Class of 2014

Excellence and Diversity

CRICOS PROVIDER CODE: 00628G

DECEMBER 2014
I am delighted to announce the excellent results achieved by our Class of 2014 in the South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE).

Seymour College offers a rich, vibrant and multifaceted education with immense opportunities created by the excellence and diversity of our College’s educational offering, combined with our vision to foster young women of strength, optimism and justice.

Our girls’ outstanding commitment to learning, their willingness to activate and develop their strengths, talents and skills through significant effort across a vast array of academic and cocurricular subjects is strongly apparent in their remarkable achievements. This is matched by a commitment on the part of our staff to go ‘above and beyond’ in striving to deliver the very best education for our girls, and helping them to flourish.

One student from the Class of 2014 wrote in her Year 12 survey:

I could not be more grateful to the Seymour College community for giving me so much more than the best education, but also the best experience and the most relevant opportunities and support needed to help me have the courage and skills to follow my dreams.

How affirming! We, in turn, are so grateful for what the Class of 2014 has brought to Seymour.

I congratulate these girls on their immense achievements and outstanding efforts. From excellent academic results to brilliant successes in art, debating, drama, music, sport and a broad array of other cocurricular activities, our girls are truly inspirational!

This year, Seymour College offered 31 SACE subjects to 114 girls, of whom 93 were in Year 12, 19 were Year 11 students and 2 were Year 10 students.

It is through the breadth and diversity of our curriculum that every girl has had the opportunity to achieve in a program tailored to her passions and interests – assisting her to develop a pathway towards her future goals.

More than anything, it is the young women that the Class of 2014 have become that has made us most proud. They embody the spirit of Seymour – the quest for excellence, the giving of one’s all, making the most of every educational endeavour, the willingness to shine brightly in the world, to make a positive contribution to others and the world around them – and to grow, by serving (reflecting our motto).

I hope you enjoy this celebration our Year 12 students’ achievements and, like me, you feel inspired by our wonderful Class of 2014.

Anne Johnstone
Principal

Our vision:
Women of strength, optimism and justice, contributing to an equitable world for all.
Our 2014 Results

- The median ATAR achieved was 92.85
- 6 students (7%) were in the top 1% nationally, with an ATAR of 99+
- 12 students (13%) were in the top 2% nationally, with an ATAR of 98+
- 36 students (40%) were in the top 5% nationally, with an ATAR of 95+
- 52 students (57%) were in the top 10% nationally, with an ATAR of 90+

Individual Grades

- 11% of all grades awarded were A+
- 29% of students achieved an A in every subject studied
- 57% of all grades awarded were in the A band
- 93% of all grades awarded were in the A or B band

SACE Grade Distribution

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>% Seymour</th>
<th>% State</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total A grades</td>
<td>57.40%</td>
<td>36.00%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total B grades</td>
<td>22.80%</td>
<td>43.60%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total C grades</td>
<td>6.70%</td>
<td>28.00%</td>
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Merit Summary

Students achieved 34 Merits in the following subjects:

- Biology
- Business and Enterprise
- Chemistry
- English Communications
- English Studies
- Food and Hospitality
- Legal Studies
- Mathematical Studies
- Physical Education
- Psychology
- Research Project
- Society and Culture
- Visual Arts – Design
- Workplace Practices

Katie Maxted and Sascha Margarita Koerner-Heinjus are to be congratulated for each achieving four Subject Merits. Sarah Abell and Samantha Batt were each awarded three Subject Merits.

Four students were awarded two Subject Merits.
Dux of the College

On the basis of the SACE results, we are delighted to confirm that Katie Maxted achieved an ATAR of 99.80 and will be awarded 2014 Dux of the College.

Sascha Margarita Koerner-Heinjus has been awarded Proxima Accessit, with an ATAR of 99.75.

Josephine Guthridge has been awarded Dux of the Boarding House, achieving an ATAR of 97.75.

Governor of South Australia SACE Commendation

2014 Creative Arts Captain, Sarah Abell is the recipient of a prestigious Governor of South Australia SACE Commendation, achieving an A+ with a Merit in three Year 12 subjects, including the Research Project, and by demonstrating excellence in her SACE studies and in the SACE capabilities of citizenship, communication, learning and personal development.

Order of Australia Student Citizenship Awards

In addition to winning the prestigious Governor of South Australia SACE Commendation, Sarah Abell, together with Year 11 student and 2015 Head Girl, Eleanor Thompkins, were honoured with Order of Australia Student Citizenship Awards. Seymour College is the only school in South Australia from which two students were selected for this honour in 2014.

VET in SACE Results

A number of students ranging from Year 10 to Year 12 completed full Certificate III courses during 2014, which can and have been used towards SACE and ATAR results.

Seymour College is the best school I have attended. It provides so many enriching opportunities for its students within a supportive, family community of sisters. The staff are incredible, always giving up their spare time to provide their students with extra assistance if needed, as well as providing enthusiastic lessons and teaching methods.

Year 12, 2014
A Diverse Experience

Students from the Class of 2014 describe their unique experiences at Seymour and what the College has meant to them.

Sarah Abell
Creative Arts Captain, Day Girl 2005–2014
Since arriving as a new student in Year 3, Seymour College has enabled me to take up opportunities that have enriched all aspects of my life. Academically, I have benefited from the dedicated staff who are not only experts in their field, but also have a genuine interest in their students’ success. Activities such as mooting and debating are just some of the cocurricular programs which contribute to creating a culture of academic achievement and participation, in which students feel compelled to strive for their best.

The abundance of sporting and musical opportunities at all levels enables students to participate in a variety of cocurricular activities. My involvement in the Big Band and Concert Band, as well as being part of the tennis and netball teams, were aspects of my schooling for which I will be eternally grateful. These opportunities have allowed me to discover skills which I may not have developed were it not for being at Seymour.

Ultimately, my academic successes have been made possible by the support network created by the girls in the Class of 2014. We have strived for excellence not only academically but also in creating an encouraging environment in which to achieve this. To go to school with such a friendly and welcoming group of girls, many of whom I know will be lifelong friends, is an aspect of the Seymour education that makes it truly priceless.

Michelle Chan
I entered Seymour College in Year 2 after moving to Adelaide from Singapore. From day one, the community welcomed me with open arms and does the same with newcomers from all backgrounds each year.

During my time, I have particularly appreciated the range of cocurricular activities and opportunities made available to each of us. I feel so blessed to have been part of the small communities within the school, such as music ensembles, debating teams and the prayer group, and to have been able to participate in Clan competitions, the art masterclass, and several unforgettable study tours and retreats. These trips especially are my favourite school memories, for the connections I made and experiences I had.

The teachers have been incredibly supportive of both my education and wellbeing. Seymour offered me the opportunity to excel academically and taught me to value integrity, loyalty and strength of character.

The Service program is the cornerstone of Seymour’s central values. Values that each of us have lived in order to contribute to an equitable world for all. Without it, I would not be the person I am today.

Seymour successfully instils a sense of community pride and spirit that so many other schools and organisations strive to achieve. The traditions that embody each event – bagpipes, raucous singing and cheering, and the ever-present tartan – are all integral reminders of the unique Seymour sisterhood.

Once a Seymour girl, always a Seymour girl!
Rachel Cope

Music Captain, Day Girl 2008–2014

My Seymour College experience began when I commenced in Year 6. I appreciated the balance of the many educational, sporting and music opportunities the school offered. I have been extremely grateful for my involvement in a wide variety of music ensembles, including Big Band I and II, the Percussion and Steel Pan Ensembles, the Street Band and the Concert Band.

The Centre for Performing Arts has become my second home, where both staff and students are committed to excel in their learning and to build strong relationships based on truth, honesty, trust and good humour. This is a rare find in today’s world. The staff are like family to me.

As Music Captain, I have had the privilege to participate in a wide variety of College, church and community events, through which I have developed greater musicality and leadership. Seymour has allowed me to grow exponentially from a very quiet Year 6 girl, who lacked confidence, into a strong leader who can conduct and perform in front of a large audience.

All my teachers from Year 6 to Year 12, the Head of Middle School, Ms Rosie Lake, and most importantly my Clan Guardian, Mrs Ruth Massie, have influenced my wellbeing greatly. I will never forget my time at Seymour College and will always recall my time here with gratitude.

Anna FitzGerald

Debating Leader, Day Girl 2001–2014

On my third birthday I joined the Seymour community and since then, I have grown to understand the Seymour vision.

Through all of the opportunities and challenges that Seymour gave us, I have learned that the greatest rewards come from giving. I have embraced the idea of service and the personal growth that comes from working for the good of all.

My experience of this has come over time through Seymour’s many academic and cocurricular activities.

Seymour has taught me that strength comes from a well performing team – whether it is a group, class, Clan or school – and also in one’s own sense of morals and values. Music, drama, sport, and debating are all wonderful disciplines that build strong hearts and minds beyond the usual learning. These unique opportunities have shaped me as a person, and guided me towards my future.

As I leave the College for the last time, I feel I will be ready to serve society, just like the Seymour community has served its students. Some day we will look back and truly understand the advantage we were given by spending our school days at Seymour College. I now have a profound sense of self, confidence and belonging, which has prepared me for life.

I am extremely thankful for the help, the friendships I have made, and for all the life lessons that Seymour has taught me over the last 15 years. Thank you for everything, Seymour.

Year 12, 2014
Sascha Margarita Koerner-Heinjus


Seymour College became my second home on my first day, as I walked through the gates as a pre-schooler with a tartan bow bigger than my head. I feel tremendously fortunate and proud to be a Seymour girl, as the support, encouragement and opportunities given to me throughout my time here have shaped me into who I am today.

The staff go above and beyond for all the girls, and are so clearly passionate about helping their students achieve their best. While the educational aspect of Seymour is superb, I truly believe the welcoming and strong community of the College is what makes the Seymour experience invaluable.

I am an extremely proud Clan Douglas girl, and believe that the inclusion of being part of a Clan and the rivalry between Clans encourages all girls to try their hardest, support one another and also teaches the importance of teamwork and good sportsmanship from an early age.

Seymour traditions deliver such special value to College events, making them all, especially Sports Day, unforgettable memories of school life. The Service program at Seymour has opened my eyes to diversity, taught me the value of compassion and has imparted within me a passion to use the amazing opportunities I have received to help those less fortunate.

I feel blessed to have finished my schooling alongside my 92 sisters, who are the most courageous, accepting, supportive and funny group of girls. Seymour has taught us all so much and given us so many incredible experiences which we will take with us for the rest of our lives.

Elise Gordon

Clan Stewart Chief, Day Girl 2009–2014

The last six years at Seymour has proven to be an invaluable experience, providing an excellent environment to learn, to foster friendships and to excel. The College also provides a supportive environment, facilitating many curricular and cocurricular programs through which girls flourish.

Upon commencing my education at Seymour, I was welcomed into a compassionate yet challenging environment. Through the support of both the staff and my fellow students, I have had the opportunity to immerse myself in many school activities including several sporting groups, music programs and debating.

Seymour fosters strong women who are driven to excel in areas beyond the core curriculum. The College provides a culture of warmth which develops girls of determination and independence and encourages respect.

This year, I was honoured to be elected as Chief of Clan Stewart. I was privileged to lead and work alongside inspiring young women across all year levels. This rewarding experience has sparked my desire to pursue a career with a focus on leadership. Being part of a Clan promotes a sense of belonging and community spirit, which is advanced by every traditional Clan event. These opportunities also promote relationships between year levels, enabling the older girls to set strong examples of a true Seymour girl, one of strength, optimism and justice.

The inspiring teachers go above and beyond the call of duty to enable each girl to strive towards her goals. I owe a debt of gratitude to all who have enhanced my experience at Seymour College.
Josephine Guthridge

Head Girl, Boarder 2011–2014

From the sweltering streets of Darwin to the green grounds of Seymour College, everything about my time at Seymour involved change. However, from my very first days at Seymour College, change was easy.

Coming to Seymour in Year 9, at the end of Middle School where friendships and bonds were already well formed, I was welcomed by all the girls. The atmosphere created by the students, staff and the whole Seymour community is of such a warm and inviting nature, that as a new girl I already felt part of the Seymour family.

Sport and music had always played a big role in my life, but Seymour saw me embracing a multitude of opportunities that would not be so readily available to me in Darwin. Admittedly, I did not sign up to learn to play the bagpipes. However, I was still a part of the culture and tradition that is so important at Seymour, evident at events such as Sports Day and the swimming carnival, and indeed throughout one’s Seymour experience.

The College’s longstanding motto, *Crescam Ministrando* — *I grow by serving* — has made me realise that one of the most fulfilling things one can do in life is to help others. This is something that I might have taken longer to realise had I not attended Seymour.

Sarah Malthouse

Deputy Head Boarder, Boarder 2012–2014

I first came to Seymour as a boarder in Year 10. It was a massive change but one of the best opportunities I have been given to this day.

Seymour is unique, as the environment allows each student to feel comfortable in her own skin, whilst striving to be her very best. The teachers and Boarding House staff are always willing to help and sincerely care for each student. Coming to an all-girls’ school has enhanced my learning experience as it meant that I could really focus on my studies. Each girl at Seymour aspires to do well.

The Boarding House will forever be my second home. The life-long friendships that I have made with girls from all over Australia and overseas will always be close to my heart. From the spirit shown throughout Boarders’ Week, the laughter shared during year level outings and the unforgettable memories made during each day, the girls in the Boarding House will be what I miss most.

Coming to Seymour has helped shape and guide me as it has allowed me to gain confidence and independence, qualities that will help me with my future endeavours. The opportunities that Seymour has presented to me have also allowed me to grow and learn so much more. I will be forever grateful to my family, friends, the Boarding House staff and the entire Seymour College community for all that they have done for me to make me the person that I am today.

I have loved and greatly appreciated my time at Seymour, as it has positively shaped my approach to learning and pursuing my full potential. I believe that the all-girls’ environment is very supportive, helping young girls to develop emotionally and academically to become well-rounded and confident young women.

Year 12, 2014
Katie Maxted
Day Girl 2012–2014

My Seymour journey began in 2012, when I joined the Senior School. Joining in Year 10 was a great experience as my cohort was a welcoming, happy family of girls, with a large community feel.

As a third generation Seymour girl, I relished the opportunity to complete my education at Seymour College.

I was always excited to be part of Clan Cameron, as my family has supported this wonderful Clan for many years. During my final years here, I enjoyed the whirlwind journey of many Cameron wins. Having the younger and senior girls growing together has always been a hallmark of fun times and strong Clan Cameron spirit.

Seymour has always encouraged me, and I have always respected the sense of tradition that permeates the school. While these aspects are almost intangible, they are warm and special.

The teachers at Seymour are outstanding. They have gone far beyond what I have expected, encouraging and inspiring me to explore my curiosity and for this I will always be grateful.

Being a passionate dancer, I also enjoyed the opportunities and encouragement to foster my love of dance through the academic program. As I leave the College I take with me fond memories. Seymour is certainly a community of belonging, my awareness of social justice is enhanced and I feel an immense gratitude for the guidance and support I have enjoyed in my time here.

Tessa Pahl
Day Girl 2010–2014

Ever since my first Seymour day in Year 8, I have been amazed and deeply appreciative of the supportive and enthusiastic student community. These girls have helped me to develop confidence, my ambitions and true friendships. I am extremely proud to call these outstanding young women my peers.

I admire the excellence demonstrated by Seymour's teachers through their immense enthusiasm, organisation, breadth of knowledge, and ability to engage every student. I have been inspired by the dedication expressed by my teachers during every lesson and hope that I too will be able to display the same zeal in what I do every day. The brilliant learning environment provided by Seymour is due to its outstanding teachers.

The beautiful and inherent Scottish traditions of the College are very special and have enabled me to feel an even greater connection to the school. I love feeling part of the long line of traditions such as Sports Day, the swimming carnival and Clan Choral. These occasions bring the community together and are much anticipated. The sound of bagpipes, Clan chants, tartan banners and tartan dresses will always remind me of my wonderful times at Seymour.

I have learnt so many invaluable lessons during my time at Seymour, both academically and emotionally. I have been inspired to pursue my love of the medical field to the limits of my ability and know that I will be able to do so with Seymour's instilled values of determination, strength and undying optimism.

I have enjoyed being a part of the friendly and supportive atmosphere that is created by staff, students and various supporting members of the school.

Year 12, 2014
Tikari Rigney
Day Girl 2010–2014
Girls can do anything is what Seymour has taught me. Whether it was competing for Douglas in the Clash of the Clans, or being one of the first Aboriginal students to set foot in the White House, I have benefited from the opportunities this extraordinary College has given me.

I began at Seymour College in Year 8. I was both nervous and excited, eased only by the kind teachers and students that make up our Seymour community. I looked forward to camps and Clan events and knew this school would be a rewarding experience.

I have enjoyed being part of the Class of 2014. All the girls bring unique, quirky personalities to our year level. We are like a family sharing incredible memories. I feel so privileged to have progressed through the highs and lows of school life with this group of girls.

At Seymour I have admired the dedication and commitment shown by staff, volunteers and parents towards our success. This support has developed me as a person and led to my academic success. Thanks to my teachers and peer relationships, I let go of self-doubt and embraced self-belief. I owe a great deal of gratitude to Seymour for shaping me into the person I am today. I have learnt to be patient and always see the positive in everyone.

Women are denied education globally, yet Seymour educates girls to change the world. Nothing will stop the Class of 2014 from changing the world!

Soknoeun Soeun
International Day Girl 2012–2014
Coming to Seymour College has been an adventure and a great educational opportunity. My life would have been very different without the support of the Seymour community and my lovely homestay.

I was very fortunate to receive a scholarship from Seymour, but at the time I wasn’t too sure what to expect from this opportunity. Attending Seymour meant I had to leave Cambodia, my family, my friends and my local school. I was concerned about the language barrier as well as the different education system that Australia, and a school like Seymour, would offer.

My attitude changed completely after just a few weeks at Seymour. Everyone was so kind and supportive, especially my friends, who would be late for their lessons because they were making sure that I could find my classroom. Not only did they ensure that I was heading in the right direction, but they also checked my spelling and grammar in many assignments. They are the best friends I have ever had.

The teachers have been very helpful throughout my years at Seymour. Even though they have different teaching techniques, I could easily understand the lessons and the tasks set. They are skilful teachers, enthusiastic and patient.

Seymour gave me a second chance to be open-minded, to open up my world, and, more importantly, to be educated.

Seymour College and the amazing, dedicated staff have never failed to support me and have given me the skills that I need to lead a successful life.

Year 12, 2014
Lok Yan (Gloria) Wong
International Boarder 2012-2014

Leaving my beloved parents in Hong Kong and studying at Seymour College as a boarder from the age of 15 was definitely one of the hardest decisions I have made. However, it was a decision that I will never regret.

I joined Seymour when I was in Year 10. I was amazed at the beautiful environment, the comfortable classrooms, and the small class sizes. It was so different to education in Hong Kong. The small class sizes and vast resources enable the teachers to take care of every student’s individual learning needs.

The teachers at Seymour are not just teachers to me, they are also my friends. During class, they did not simply give lessons, they developed their relationships with us by sharing their life experiences, their sense of humour and even yummy foods! They are compassionate and caring and interested in our wellbeing as much as our academic success, all of which create an open and wonderful atmosphere in which to study. If I needed help after hours, the teachers were always available for further assistance.

Conversations in English were once a big challenge for me, although I learnt English for 10 years before coming to Australia. I am so grateful to all of the people I have met through Seymour College, especially my teachers, the Boarding House staff and the students. Without their support and encouragement, my English would not have improved so much.

I have so many beautiful memories of Seymour College that will stay with me forever.

Seymour gave me a second chance to be open-minded, to open up my world, and, more importantly, to be educated.

Year 12, 2014