendon Grammar: 35 & 23%
28. Firbank Grammar: 35 & 22.9%
29. Goulburn Valley Grammar: 35 & 21.6%
30. Fintona Girls: 35 & 21.3%
31. Melbourne Girls Grammar: 35 & 21.3%
32. Lowther Hall Anglican: 35 & 21.1%
33. Sacre Coeur: 35 & 20.8%
34. Toorak College: 35 & 20.3%
35. Kilvington Grammar: 35 & 20.2%
36. Caulfield Grammar (St Kilda East): 35 & 20.1%
37. Camberwell Anglican Girls: 35 & 19.2%
38. Shelford Girls': 35 & 18.2%
39. Mentone Girls' Grammar: 35 & 17.9%
40. Melbourne Grammar: 34 & 23.4%
41. Camberwell Grammar: 34 & 21.4%
42. Yarra Valley Grammar: 34 & 21.3%
43. Caulfield Grammar (Wheelers Hill): 34 & 21.1%
44. Xavier College: 34 & 19.2%
45. Genazzano FCJ: 34 & 19%
46. Suzanne Cory High: 34 & 19%
47. St Paul's Anglican Grammar: 34 & 18.1%
48. St Leonard's College: 34 & 17.2%
49. John Monash Science School: 34 & 17.1%
50. Star of the Sea College: 34 & 16.9%
51. Mentone Grammar: 34 & 16.7%
52. Yeshivah College: 34 & 15.9%
53. Westbourne Grammar: 34 & 15.4%
54. St John's Grk Orthodox College: 34 & 15%*
55. East Loddon P-12: 34 & 13.9%*
56. Sacred Heart Girls': 34 & 12.9%
57. Tyrrell College: 34 & 12.2%
58. Victorian College of the Arts: 33 & 19.8%
59. Balwyn High: 33 & 17.5%
60. McKinnon Secondary: 33 & 17.2%
61. Melbourne Girls' College: 33 & 16.8%
62. Siena College: 33 & 16.5%
63. Ivanhoe Grammar (Mernda): 33 & 15.5%
64. Kingswood College: 33 & 14.9%
65. St Andrews Christian College: 33 & 13.9%
66. Narre Warren South P-12: 33 & 13.4%

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67. Kilbreda College: 33 & 13.1%
68. St Columba's College: 33 & 13.1%
69. **Waverley Christian College: 33 & 13.1%
70. East Doncaster Secondary: 33 & 13%
71. Peninsula Grammar: 33 & 12.8%
72. Our Lady of Sacred Heart: 33 & 12.2%
73. Canterbury Girls: 33 & 12.1%
74. Carey Baptist Grammar: 33 & 11.9%
75. Luther College: 33 & 10.9%
76. The Knox School: 33 & 9.9%
77. Woodleigh School: 33 & 8.6%
78. Mortlake College: 33 & 4.3%
79. Casterton Secondary: 33 & 4.2%
80. Yesodei HaTorah College: 33 & 0%
81. Haileybury Rendall School: 32 & 17.2%
82. Box Hill High: 32 & 14.8%
83. University High School: 32 & 13.2%
84. The Geelong College: 32 & 13%
85. Glen Waverley Secondary: 32 & 12.9%
86. Girton Grammar: 32 & 12.7%
87. St Michael's Grammar: 32 & 12.7%
88. Braemar College: 32 & 12.1%
89. Our Lady of Mercy College: 32 & 11.6%
90. Sirius College (Eastmeadows): 32 & 11.6%
91. Sacred Heart College Geelong: 32 & 11.2%
92. Ivanhoe Grammar (Ivanhoe): 32 & 11.1%
93. Mazenod College: 32 & 10.9%
94. Ballarat Grammar: 32 & 10.6%
95. Our Lady of Sion: 32 & 10.4%
96. **Donvale Christian College: 32 & 10%
97. Wesley College: 32 & 10%
98. Gippsl& Grammar: 32 & 9.8%
99. Alice Miller School: 32 & 9.3%
100. Catholic Ladies College: 32 & 9

The Herald Sun noted[3] Bialik, Mount Scopus and Ballarat Clarendon Colleges were the top ranked schools in 2020. The same three co-ed campuses took out the top three spots in 2019, then with Ballarat Clarendon named number one, followed by Bialik and Mount Scopus. Girls' schools claimed more than half the top 20 spots, while metro Melbourne schools also dominated. The top 20 featured just three public schools — all of them select entry.

The Herald Sun 31.12.202 published a further article VCE 2020: *Top scorers honour roll revealed.*[4] This listed over 19 000 students who had a top study score of 40 and above. **Only students who agreed to have their top scores published by VCAA would have results appear on the 2020 honour roll.**

The same article noted:

STUDENTS WHO ACHIEVED 99.95 ATAR

Trinity Grammar: 2 students
Ruyton: 1
Xavier College: 1
Penleigh and Essendon Grammar: 2
Melbourne Grammar School: 2
Mordialloc College: 1
Balwyn High: 1
Brighton Grammar: 1
Camberwell Grammar: 3
Haileybury: 2
John Monash Science School: 1
Mac Robertson Girls School: 1
Mentone Girls' Grammar: 1
Mount Scopus: 2
Scotch College: 6
Westbourne Grammar: 2
Beaconhills College: 1
Yarra Valley Grammar: 1
Loreto College Ballarat: 1
Caulfield Grammar: 1

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STUDENTS WITH MOST (3) PERFECT SCORES

Westbourne Grammar: 2
St Bedes: 1
Scotch: 1
Our Lady of Sion:

A further HS article published 6.01.2021, *Top VCE schools by subject revealed*[5] what they called 'the best VCE schools by subject'. Schools whose students achieved the highest number of 40+ study scores in the most popular subjects were uncovered in the Herald Sun analysis:

BEST SCHOOLS BY SUBJECT

ENGLISH - TOP 25
(SCHOOL / NO. OF SCORES 40+)

- ST KEVIN'S **103**
- HAILEYBURY **96**
- HAILEYBURY GIRLS **85**
- XAVIER **57**
- PEGS **56**
- MELBOURNE GRAMMAR **53**
- SUZANNE CORY, LORETO MANDEVILLE HALL, SCOTCH **49**
- MELBOURNE HIGH **46**
- TRINITY **45**
- CAMBERWELL GRAMMAR **41**
- STRATHCONA **39**
- PLC **38**
- EMMANUEL COLLEGE, CAULFIELD GRAMMAR - CAULFIELD CAMPUS **35**
- WESTBOURNE GRAMMAR **34**
- GENAZZANO **33**
- BRIGHTON GRAMMAR, YARRA VALLEY GRAMMAR **32**
- MCKINNON **30**
- RUYTON **28**
- GOULBURN VALLEY GRAMMAR, NOSSAL HIGH, STAR OF THE SEA **27**
- JOHN MONASH SCIENCE SCHOOL, SACRE COURE **26**
- CAULFIELD GRAMMAR **25**
- IVANHOE, MELBOURNE GIRLS' COLLEGE **23**
- FIRBANK, WAVERLEY CHRISTIAN COLLEGE **22**
- BALLARAT GRAMMAR, FRANKSTON HIGH, ST LEONARD'S, ST PAUL'S **21**
- CAREY, HUNTINGTOWER, MAZENOD, MENTONE GRAMMAR, THE GEELONG COLLEGE **20**

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

- MELBOURNE GRAMMAR **17**
- JOHN MONASH SCIENCE SCHOOL **10**
- MELBOURNE GIRLS' COLLEGE **5**
- THE GEELONG COLLEGE **4**
- AQUINAS COLLEGE, BRAEMAR COLLEGE, KOONUNG SECONDARY COLLEGE, WERRIBEE SECONDARY COLLEGE **3**

LEGAL STUDIES

- SUZANNE CORY HIGH **19**
- HAILEYBURY GIRLS, IVANHOE GIRLS' GRAMMAR, LORETO MANDEVILLE HALL **16**
- STAR OF THE SEA COLLEGE **14**
- CAULFIELD GRAMMAR - CAULFILED CAMPUS OUR LADY OF MERCY COLLEGE, XAVIER **12**
- NOSSAL HIGH **11**

BIOLOGY

- MACROBERTSON GIRLS **59**
- NOSSAL HIGH **33**
- HAILEYBURY COLLEGE, MELBOURNE HIGH **32**
- MLC **30**
- JOHN MONASH SCIENCE SCHOOL **24**

MATHS METHODS

- MELBOURNE HIGH **70**
- CAMBERWELL GRAMMAR **33**
- MACROBERTSON GIRLS **32**
- PEGS **31**
- JOHN MONASH SCIENCE SCHOOL, NOSSAL HIGH **28**

NOTE: Melbourne Girls College is a non-select-entry public school; Melbourne High School is public; Melbourne Grammar is independent.

The SH noted **'one high-flying public-school (Frankston HS) plans to change its ways after seeing a boost from online interactions.'**

"In lockdown, it possibly enhanced our results," said Frankston High principal John Albiston. "Teachers would differentiate between students and follow up online, they would record themselves so students could go back and watch those sessions, and they were able to give a lot of regular and quick feedback. Quieter students were more prepared to speak up on (online) chat."

Mr Albiston said the school planned to keep recorded lectures, which students could turn back to during revision, and continue with Google Teams so teachers and students were more readily connected and communication wasn't limited to the class period.

Student LR, 18, said while it was a year he'd never want to repeat, there were "definitely ups and downs" with online schooling. "Easily being able to access my English teacher and talk to her was a real benefit," said Louis, who plans to study Arts at Melbourne University. "Within half an hour I'd get feedback on an essay."

Student EH, 17, said online learning meant teachers could give live commentary on film techniques while the movie was playing. While the classroom was "obviously preferred", she said there were parts of remote learning that should "definitely be kept in future teaching". Despite missing milestone events with friends in their final year of school, Elly was "excited for a new chapter" studying medicine and medical science or biomedicine at Monash University.

Government schools that featured most in the top scoring subjects were all select entry public campuses

Victoria's selective entry high schools[6] provide for academically high-achieving students in Years 9–12. These schools are:

Melbourne High School (boys only)
South Yarra (inner southeastern suburb)
1364 students (2019 Years 9–12)
ICSEA 1168 (98th percentile)
84% LBOTE

The MacRobertson Girls' High School (girls only)
Melbourne (inner southern suburb)
89 students (2019 Years 9–12)
ICSEA 1165 (97th percentile)
87% LBOTE

Nossal High School (boys & girls)
Berwick (outer south-eastern suburb)
835 Students (2019 Years 9–12)
ICSEA 1135 (93rd percentile)
87% LBOTE

Suzanne Cory High School (boys & girls)
Werribee (outer south-western suburb):
885 students (2019 Years 9–12)
ICSEA 1130 (92nd percentile)
89% LBOTE

Why Selective Entry?

WE OFFER ACCESSIBLE ELITE EDUCATION

The Victorian Selective Entry High Schools provide an accessible platform for intellectually gifted and academically talented students across Victoria. As proud government state schools, we remove the economic barriers so that talented students from all backgrounds can achieve academic excellence. Our education is truly affordable.

WE SUCCEED WITH EXCEPTIONAL UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE RATES

Beyond high school, tertiary study is crucial for shaping the future lives of our young adults. The Victorian Selective Entry High Schools' emphasis on academic excellence ensures students find their ideal path beyond high school. As a result, close to 100% of our students take up university entrance. We're proud that our students are accepted at top institutions across Australia and the globe.

WE PROVIDE INCLUSIVE EDUCATION FOR ALL

We are committed to providing a leading education for all academically talented students across Australia. Our schools welcome students from a diverse range of socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds. We emphasise progressive values in regards to gender, race and ethnicity. Each and every day we honour the individual pathway of each student in an inclusive and respectful manner.

WE HAVE PROVEN 90+ ATAR RESULTS

Each of the Victorian Selective Entry High Schools has a tailored VCE curriculum that fosters our students' talents. This curriculum is led by experienced teachers who know how to cultivate gifted learners. As a result, our VCE students achieve excellent results. This is demonstrated by over 80% of our students excelling with an ATAR of above 90. Each year we continue to garner outstanding scores.

WE CREATE TOMORROW'S LEADERS

Today's students shape our future. That's why we cultivate dynamic, intelligent and inspiring young adults who play a vital role in our society. Many of our students have continued on to successful leadership roles in medical, judicial, academic, civic, cultural, the creative arts and vocational realms. By providing an outstanding education, as well as excellent opportunities beyond the classroom, we nurture the careers of the world's future leaders.

WE PROVIDE DYNAMIC CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

We recognise that students have diverse interests that are an important complement to their academic life. We believe the activities our students engage in shape them into well-rounded young adults. That's why we offer a vibrant array of co-curricular activities at each of our selective schools, including sports, drama, music, debating, leadership, community service, outdoor activities and many more. Our co-curricular programs meet the first-rate standards of an elite education.

WE EXPAND HORIZONS WITH LOCAL AND GLOBAL OPPORTUNITIES

From school camps to army cadets and exhilarating international exchange programs, our selective schools provide numerous opportunities for students to develop, grow and learn beyond the classroom. The opportunities we offer our students match top schools across the country. As a result, our students continue to thrive, strive and reach for their very best.

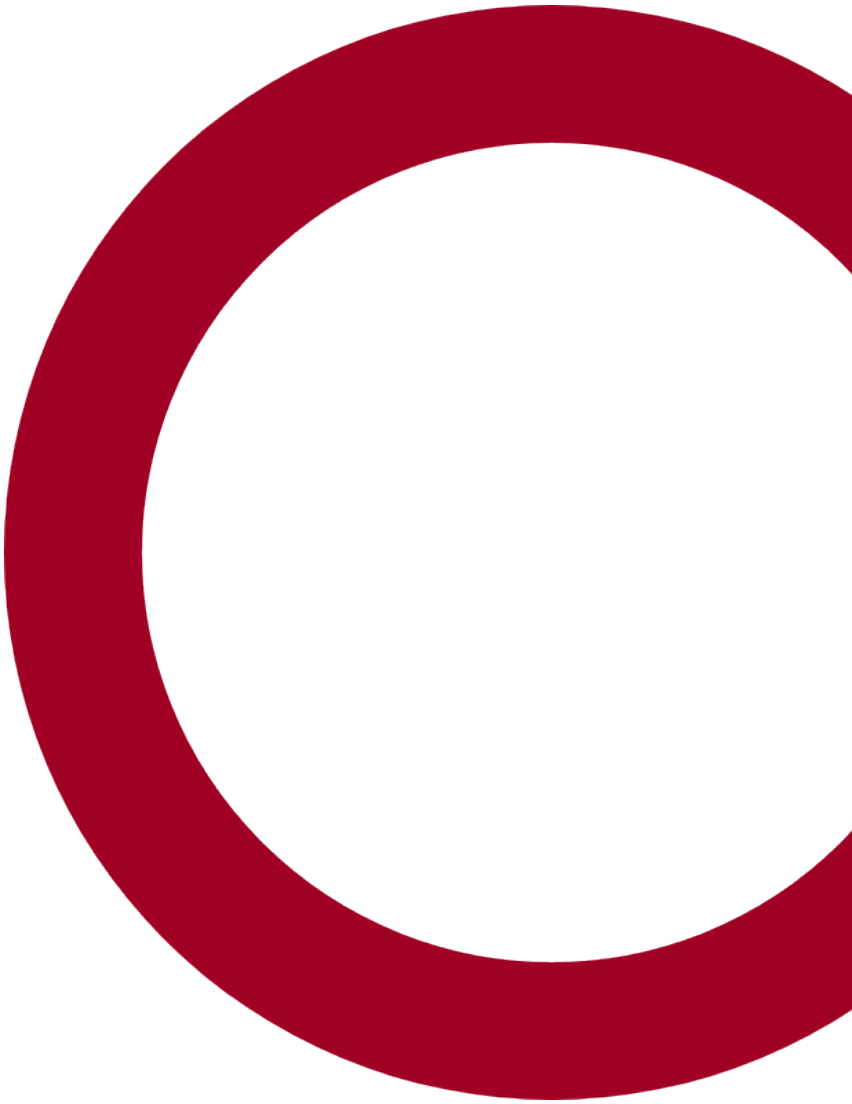
[1] https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/vce/vce-faqs/Pages/vce-results-ATAR.aspx

[2] https://www.heraldsun.com.au/education/victorias-top-100-vce-schools-revealed/news-story/54c43beb7d803286e358768291a14207

[3] https://www.heraldsun.com.au/education/victorias-top-100-vce-schools-revealed/news-story/54c43beb7d803286e358768291a14207

[4] https://www.heraldsun.com.au/education/vce-2020-top-scorers-honour-roll-revealed/news-story/df1bbd389a974b3c754fd39590bc43d6

[5] https://selectivehighschools.education



02

A Brief Look at Five Victorian Christian Schools

Waverley Christian College at #69 and Donvale Christian School at #96 featured in the list of top 100 schools based on VCE class median study score / percentage of scores 40 and above. Waverley Christian College also featured in the list of top 25 Schools by Subject (English). St Andrews Christian College, Hillcrest Christian College, and Flinders Christian Community College are also included in the table below to provide wider contrast.

WAVERLEY CHRISTIAN COLLEGE
Eastern suburban Wantirna South
2019: Student population of 1960 / ICSEA of 1143 (95th percentile; 2% in the lowest quartile, 9% and 26% in the lower and upper middle quartiles, and 63% in the upper quartile; 67% LBOTE.)

DONVALE CHRISTIAN COLLEGE
Eastern suburban Donvale
2019: Student population of 1357 / ICSEA of 1158 (95th percentile; 1% in the lowest quartile, 6% and 22% in the lower and upper middle quartiles, and 70% in the upper quartile; 19% LBOTE.)

ST ANDREWS CHRISTIAN COLLEGE
Eastern suburban Wantirna South
2019: Student population of 639 / ICSEA of 1159 (97th percentile; 1% in the lowest quartile, 6% and 20% in the lower and upper middle quartiles, and 72% in the upper quartile; 74% LBOTE.

HILLCREST CHRISTIAN COLLEGE
Outer south-eastern suburban Clyde North
2019: Student population of 1666 / ICSEA of 1090 (83rd percentile; 5% in the lowest quartile, 20% and 38% in the lower and upper middle quartiles, and 37% in the upper quartile; 34% LBOTE.)

FLINDERS CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE,
Tyabb on the Mornington Peninsula,
2019: Student population of 1614 / ICSEA of 1090 (81st percentile; 7% in the lowest quartile, 22% and 36% in the lower and upper middle quartiles, and 35% in the upper quartile; 34% LBOTE.)

Number of VCE High Achievers By Subject	Waverley Christian College	Dovale Christian College	St. Andrews Christian College	Hillcrest Christian College	Flinders Christian Community College
2019 # Students	1960	1357	639	1666	1614
ICSEA	1143	1158	1159	1099	1084
% LBOTE	67%	19%	74%	34%	13%
Applied Computing: Software Development		1		2	
Biology		3	2		
Business Management		5			1
Chemistry		4		1	
English		7	6	2	3
English as an Additional Language			1		
Food Studies		3		1	
Further Mathematics		7	2	3	4
Geography	1				1
Health and Human Development	10		2	1	2
History Revolutions	2				
Hospitality Kitchen Operations VCE VET		1			
Languages: German		1			
Legal Studies	5				
Mathematical Methods	10	2			
Media	1				
Music Performance		1			
Outdoor and Environmental Studies					1
Physical Education	2	3	3	1	
Physics	2	3	3	1	
Psychology	6	9	1		
Specialist Mathematics	1				
Studio Arts		2	2	1	1
Theatre Studies			3		
Visual Communication Design	2	4		1	
TOTALS	**42**	**56**	**25**	**17**	**14**

03

Some Observations & Conclusion

- As noted in the first paper, *An Extended Case Study: The 2020 ATARs and what they reveal with a special focus on James Ruse Agricultural High School Carlingford* there is also from Victoria almost overwhelming evidence that high success schools are differentiated by high ICSEA (family socio-educational background) and a high % of LBOTE students (family cultural background).

- This represents an extraordinary challenge for Christian schools which almost universally do not practice academic selectivity for enrolment. If only the two key factors of ICSEA and LBOTE are considered, relatively few Christian schools are likely to contribute significantly to state merit lists.

04

For Further Discussion

- From this second case study, how might Christian schools overcome the limitation of their non-selectivity? Does this represent an opportunity for academic improvement?
- What can be learned from the observation that there exist significant interstate differences in the range of selective public schools, and how might this affect Christian schooling outcomes?

Interstate Differences: Academic Selectivity

NSW[7]
- 21 fully selective high schools
  fully selective agricultural high schools
- 25 partially selective high schools
- 1 virtual high school of regional/remote students.
- 2021: 4 196 places for Year 7 entry were available.[8]

VICTORIA[9]
- 4 selective high schools

WESTERN AUSTRALIA[10]
- 1 selective (Perth Modern School)
- G&T programs are offered at 24 select public secondary schools, including a fully selective academic school, an arts college, and two regional schools. An online program is also offered for country students.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA
- 1 (partially) selective (Brisbane SHS, using Queensland curriculum) and three Academies (Y

[6] https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-7/what-are-selective-high-schools#Types0

[7] https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-7/what-are-selective-high-schools/places-available-in-selective-high-schools

[8] https://selectivehighschools.education

[9] https://www.education.wa.edu.au/gifted-and-talented

[10] https://ibaustralasia.org/articles/107-november-2020-ib-results-released

05

Addendum:
International Baccalaureate Diploma[11]

The Courier Mail reported 6.01.2021: '35 Australian students achieved a perfect score of 45, equivalent to an ATAR of 99.95;' 'across Australia, 60 schools fielded 2889 candidates for the IB diploma in 2020;' fourteen high schools in Queensland offer the IB Diploma including Churchie, IES College, Mountain Creek SHS, Indooroopilly SHS, St Peter's Lutheran College and the 3 Queensland Academies.

[11] https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/queensland-international-baccalaureate-graduates-receive-results/news-story/135e2e38f607ee3b902217faacf489af

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