

Monday, 18 February 2019

**To:** St Brendan's College Principal

**Subject:** A letter from Dr Andrew Laming MP to the Top 10% high school gains in Queensland

Dear Principal,

I write as the federal member of Parliament for the bayside seat of Bowman, to congratulate **St Brendan's College** on the academic performance of your class of 2018.

The method applies an analysis of high school gain. It compares;

- a. OP data publicly released over the weekend by the QCAA with
- b. baseline Myschool year 9 naplan scores back in 2015.

As Chair of the House of Representatives Education, Employment and Training Committee, I appreciate that no single number captures the school or student journey. But the gains achieved by last year's cohort places your school in the **top 9%** of the 370 Queensland high schools that produced more than ten OP graduates.

The methodology of measuring gain over time between two independent datasets is the best that can be achieved with publicly available data. Gain is a far more powerful metric than snapshots because it tells us something of the school journey. It removes the advantage that wealthy schools have because these institutions are more likely to enrol advantaged students to start with.

As is now routine, this analysis adjusts for schools with naplan sitting rates that vary from that predicted for schools of similar ICSEA.

More critically, the data adjusts for schools with lower OP completions at given ICSEA levels. For the first time, VET outcomes will also be included, with results updated in the coming weeks.

This analysis examines only the top third of the 2018 graduates; those students who achieved top three naplan bands back in 2015 or OPs above 15 last year.

The shift to ATAR for the classes of 2020 will lead to these gain metrics applying to the top two thirds of students, meaning schools whose efforts target lower performing students will be more clearly recognised than occurs currently.

I am happy to explain the information and the limitations inherent in this analysis with you at a convenient time. I also welcome any interest from your school staff, the board or parents. My mobile is 0437 540 207.

Sincerely,

Andrew Laming

**Member for Bowman**

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