

strength
optimism
justice
seymour.

PERFORMANCE
REPORT
2016

Contents

4

From the Principal

5

Contextual Information

6

2016 Summary

11

Teacher Standards and Qualification

11

Workforce Composition

11

Student Attendance

12

Senior Secondary Outcomes

14

NAPLAN Results

14

Student Satisfaction

From the Principal



“

...at the heart of everything we do is the belief that academic excellence must be directly correlated to each individual learner

At Seymour we acknowledge that at the heart of everything we do is the belief that academic excellence must be directly correlated to each individual learner.

We aim to guide each girl to discover and explore her individual passions.

We encourage our students to take calculated risks that may not always pay off, but, if successful, will open new horizons.

Ultimately, we want our girls to be fulfilled, not just by the realisation of individual goals, but also by the challenging and inspirational journey along the way.

To achieve this, we have created an environment where it is safe to take risks and push boundaries in pursuit of deeper meaning. Our environment applauds the attainment of excellence, and, where appropriate, rewards it.

Our exceptional teaching, boarding, support and administration staff, as well as our College Leadership Team, have displayed their commitment and willingness to go above and beyond in educating our girls and helping them fulfil their potential.

We also have a wonderful community of families, including the Boarders' Parents' Association, Foundation, Parents'

and Friends' Association, Foundation, Old Collegians' Association and members, as well as 'Friends of...' of the College groups. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for all the support they have given us in educating our students throughout 2016.

The Seymour community is indebted to the College Board, led by Chair, Rosina Hislop, for their invaluable wisdom, work and support in the governance of the College.

Kevin Tutt
Principal

Contextual Information



Founded in 1922, Seymour College (formerly Presbyterian Girls' College) – a Uniting Church school – is one of Australia's leading independent day and boarding schools for girls and young women, from Pre-School to Year 12.

Situated on more than 10 hectares of park-like campus and just 5 km from the Adelaide Central Business District, Seymour College enjoys a well-earned reputation for academic and personal excellence and warm and responsive pastoral care.

Seymour is committed to fostering empathetic and global citizens. The College's multicultural and multifaith student population embraces

the College's motto, *Crescam Ministrando (I grow by serving)*, not only through the College's service and outreach programs, but also via the College's service learning program which is embedded across the curriculum.

Seymour College is proud to have played a vital role in the education and social development of tens of thousands of girls and young women, encouraging them to realise their full potential.

Many Seymour graduates have become significant leaders in their chosen careers and fields of endeavour. They have all had the benefit of one of the best educations available, and the friendships they have forged

with their fellow students have been enriching and enduring.

Heritage buildings, courtyards and extensive sporting facilities provide an environment which enhances the abundant educational opportunities available to all students, and with all facilities on site, Seymour provides students with a safe and secure campus.

2016 Summary



Seymour College provides a unique environment where girls can thrive in their learning and find their own worth, beliefs and values. It is a safe and affirming place for girls to learn devoid of the gender bias and sexism that still exists in our society.

There is no doubt that girls benefit from the environment here at Seymour. The College is organised and run on the requirements of girls; the only focus is girls and their learning, their wellbeing, their requirements and activities.

Robin Robertson once said:
When girls go to single sex schools, they stop being the audience and they become the players.

It is our aim to give them the courage to face the world with equanimity and aplomb. Seymour strives to give our girls the education which will allow their leadership and other

strengths to flourish. It is always GIRLS FIRST at Seymour College. And it shows.

2016 was a year of excellent academic results and unprecedented success in art, dance, debating, drama, music, sport and a broad array of other co-curricular activities.

I am delighted to report that the median ATAR achieved was 91.5

- 9 students (10%) were in the top 1% nationally, with an ATAR of 99+
- 17 students (18%) were in the top 2% nationally, with an ATAR of 98+
- 34 students (37%) were in the top 5% nationally, with an ATAR of 95+
- 51 students (55%) were in the top 10% nationally, with an ATAR of 90+

In 2016, 92 girls completed Year 12 at Seymour, achieving 42 Merits across 16 subjects

- approximately half of them in the disciplines of Maths and Science.

In addition, 37% of the girls achieved an ATAR of 95 or more, placing them in the top 5% of academic achievers nationally. More than half of the cohort were placed in the top 10% of students nationally. That is a success few schools can match.

One student received a Governor of South Australia SACE Commendation for demonstrating excellence in her SACE studies and in the SACE capabilities of citizenship, communication, learning and personal development

Two students have been awarded 2016 ADF Long Tan Youth Leadership Awards, recognising students who demonstrate leadership and teamwork capabilities both within their school and the broader community.



Isobel Abell and Tarniwarra Rigney with their Student Citizenship certificates.

Two students were honoured with the Order of Australia Association's Student Citizenship Highly Commended Certificates recognising their contribution to the College and general communities.

The Class of 2016 were certainly advocates for the pursuit of excellence and I warmly congratulate them on their outstanding efforts and accomplishments.

Other academic achievements included:

- 70 Seymour girls from Years 3 to 10 completed the Mathematics Challenge for Young Australians. They achieved six High Distinctions, 14 Distinctions and 23 Credits.
- Seymour students made up just over 8.6% of the total 2,309 entries in the MASA School Mathematics Competition for the Society of Petroleum Engineers.



The 2016 Year 9 da Vinci Decathlon team.

Gina Wang (Year 8), Grace Zeng (Year 11), Jenny Sheng (Year 12) and True-Mai Nguyen (Year 7) received Distinctions, and Elyssa Chan (Year 10), Jessica Thai (Year 8) and Sheridan Ling (Year 9) received Credits.

Jodie Lee (Year 11) achieved equal first place in the Senior Division, the fourth consecutive year that Jodie has won her division.

- Girls had spectacular results in the Australian Mathematics Trust Competition. 245 students from Years 3-12 sat the Australian Mathematics Trust (AMT) Competition. Results included seven High Distinctions, 60 Distinctions and 88 Credits.

In addition, Jodie Lee (Year 11) and Sheridan Ling (Year 9) won Prizes, with Jodi also being awarded Best In School.

- At the 2016 South Australian da Vinci Decathlon, our Year 6s, who entered the competition for the first time, won both the English and Science categories.

The Year 7s won English, Art & Poetry and General Knowledge, came second in Philosophy and third in Science. The Year 9s came second in Engineering, Code-Breaking and Art & Poetry and third in Science, Cartography and Mathematics.

Our Year 7 and Year 9 girls were declared outright year level champions and both teams travelled to Sydney to represent South Australia in the National Competition of this rigorous intellectual challenge.

At the National Competition, the Year 7 team won the Creative Producers section and came third in English and Art & Poetry. The Year 9 team won the Engineering



Matilda Wise, Taylor Justice and Celia Peters.



Zoë Chalmers.

section and came second in Creative Producers.

- Seymour continued to excel in debating. This year we won the Intercol Debating and a number of grades including the Senior A Grade.

Laura Hanlon, Madeleine McNeil and Zoe Chalmers, were selected for the South Australian Schools' Debating Squad, forming three of the seven person team. Zoë Chalmers was recognised as the most valuable member of the state team.

- Sara Shahin was selected to attend the 21st National Schools Constitutional Convention (NSCC) in Canberra during March.

The NSCC offers senior students an opportunity to become better informed about how Australia's Constitution provides a democratic framework and encourages

participants to take an active interest in the operation of government. The topic of the 2016 Convention was Education in a Federation.

- In April, Eryn Swann attended the prestigious National Space Camp in Victoria, the Mission to Mars camp. Eryn reconnected with students from previous Space School experiences and enjoyed simulating the experiences of astronauts including wearing space suits and communicating through radio transmissions.
- Taylor Justice, Celia Peters and Matilda Wise represented Seymour and South Australia in the national finals of the Bond Mooting competition, held at Bond University on the Gold Coast. Celia was awarded one of only three Outstanding Advocate awards.
- Ruby Butcher and Zoë Chalmers won the semi-

final on the UN Youth SA's Evatt Competition.

- Isobel Abell and Mahima Raju were given Duke of Edinburgh Gold Awards during a special presentation at Government House. Congratulations also to Tikva Mary Barton, Annie Clark and Maggie Sanders who attained their Silver Awards.
- We had multiple winners in the 2016 SASTA Oliphant Science Awards. Year 12s Alexandra Larke and Brittany Larke placed in second and third respectively in the Year 11-12 category of Science Inquiry and Isabella Inglis (Year 11) received a Highly Commended award for her Scientific Writing. Josephine Oehler (Year 7) won third place in the Photography category and Priyanka Thavarajah (Year 2) won second place in two categories – Poster and Scientific Inquiry.



The Seymour girls selected for the South Australian team competing in the 2016 National Equestrian Championships.

In addition, Seymour College was awarded second place in the Senior Schools award for Science.

- Year 11 Georgie Oag was accepted into the prestigious University of New South Wales' Women in Engineering Camp at the end of 2016.
- Year 11 students, Josie Awaad, Lucinda Penn and Ruby Butcher became the South Australian finalists for the 2016 Plan Your Own Enterprise competition. Their business plan, QuickSit, is a babysitting booking app.
- A number of Junior School students submitted entries into the CJ Dennis Poetry Competition.

In the Primary Category across Australia, two of our Year 5 students were prize winners with their poems. Gaby Manifold received second prize for her poem *The Brumby*

and Lily Dracopoulos received third prize for her poem *The Wackergonginee*.

In sport, Seymour once again excelled in many areas. Whether it was our aerobics, cross country, equestrian, gymnastics, hockey, Pedal Prix, rowing or swimming teams (just to name a few), or whether it was an individual competitor, Seymour was at the fore, competing with great determination and, on many occasions, winning convincingly.

Some sporting highlights include:

- Five students competed at the 2016 South Australian State Athletics Championships from 12-14 February at SA Athletics Stadium.

Between them, the girls achieved three gold, three silver and two bronze medals. It was wonderful to see the girls' dedication and

commitment to performing at an exceptional level.

- Our swimming team won the 2016 SSSSA A Grade State Championships, making Seymour the top girls' swimming school in the state
- The Seymour Primary swimming team combined with PAC to compete at the Independent Primary Schools Swimming Carnival.

Seymour won the girls division and PAC won the boys division. The combined Seymour/PAC team won the overall competition.

- Members of the Seymour Equestrian team competed at the Trinity College Interschool Gymkhana, performing spectacularly against 39 other schools and other ISO riders. Seymour was awarded both Best School on Parade and overall winners of the Gymkhana.



"We're off to see the Wizard!"



The 2016 Baroque concert.

Ten of our girls were also selected for the South Australian team competing in the National Equestrian Championships at the Sydney International Equestrian Centre in September. Seymour girls comprise a quarter of the South Australian team, and represent the largest cohort from any school in SA.

- Seymour Gymnastics has been nominated for Gymnastics South Australia's Club of the Year award, while our coach Emma Darcy was nominated for Coach of the Year.
- Seven students competed at the SAPSASA Year 6/7 State Basketball Carnival. The Seymour team was undefeated after five games, demonstrating an excellent display of athleticism.

Our rich co-curricular offering is further highlighted in the areas of Music and Drama.

In 2016, Seymour audiences had much to applaud with a range of spectacular performances including the orchestra, A Cappella and the Pipe Band; Year 12 play, *Curtain Up*; the Middle School *Wizard of Oz*; and the Junior School production *Cinderella and Rockerfella*.

Music at Seymour in 2016 has been highlighted by an inspiring level of dedication and success, and above all, fun.

Our musicians have shone in many performances, embracing evenings of Baroque, Bands, Cabaret, Ceilidh, Choral and A Capella, Eisteddfod, Jazz, Orchestras and Strings.

Seymour's McGregor Strings combined with the Year 6/7 Strings and, along with the Barr Smith Strings and Senior Strings, performed at the annual ABODA Music Festival in 2016. All three ensembles were awarded gold.

The girls in McGregor and 6/7 Strings were especially excited to be announced as overall winners of their Junior section.

Our Big Band 1 competed in the Intermediate Stage Band section and were also awarded gold.

Teacher Standards and Qualifications

A complete list of teacher qualifications is available in the 2016 Black Watch magazine.

All teaching staff are highly qualified and hold the necessary qualifications for teacher registration in South Australia. The qualifications include Bachelor and Master Degrees,

Graduate Diplomas, Diplomas and Certificates.

- 11% with 4 or more professional qualifications.
- 16% with 3 professional qualifications.
- 53% with 2 professional qualifications.

- 20% with 1 professional qualification.

Staff Turnover Rate

84.26% staff retention rate from 2015-2016

Workforce Composition

In 2016 Seymour College workforce consists of:

Teaching staff	94
Full time equivalent teaching staff	81.5
Non-teaching staff	75
Full time equivalent non-teaching staff	56.7
Indigenous staff	0

Student Attendance

Seymour College maintains a high level of attendance.

The average rate for attendance in 2016 for students in Years 1-10 was 95%

Roll call is taken in form group at the beginning of each day and at every lesson in Middle and Senior School.

Non-attendance is marked on the roll. Students are marked as absent if parents have notified the school.

If a student is still not marked as present by the end of the second lesson, a text message is sent to the parents.

Senior Secondary Outcomes

2016 has been a year of academic success at Seymour College. We are incredibly proud of the academic achievements that allow our students to pursue a diverse range of exciting pathways.

Our vast co-curricular program also provides many

opportunities for students to extend their learning, develop their passions and flourish into young women of strength, optimism and justice.

Below are some of the successes experienced by our students throughout 2016.

Class of 2016 Results

91.5

Median **ATAR** achieved

10%

9 students were in the **top 1% nationally**, with an ATAR of **99+**

18%

17 students were in the **top 2% nationally**, with an ATAR of **98+**

37%

34 students were in the **top 5% nationally**, with an ATAR of **95+**

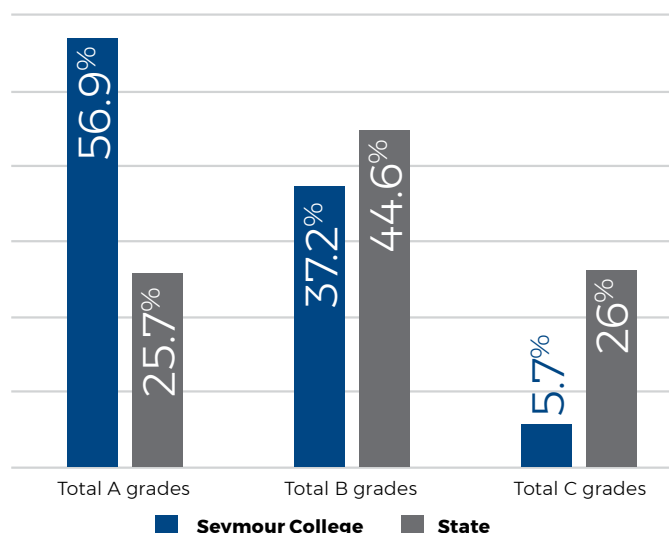
55%

51 students were in the **top 10% nationally**, with an ATAR of **90+**

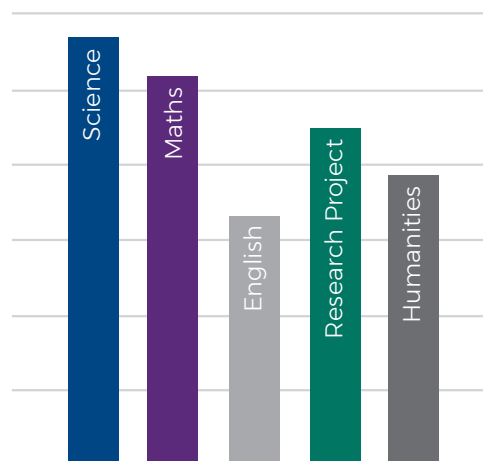
Individual Grades

- 9% of all grades awarded were A+
- 40% of students achieved four or more As
- 57% of all grades awarded were in the A band
- 94% of all grades awarded were in the A or B band

SACE Grade Distribution



Seymour students achieved 42 Merits across 16 subjects in the following areas:



Subject Merits

Tamsin Coleman, Elizabeth Johnson and Eloise Little each achieved 4 SACE Subject Merits.

Cara Gordon and Jodie Lee (Year 11) both achieved 3 SACE Subject Merits.

Alexandra Larke and Tamara Lidums were awarded 2 SACE Subject Merits.



Dux of the College

On the basis of the SACE results, Eloise Little was awarded 2016 Dux of the College with an ATAR of 99.85.

Tamsin Coleman was awarded Proximae Accessit, with an ATAR of 99.8.

Olivia Altmann was awarded Dux of the Boarding House with an ATAR of 98.2.

Governor of South Australia SACE Commendation

We congratulate 2016 Head Girl, Isobel Abell, who was awarded a Governor of South Australia SACE Commendation, for demonstrating excellence in her SACE studies and in the SACE capabilities of citizenship, communication, learning and personal development.

Order of Australia Student Citizenship Awards

Isobel Abell and Tarniwarra Rigney were both honoured with the Order of Australia Association's Student Citizenship Highly Commended Certificates recognising their contribution to the College and general communities.

Australian Defence Forces Long Tan Award

Sophie Gauvin and Anjana Prabu have been awarded 2016 ADF Long Tan Youth Leadership Awards.

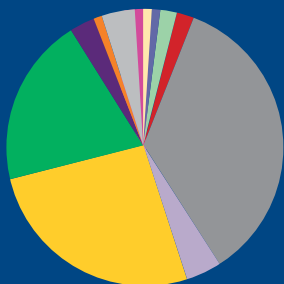
The award recognises students who demonstrate leadership and teamwork capabilities both within their school and the broader community.

VET in SACE Results

Six students ranging from Year 11 to Year 12 completed full Certificate 3 courses during 2016, which can and have been used towards SACE and ATAR results.

Students completed these Certificates in the areas of Early Childhood Education and Care, Fitness, Christian Ministry and Theology, Visual Arts, Media and Business.

Class of 2016 Post-School Destinations

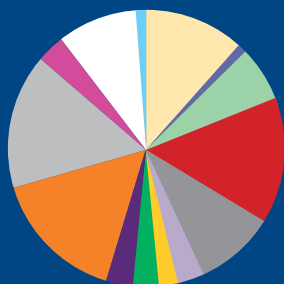


1% Swinburne University
1% SAE Institute Australia
2% International College of Hotel Management
2% Griffith University

35% University of South Australia
4% University of Melbourne
26% University of Adelaide
20% Flinders University

3% Australian National University
1% University of Tasmania
4% University of Sydney
1% University of New South Wales

Class of 2016 Areas of Study



11% Health Science
1% Engineering
6% Education
14% Business/Commerce

9% Arts
3% Architecture/Design
2% Psychology
3% Nursing

3% Medicine
15% Medical Science/Science
15% Maths/Computer Science
3% Marketing/Media

9% Law
1% International Studies

NAPLAN Results

Seymour College students achieved strongly in the NAPLAN testing suite in 2016.

The results in all 20 testing domains across Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 were significantly above the national average and revealed a very large number of students testing in the upper two bands for their year level.

On average, 63% of Seymour students recorded results in the upper two bands in Reading, 58% in Writing and 52% in Numeracy.

This demonstrates the high-achieving nature of Seymour students and the clear emphasis on literacy and numeracy skills in the curriculum, as

well as higher-order thinking and reasoning.

This can be attributed to strong Mathematics teaching, with an emphasis on the application of mathematical skills in problem-solving and complex reasoning

tasks, as well as a reading program which emphasises enjoyment, deep understanding and comprehension at a variety of levels.

	Reading (% scoring in upper two bands)	Writing (% scoring in upper two bands)	Numeracy (% scoring in upper two bands)
Year 3	64%	88%	59%
Year 5	64%	53%	36%
Year 7	67%	61%	67%
Year 9	55%	31%	44%
Average	63%	58%	52%

Student Satisfaction

An online Exit Survey was emailed to all Year 12 students, rating their overall experience at Seymour College.

Extracts of individual responses below:

Thank you, for everything you have given me. It may not seem like it, but I honestly loved my time here and I will miss it so much.

I have enjoyed my time at Seymour, and staff that have directly interacted with me have been amazing in helping me learn along with ensuring to check on

my wellbeing, and I have been able to study at a high standard.

I have loved my time at Seymour over the past three years. The teachers and lessons were at a very high standard.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at Seymour and appreciate all the effort in recent years to make the College a better place for the students.

