

A celebration of Year 12 Results  
and School Leadership

# Excellence & Leadership



# From the Principal

Results are important. We should feel especially proud of what students achieved individually and collectively in 2020. It was a difficult year for all students in our state, country and world! We do well to remind ourselves, as so many parents and staff of Year 12 know, that the results represent very real and personal challenges that students, staff and parents contended with through 2020. The achievements at the end of last year were hard-won and consequently held in high regard by us all.

There were many individual and collective results worth celebrating and lauding. For some students the final push to a SACE or IB completion was a triumph, while for others it was the incredibly high ATAR score. As we know, university choices were made accessible early because of COVID-19 and further supported through excellent grades.

Each year teachers carefully scrutinise their class achievements. They consider the historical trends and predicted grades, and the relationship between those and the actual results. They inform themselves of strengths and weaknesses and refine their teaching accordingly. This process offers a sense of confidence for them. But, like all human endeavours, the variables that constitute a final grade can be as mysterious as they are predictable. Last year was no exception, and perhaps the variables were increased with the challenges of the pandemic. Generally, however, our student results showed remarkable consistency with our historical trends and internal predictions.

We like to report the complete picture of results to our community, as much as we are able, and after the first and second rounds of university offers if possible. This provides a well-informed and realistic appraisal for you. While many fixate on ATAR scores, it is in fact destinations—where students go from here—that excites us. There are so many interesting and exciting courses, programs and opportunities that students access after Pembroke. Not all require high ATARs and it is delightful to see the spread of choices considered by our students based on interest rather than results alone.

In what follows you will see that student results in both the SACE and IB were excellent. One IB student and one SACE student achieved perfect scores. When converted to an ATAR score the median IB score was 93, which is a strong achievement. Our SACE median was 89. The Dux and Proxime students for IB and SACE were recognised at the Commencement of Year Ceremony, along with the Ross Family Leadership Medallists and all the sub-school leaders for 2021, as a fitting acknowledgment from the School.

Pembroke girls' and boys' results compare favourably to all single-sex and co-educational environments, and when one considers the relative size of the cohorts across schools Pembroke results are excellent.

Pembroke is an outstanding academic institution. Our own and comparative measures show this. Maintaining a healthy attitude to Year 12 by not narrowing our thinking to results alone helps us to be so. We choose to focus on individual best efforts and achievements, and I offer my congratulations to all Year 12 students for their commitment and hard work last year. Equally I acknowledge the experienced and dedicated teaching staff and very supportive parents who have a significant impact on all student success.

You should enjoy reading about the individual and collective achievements of our Year 12, 2020.

**Luke Thomson**  
Principal

→ Front cover: High Achievers 2020

(Left to right): Brendan Lu (SACE Dux, The Caterer Award), Ethan Schwerdt (SACE Proxime Accesit), Bonnie MacAdam (IB Dux, The E.G. Mitton Award), Claudia Rodda, Daisy Allen (joint recipients of The Ross Family Leadership Medal) and Kate Crowley (IB Proxime Accesit).

Brendan Lu and Bonnie MacAdam received the maximum ATAR of 99.95. Bonnie also received the maximum 45 points for the IB Diploma, the only student in South Australia to achieve this in 2020.

Ethan Schwerdt completed the SACE certificate achieving an ATAR of 99.85. Kate completed the IB Diploma achieving a score of 44/45 and an ATAR of 99.75.

→ Tom Sage (Yr 12) with Mrs Jane Miller (Chair of the School Board) and Mr Luke Thomson (Principal) at the 2021 Commencement Ceremony.





210 Students (including 44 IB students)

11.3% ATAR

↑ ABOVE 99

29.6% ATAR

↑ ABOVE 95

47.8% ATAR

↑ ABOVE 90

MEDIAN ATAR  
SACE  
88.58

MEDIAN ATAR  
IB  
92.80

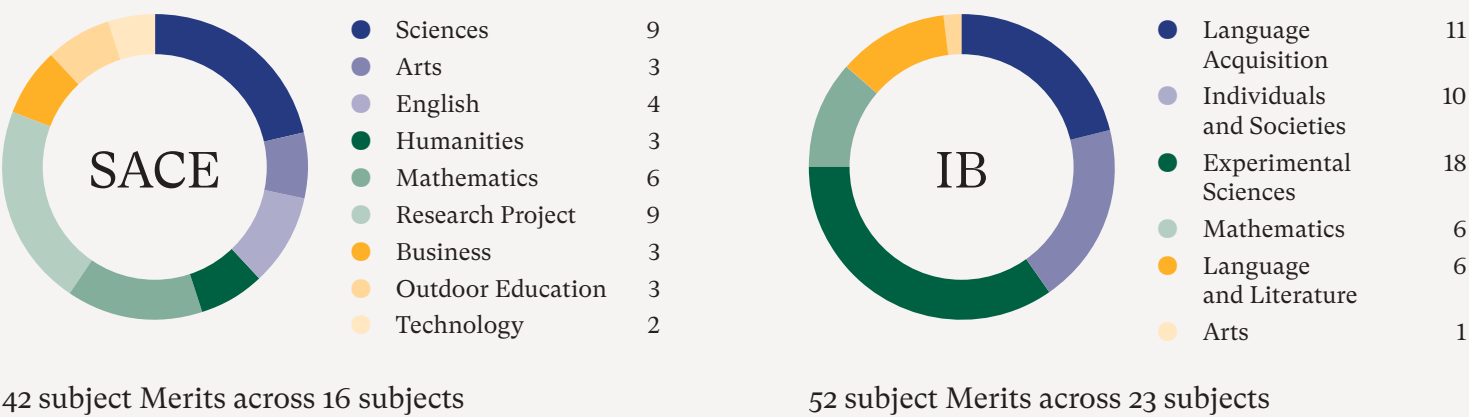
2 Perfect ATARs

99.95

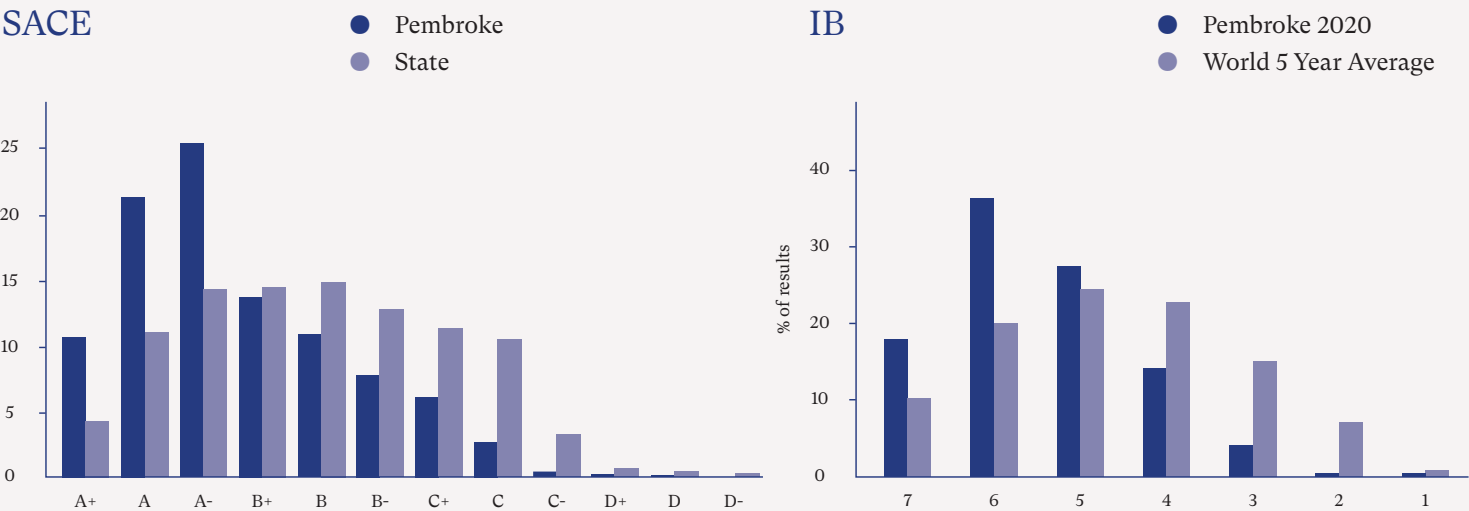
1 Perfect IB Score

45/45

Subject Merits

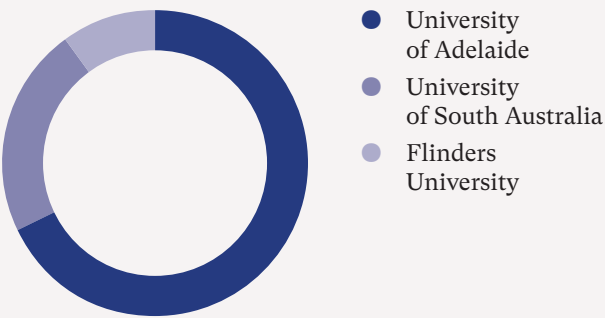


Grade Distribution



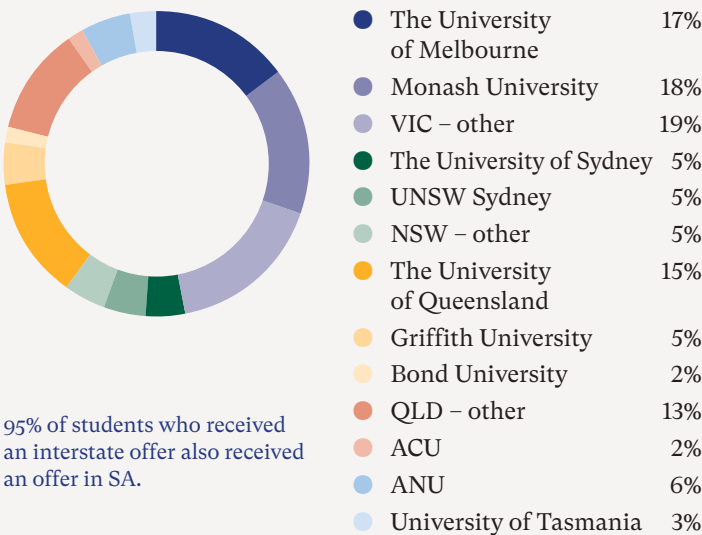
Distribution of Offers

South Australia

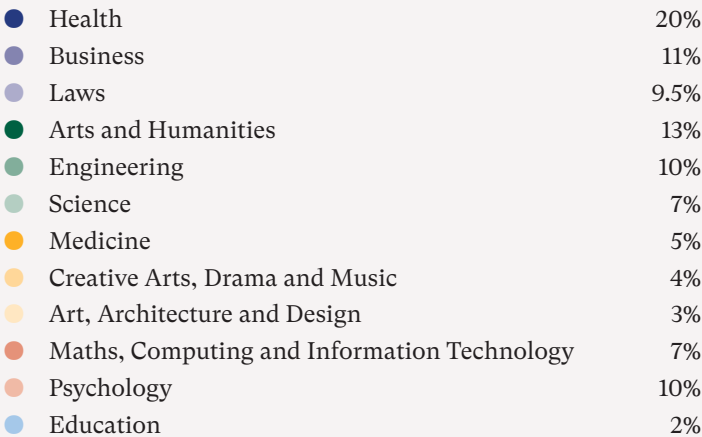
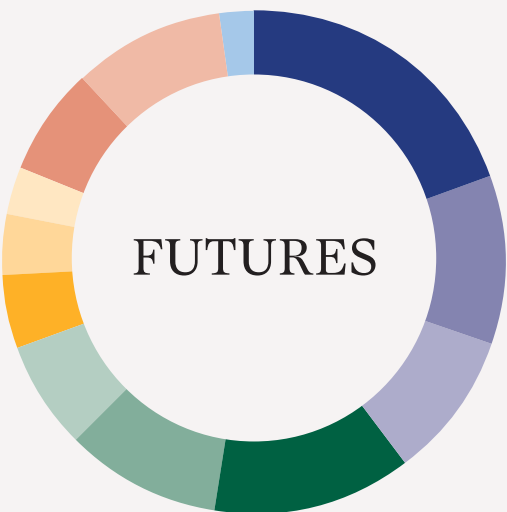


\*Data approximate at time of publication.

Interstate



Discipline Area



Reflective of all offers received, interstate and in SA.

99% of students applying for a tertiary place received an offer

82% of students received their 1st or 2nd preference course

Choice Multiple offers received from SA & interstate institutions

# 2021 School Leaders

## Senior School

Student Staff Executive (left to right):

Back row: Mia Wilks, Timothy Naylor, Hugo Balnaves (Head of Campbell House), Edward King, Tom Sage, Raphael Baker and Brandon Lehman.

Third row: Emil Smith, Sofia Suhinin, Isabella Stock (Head of Turner House), Meg Richards, Eva Harford and Jack Truong.

Second row: Mr Peter Urnevicius (Assistant Head of Senior School), Amelia Adamson, Sophia Panagopoulos, Clive Park, Mrs Alexandra Piggott (Head of Senior School) and Mr Luke Thomson (Principal).

Front row: Gwyneth Kang, Natasha Tu (Deputy Head Girl), Georgie Orchard (Head Girl), Ned Carruthers (Head Boy), Henry Clark (Deputy Head Boy) and Estelle Tsimiklis.



## Middle School

Student Voice Executive (left to right):

Back row: Jemima Noblet, Chris Wen, Ben Woolcock, Chloe Tziavrangos, Mitchell Sims and Tiger Jia.

Middle row: Mr Martin Roberts (Assistant Head of Middle School), Ms Pauline Baker (Assistant Head of Middle School), Sam Creighton, Cassie Masters, Joy Zhuang, Ms Kia Sheidow (Head of Middle School) and Mr Luke Thomson (Principal).

Front row: Skye Watson, Elsie Holland (SVE Co-Head Leader), Jack Clark (SVE Co-Head Leader), Will Kennett (SVE Co-Head Leader), Tess Roberts-Thomson (SVE Co-Head Leader), Matilda Angel and Caitlin Thatcher.



## Junior School

House Leaders (left to right):

Back row: Susie Sadler (Assistant Head of Junior School – Student Wellbeing), Carl Salt (Head of Junior School), Tia Bai, Rachel Cooper, Luke Thomson (Principal) and Belinda Reitstatter (Assistant Head of Junior School – Teaching and Learning).

Front row: Austin Miller, Tilly Bock, Ollie Webber, Udhav Singh, Lily Halpin and Emmanuel Lentakis.





# What Leadership Means at Pembroke

## Senior School

Leadership at Pembroke Senior School is about service to your community. The 22 members of our Student-Staff Executive (SSE) put themselves forward for the role with this clear understanding. They were only selected from a substantial field after a rigorous process of detailed nomination, voting by their peers and a formal interview. The group represents a range of areas of the school – day school and boarding houses and music, along with diverse skills, and cocurricular interests. To be a leader at Girton means that you are a developer but also the custodian of the culture of the campus, carefully carrying and protecting it across your 12-month term, additionally you are a servant to your peers and an important role model to the whole school.

The SSE is solely responsible for organising an assembly each week, these assemblies might have a specific focus like National Reconciliation Week, include a range of reports from sports, or involve a guest speaker or a competition among the tutes. The annual School Formal at the end of Term One is organised and run by these students and they also rally the school to support our students in important sports competitions, music events and drama productions. They play a key role in raising awareness and funds for causes and are key leaders of our drive towards a more environmentally sustainable campus.

The Senior School student leaders model the very best approach to Senior School life for their peers, striving to reach their personal best in every way and developing those key qualities that we seek. In 2021 this group is led by our Head Girl, Georgie Orchard and Head Boy, Ned Carruthers, ably supported by Natasha Tu and Henry Clark as their Deputies. We look forward to observing their growth, actions and contribution to our community.

**Mrs Alexandra Piggott**  
Head of Senior School

## Middle School

'Focus on your purpose NOW', was one of the seven effective strategies recommended by Mark Sparvell (Forbes Communication Council, 2020), when leading during a time of crisis. This strategy is also relevant when leading in a situation where one is not managing a crisis.

Our Student Voice Executive (SVE) members for 2021 have a time frame in which to gain knowledge and wisdom, display courage and strength, be adaptable, demonstrate compassion and humility and learn to serve others in our Pembroke community. In addition to this, each will be determining what kind of leader they wish to be *now*, during their final year of Middle School.

I congratulate, Jack Clark (Hill), Elsie Holland (Smith), Will Kennett (Reeves) and Tess Roberts-Thomson (Yates) on their appointment as the 2021 SVE Co-Head Leaders. They are ably supported by Matilda Angel (Oats), Sam Creighton (Yates), Tiger Jia (Mellor), Cassie Masters (Hill), Jemima Noblet (Wright), Mitchell Sims (Smith), Caitlin Thatcher (Mellor), Chloe Tziavrangos (Oats), Skye Watson (Reeves), Chris Wen (Wright), Ben Woolcock (Medlin) and Joy Zhuang (Medlin).

Leadership in the Middle School is one of opportunity and unlimited possibility. Year 10 leaders fulfill their leadership position for the whole year. Student Voice Representatives (Years 7 to 9) experience leadership for a semester, allowing for a greater number of students to experience this level of responsibility. Each year, students can apply for a leadership position, and are encouraged to improve their understanding of self and to support school-wide initiatives, actively promote the ethos of the School Aims, and be an advocate for their peers. Student leaders have the chance to drive student initiatives forward and *focus on what they can do for our community NOW*.

**Mrs Kia Sheidow**  
Head of Middle School

## Junior School

2020 saw a change in the way we approached our model of the Student Leadership selection process. A year-long Unit of Inquiry, 'Humans can influence and/or be influenced', developed and supported by the Year 5 teaching team invited all Year 5 students to consider the concept of leadership broadly and authentically through a focus on character, connection, service and unity.

Throughout the year students had opportunities to learn the art of building relationships within teams, define identities and collaborate to achieve tasks effectively. They were also provided with opportunities to learn to identify and display effective communication and interpersonal skills. They explored historical models of leadership and individual leaders in a range of contexts in order to draw similarities and make comparisons to inform their own views.

When deciding whether or not they would apply for the more formal role of House Leader, the Year 5 students were asked to consider why they are a good leader already, what they had done to demonstrate this and how they might be viewed by others through their behaviours, rather than what they would do during the following year.

After a carefully constructed voting process undertaken by Years 4–6 students and staff had taken place, our House leaders for 2021 were announced at our final Chapel Service.

We congratulate these students:  
**Flinders:** Tai Bal and Austin Miller  
**Spencer:** Lily Halpin and Oliver Webber  
**Torrens:** Rachel Cooper and Emmanuel Lentakis  
**Yorke:** Tilly Bock and Udhav Singh.

**Mrs Susie Sadler**  
Assistant Head Junior School  
(Student Wellbeing)

**Published by**  
Pembroke School  
342 The Parade, Kensington Park SA 5068  
Telephone (08) 8366 6200  
Email enquiries@pembroke.sa.edu.au  
CRICOS Provider Number 00367B

**Head of Publications**  
Tim O' Loughlin  
Email tolooughl@pembroke.sa.edu.au

**Editorial Team**  
Tim O'Loughlin (Editor)  
Terri Van Zomeren (Publications Assistant)

**Connect**  
Follow the Pembroke School and Pembroke Old Scholars' Association Facebook pages.

**Please send all address changes to**  
The Reception Office  
Pembroke School  
342 The Parade  
Kensington Park SA 5068

Telephone (08) 8366 6200  
Email update@pembroke.sa.edu.au

Registered by Australia Post  
Print Post No 100003637



**Pembroke**

[pembroke.sa.edu.au](http://pembroke.sa.edu.au)