



Media Release

High-achieving girls in Science and Mathematics top ILC's Class of 2017

16 December 2017

Today, Immanuel's Class of 2017 celebrated the official end to their schooling with the release of Overall Position (OP) numbers by the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority.

For many, it's a mixture of joy and trepidation as they log on to their student learning accounts to find out what their immediate future holds. For two young women, both of whom achieved an OP 1, their immediate plans involve starting university or taking a gap year.

"We are extremely proud of the Class of 2017 who will soon make their own way in the world; whether it is to pursue further study, opportunities in the workplace or perhaps take a gap year," said Principal Colin Minke.

"This year, our top achievers are a group of young women who wish to pursue careers in the sciences. However, whatever their gender or pursuits, I am proud that Immanuel has been producing confident, well-rounded young men and women for nearly 40 years; graduates who enjoy not only academic success, but who have the skills and values needed to succeed in any vocation – teamwork, communication and placing others before self.

"Statistically, the class performed well above the state average with 13% achieving an OP 1-3, 20% achieving OP 1-5 and 88% 1-15," said Mr Minke.

College Captain and 2017 Dux Olivia Lindsay is hoping to study a Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery at James Cook University (JCU). Earlier this year, she was selected alongside the top science students in the world to take part in the London International Youth Science Forum. Her aim has always been to dream big and to make the most of the opportunities that come her way.

"I want to study at JCU as their medical degree is more hands-on with extensive clinical training and you can enter directly as an undergraduate. At the end of 2018 I plan to travel; to see the world and get some life skills. I'm also keen on some overseas medical placements," said Olivia.

Fellow OP 1 student and mathematics whiz, Renee Oldfield, wants to study a Bachelor of Advanced Science at the University of Queensland (UQ) and continue her Japanese language studies. But first, she intends to take a gap year which involves a 10-month exchange to Japan. Renee is one of only a handful of students to be awarded an academic scholarship through the Australian Institute of International Understanding (AIU) which involves going to a school in Japan and assisting at English camps for middle and high school students.

"I only recently discovered that I had been awarded the scholarship and have yet to find out where I'll be living and what school in Japan I'll be attending, but I'm really looking forward to it. Following



my gap year, I'll commence my science degree and most likely pursue mathematics and chemistry as they're my two main interests," said Renee.

High achieving OP recipients, Zarah Boutchard and Alexandra Wilkinson, both of whom received an OP 2, want to study physiotherapy and medicine at UQ and Bond respectively.

"I want to study physiotherapy, sports and nutrition science or dietetics at UQ, as athletics, sports and nutrition have always been a big part of my life" said Zarah.

"My first preference is medicine at Bond or a combined engineering and biophysics degree at UQ. I'm really pleased with my result and grateful for the support I've been given during my years of schooling at Immanuel," said Alexandra.

ENDS.

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Notes for media:

All students are available for comment from Saturday, 16 December.

- Olivia Lindsay is from Buderim
- Renee Oldfield is from Mooloolaba
- Zarah Boutchard is from Buderim
- Alexandra Wilkinson is from Buderim