# HSC ACADEMIC RESULTS 2021 COHORT



"The Class of 2021 have sustained each other with good humour, compassion and warmth throughout this most unpredictable of years. The challenges they have overcome are, indeed, a testament to the courage and camaraderie this cohort possess."

**Nicholas Sampson** 

Headmaster Cranbrook School

**MEDIAN ATAR** 

WELL DONE CLASS OF 2021!

### **Headmaster: HSC Results Reflections**



It is will admiration and pleasure that I review the achievements of Cranbrook's Year 12 Class of 2021. Their resilience and tenacity have been evident in every aspect of their study and engagement in School life throughout another turbulent year.

This HSC cohort has had to deal with uncertainty, delay, change and the loss of key events within the traditional Year 12 calendar. They have sustained each

other with good humour, compassion and warmth throughout this most unpredictable of years. This has been a tremendous group of students, with a fine cohort from the Junior School having been enriched and expanded by students joining us in Year 7 and beyond bringing different perspectives and impressive talents: they deserve to flourish.

I should like to pass on my warmest and most heartfelt congratulations to each and every one of these fine young scholars. Their achievements not only reflect the School's focus upon the development of breadth and the whole individual in order to foster their capacity to thrive at University and beyond, yet also their good humour, adaptability and growth in character as they have chartered their path through this most unsettling time. In recent years, Cranbrook scholars have secured leading places in the NSW HSC examinations in a wide range of subjects including English Extension 1, English Extension 2, Chinese Continuers, Visual Arts, Mathematics Advanced and Design & Technology which encompasses our School's commitment to the principles of a truly liberal education. Particular congratulations must go to Lachlan Harris, one of our Accelerant students, for placing equal first in the State in Mathematics Advanced.

On behalf of the Cranbrook School community I congratulate the graduating class of 2021 on these achievements and wish them every success in their educational and personal endeavours as they determine a their chosen pathway, many through tertiary education and beyond with, I hope, a lifelong love of learning, intellectual versatility and warmth of spirit.

#### Nicholas Sampson Headmaster

CONGRATULATIONS CRANBROOK CLASS OF 2021!



### Head of Senior School: Dux of the School



The Dux of the School is the highest academic accolade to be awarded and particularly so in a School that prides itself on academic rigour and achieving personal best.

This year we have two students achieving ATARs of 99.9 who have been named as joint Dux of Cranbrook School 2021. Congratulations to Joshua Abelev

and Stephen Lincon on this wonderful achievement.

Just as impressive are the vast number of entries onto the Distinguished Achievers List, with our 2021 cohort gaining 101 merits in total. The number of students in the Class of 2021 who have achieved an ATAR of 95 or above is outstanding.

The efforts of joint Dux recipients and those who have achieved these high ranking ATARs are a reward for their sustained efforts in all classes, tasks and intensive and extensive studies.

Every single Cranbrook 2021 Scholar deserves our warmest congratulations on all they have achieved during these testing times and every accolade. They are to be admired and are testament to their strength of character, their application and their relentless determination to succeed and achieve their personal best.

The support of the boys from Year 12 parents has been outstanding and I am especially grateful for the partnership with each of you this year. Cranbrook's teachers have worked diligently to inspire confidence, support engagement and be tireless advocates for our boys.

I would like to congratulate each and every member of the Class of 2021 cohort and wish them all the very best in what will undoubtedly be a bright and successful future.

Bob Meakin Head of Senior School Deputy Headmaster

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## **Cranbrook Joint Dux 2021**



### **Joshua Abelev and Stephen Lincon**

WITH AN ATAR OF

**99.9** 

### **State Rankings**



#### **Lachlan Harris**

1<sup>st</sup> in the state in Mathematics Advanced 7<sup>th</sup> in the state in Mathematics Extension 1

#### **Thomas Findlay** 6<sup>th</sup> in the state Ancient History

Emil Droga 9<sup>th</sup> in the state in English Extension 2

Liam Sartena 12<sup>th</sup> in the state in Mathematics Standard

**Joonyoung Hong** 5<sup>th</sup> in the State in Korean and Literature

### Honour Roll of Outstanding ATARs



Joshua Abelev with an ATAR of 99.9 Stephen Lincon with an ATAR of 99.9 Thomas Findlay with an ATAR of 99.75 Emil Droga with an ATAR of 99.75 Jiuyu Zhang with an ATAR of 99.7 Lachlan Carroll with an ATAR of 99.65 William Sant with an ATAR of 99.6 Adeel Tejani with an ATAR of 99.45 Marcus Lowe with an ATAR of 99.45 Chang L Su with an ATAR of 99.3 Asher Learmonth with an ATAR of 99.25 Alfred Broekhuizen with an ATAR of 99.1 Ajay Murugasu with an ATAR of 99

### **Director of Academics:** Tertiary Education and Personal Best



I am delighted with the results of this year's Cranbrook scholars. These results reflect an extraordinary display of resilience in such a challenging year. The results are incredible and the entire cohort should be proud of all that they have achieved.

It was inspiring to learn of the 110 early offers the boys received for University prior to the publication of their HSC results. This reflects the School's focus upon the development

of breadth and fostering the capacity to thrive at University and beyond. Each of these students who received the early offers were not only fine scholars, they also embraced the co-curricular life of the School.

The Arts at Cranbrook remain strong and it was encouraging to see the level of the broad range of successes and recognition our boys attained across a range of design and arts subjects, with nominations for exhibitions of exemplary major works and performances in Design and Technology, Industrial Technology, Visual Arts, Drama and Music.

Of particular note this year, Milo Ritchie's Visual Arts film was selected **ARTEXPRESS** - the annual exhibition of exemplary artworks created by students in HSC Visual Arts, and his Drama film for inclusion in **ONSTAGE** - the annual presentation of outstanding performances and projects by HSC Drama students. To have two separate works nominated in two prestigious exhibitions is a very impressive and rare achievement. We warmly congratulate Milo, and the Drama and Visual Arts Department for their fabulous support of his unique talents.

I wish the Class of 2021 all the very best in what will inevitably be a successful and wonderful future.

#### **Nick Jolly**

Director of Academics Deputy Head of Senior School

Alfred Broekhuizen

Lachlan Carroll

Joshua Abelev

Emil Droga

Dane Feeney

**Thomas Findlay** 

**Asher Learmonth** 

**HSC All-Round Achievers List** 

The All-Round Achievers List are the students who achieved a result in the highest band possible in 10 or more HSC units.

> ¢ ALL ROUND ACHIEVERS

**Stephen Lincon** 

**Marcus Lowe** 

Ajay Murugasu

Samuel Olliver

**River Penn** 

Samuel Roberts-Lovell William Sant

Mitchell Scott

Chang L Su

Adeel Tejani

Jiuyu Zhang



### Joshua Abelev ATAR 99.9

"I see the HSC as a marathon, not a sprint. It's been an emotionally and physically draining process, albeit a rewarding and gratifying way to finish School."

#### Topped the State in HSC Mathematics Advanced in Year 11 2020.

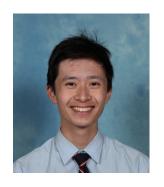
I came to Cranbrook in Year 7. My parents and I chose Cranbrook because of the opportunities it provided for me to become whatever type of student I aspired to be, given the well-rounded education that it promotes and celebrates.

For the HSC I studied Mathematics Advanced, Mathematic Extension 1, Chemistry, English Advanced, French, Latin Continuers, Latin Extension. I enjoyed Mathematics because of the satisfying journey of learning new, interesting concepts and applying them to solve unseen questions. Aside from solving syllabus specific questions, it felt like I was constantly developing my broader problem-solving skills and expanding how I fundamentally thought about the most simple of concepts, whether maths related or not.

The HSC is always challenging and Covid added another layer as we were dealing with feelings of burnout and fatigue, after our Trials were moved back and significantly altered in form. I see the HSC as a marathon, not a sprint. It's been an emotionally and physically draining process, albeit a rewarding and gratifying way to finish School.

My teachers have been consistently supportive throughout the entire year, and in the many years leading up to it. They have provided me with incredibly valuable and directed feedback; facilitated memorable, fascinating and well thought out lessons; and were always available.

In July this year I was awarded the Tuckwell Scholarship to study ANU in 2022 with the hope of studying medicine after completing my under-graduate degree.



### **Stephen Lincon**

**ATAR 99.9** 

"I've had the privilege of meeting brilliant minds and kind personalities which have defined my Cranbrook experience."

When my family was considering moving back to Australia, Cranbrook stood out due to its excellent facilities. I joined the School in Year 7.

Last year I completed Maths Advanced, Maths Extension 1, and Chemistry for the HSC and in 2021 I studied English Advanced, Economics, Physics, and Science Extension.

My favourite subjects are Chemistry and Science Extension. I found Chemistry interesting, especially the depth studies, as I was able to investigate and use chemical reactions to create meaningful results. Picking up Science Extension enabled me to do a yearlong depth-study, as I was able to perform my own practical experiment. This allowed me to spend most of my studies performing my experiments in the lab, which was a lot more fun than sitting down in the college to study more.

I've had the privilege of meeting brilliant minds and kind personalities which have defined my Cranbrook experience. Cranbrook's House system has also helped with developing deeper friendships with my peers.

I really enjoyed the Co-Curricular subjects on offer. I played Tennis in Year 7 through to Year 12, and I'm really happy with how much I've learnt and improved over the years thanks to my coaches. I also attended the Centenary Investment Club, which provided a fun platform for me to learn about and experiment with investing in stocks.

This year I hope to get into a good University either in Sydney or the UK, to study software engineering and one day become a self-employed software developer.

### **HSC Distinguished Achievers List**

The Distinguished Achievers List are the students who achieved a result in the highest band for one or more courses.



Joshua Abelev, Alex Anderson, Oliver Argent, Alfred Ashton, Mateo Baldwin, Conner Beris, Joshua Berman, Edward Bickerstaff, Zach Biles, Joshua Billings, Jack Bouvier, Ashley Bright, Alfred Broekhuizen, Ralph Burke, Lachlan Carroll, Nick Chen, Max Cotter, Charles Crowe, Jan Den Hollander, Patrick Deutsch, Henry Docker, Emil Droga, Alfred Dumas, Sebastian Dunn Lewis, Dane Feeney, Thomas Findlay, Louis Fletcher, Lachlan Forato, Anthony Fung, Leonardo Gellibrand, William Henry Gerstl, Harrison Gibbons, Lachlan Harris, Sebastian Havens, Zane Hercz, Rick Honda, Joonyoung Hong, Kaizhe Hong, Angus Hutcheon, Noah Jacob, Edmund, Kay Hoyle, Charles Kelly, Dylan Kelly, Harry Kirton, Benjamin Klackin, Benjamin Klotz, Harris Kucukalic, Finn Lange, Ashley Lau, Asher Learmonth, Edward Lee, Stephen Lincon, Ethan Liu, Marcus Lowe, Tristan Macdonald, Louis-Olivier Mercer, Byron Middleton Harry Munday, William Munday, Ajay Murugasu, Sam Nicholas, Paul Nicolaou, Marc Norman, Samuel Olliver Poom Palakawongse Na Ayutthaya, River Penn, Thomas Pintaric, Thomas Plunkett, Nicolo Polese Axel Purcell, Samuel Roberts-Lovell, Sebastian Robson, Will Rouse, William Sant, Liam Sartena, James Saywell, Mitchell Scott, Will Shanahan, Christopher Shannon, Justin Sheller, Kiran Siva, Dominic Spillane, Luke Su, Nikita Svechnikov, Arnold Tan, William Tarrant, Jet Taylor, Samuel Tearle, Adeel Tejani, Milo Thomson, Max Tilley, Joshua Waitsman, Michael Webber, Max White, Jadon Wong, Mingbiao Xiao, Alexander Xylas, Matthew Yetton, Maxim Zahra, Peter Zhang, Jack Zheng



### **Thomas Findlay**

ATAR 99.75 2<sup>nd</sup> Prefect 2021

"I couldn't be more grateful to the teachers. They make this School what it is. Their unwavering support and genuine care brought out the best in me and showed me who I could truly be."

I joined Cranbrook Senior School in Year 7 and instantly fell in love with its diversity of opportunity and, most importantly, its championing of the Arts. I knew I couldn't possibly go anywhere else.

For the HSC I studied English Advanced, Drama, Visual Arts, Ancient History, Modern History and History Extension.

I've always loved performing and creating, and it was so refreshing to see that after a long day of study I could let loose in John Gaden Studio or with a paintbrush in the art rooms. There's something liberating about being able to freely express yourself amidst the craziness of the HSC.

My advice to the incoming Year 12 group would be to do what you love. I didn't do any Maths or Science because I thought I had to or any subjects I knew would scale well, I studied what I loved and I wouldn't be in this brochure if I hadn't.

I couldn't be more grateful to the teachers. They make this School what it is. Their unwavering support and genuine care brought out the best in me and showed me who I could truly be. Now no longer just my mentors but lifelong friends, it has meant the world to have them at my side to send me off into the great unknown.

Meeting my amazing group of friends has been the best thing about studying at Cranbrook. We all have such different interests and yet we found each other. It's because of them and the way Cranbrook has encouraged me to follow what I love, that I've become person I am today. That's the beauty of Cranbrook.

I am planning to study Arts at USYD but my dream is to go to NIDA. Hopefully you'll see me on stage or screen very soon!



# Emil Droga

ATAR 99.75

#### "The advice I would give the incoming Year 12 cohort would be to try your hardest academically, listen to your teachers and maintain good wellbeing and health by exercising regularly."

#### I joined Cranbrook School in 2007 at St Mark's Pre-School.

I studied the following subjects for HSC: English Advanced, English Extension 1, English Extension 2, Modern History and Music 2. I also sat Mathematics Advanced, Mathematics Extension 1 and Chemistry in 2020 as an accelerant student. The subjects I enjoyed the most were Modern History as it has very interesting course content that highlighted the importance of understanding history to learn from our past mistakes, successes, and actions generally. I also really enjoyed Music 2 - composition, performance and theory work as they not only made me a better musician and composer, but a more analytical and creative thinker.

Whilst learning online was not an experience I enjoyed, it did improve my independent learning skills, and having that time in lockdown gave me enough creative time to finish the production and distribution stages of my second EP, Just Talkin', and make significant strides in my major works.

The advice I would give the incoming Year 12 cohort would be to try your hardest academically, listen to your teachers and maintain good wellbeing and health by exercising regularly.

My teachers have been enormously supportive throughout my HSC journey, as well as in my US application process and I am very grateful for all their assistance with this.

In terms of what the future holds, I am hoping to complete several creative projects, such as screenplays and music, before going to college in the US.

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Ancient History 73% for the School vs 33% for the state

**Biology** 60% for the School vs 31% for the state

Business Studies 65% for the School vs 35% for the state

Design and Technology 100% for the School vs 53% for the state

Drama 79% for the School vs 45% for the state

### **Exceptional Course Results**

Cranbrook % in the top two performance bands vs the state.



**Economics** 

81% for the School vs 50% for the state

**English Standard** 

50% for the School vs 16% for the state

**English Advanced** 

93% for the School vs 68% for the state

Geography

69% for the School vs 44% for the state

Legal Studies

77% for the School vs 42% for the state

Maths Standard 50% for the School vs 25% for the state

Maths Advanced 77% for the School vs 50% for the state

Modern History 71% for the School vs 38% for the state

Music 1 100% for the School vs 64% for the state

Visual Arts 95% for the School vs 63% for the state

#### **Extension Courses:**

English Extension 1

89% top band results for the School vs 41% for the state

Maths Extension 1

50% top band results for the School vs 37% for the state

Science Extension

57% top band results for the School vs 10% for the state



# Jiuyu (Peter) Zhang

**ATAR 99.7** 

#### "I'm excited for university, and the life that it's going to bring, but having to say goodbye to some of my friends and teachers is not an easy thing to do."

I started at Cranbrook in Year 7. Cranbrook's community, especially the friendships that you form in your Year Group, House or classes, has been the best thing about being here. Being friends with such amazing people have been a blessing that I'd never have known if I didn't come to Cranbrook.

The subjects I studied for the HSC were English Advanced, Economics, Science Extension, Physics, Mathematics 2U and 3U (2020 Accelerated), Chemistry (2020 Accelerated). Out of all of these I enjoyed Science Extension the most. Its small class size gave a closer sense of community for the cohort, and the content was some of the most interesting out of the HSC.

Covid definitely impacted both my HSC years, but 2021 was by far more disturbed than 2020. Studying for the HSC online was quite a surreal experience at first but I did get used to it. It was the lack of interactions between my friends that really made it tough, in-person can really never be substituted by online calls.

The HSC for me has been both a gruelling and rewarding journey. Having it split over two years was really a double-edged sword - it made it easier on me each year, but I'd have to endure it for twice as long. However, the knowledge gained and connections and bonds formed over the HSC years with both peers and teachers have been the most valuable to me.

Leaving Cranbrook is definitely a mix of joy and excitement, but also hints of sadness. I'm excited for university, and the life that it's going to bring, but having to say goodbye to some of my friends and teachers is not an easy thing to do. I hope that, in the future, I can visit Cranbrook a few times when I'm in university, to recount the six years I've spent here and all the memories formed.

This year I'll be attending my first year in university, hopefully studying a Computer Science degree as a reputable university.



# Lachlan Carroll

ATAR 99.65

"My teachers have been very generous in offering their academic and mentoring support especially in a time where many of them also have managed greater burdens as a result of Covid than I personally have endured."

I joined Cranbrook in Kindergarten. My father is an Old Boy so that was one of the reasons my parents chose Cranbrook for me.

I studied English Advanced, Modern History, Extension II Maths (including advanced Maths and Extension I Maths) and Chemistry for the HSC. I enjoyed English Advanced the most due to the flexibility it offers in constructing unique ideas that are independent from prescriptive aspects of the syllabus.

The advice I would give the new Year 12 2022 cohort is to spend a significant amount of time planning how you will study before you actually engage with the content of each subject. The truth in the quote 'Study smarter instead of harder' is too easily forgotten when you are actually completing the HSC. I have only been successful as a result of taking the right steps to study in the beginning.

My teachers have been very generous in offering their academic and mentoring support especially in a time where many of them also have managed greater burdens as a result of Covid than I personally have endured.

My Co-Curricular highlight was the Music European Tour in 2017 and the final year of Debating with my team was another great highlight for me.

This year I am planning on studying philosophy or computer science or some combination of those two fields.

### **ARTEXPRESS 2021 Nomination & Selection**

ARTEXPRESS is the annual exhibition of exemplary artworks created by Visual Arts students for the HSC.



Milo Ritchie for his film Contact.

This film will be on display at the Art Gallery of New South Wales from 3 February 2022 to 25 April 2022.



# William Sant

"My advice to the incoming Year 12 group is not to set unrealistic study goals and enjoy every moment of Year 12 while you can."

I started at Cranbrook School in Year 7 and right from the start I really enjoyed the schooling environment. Everyone works together to produce an atmosphere which encourages everyone to strive for their best.

I studied the following subjects for the HSC: Maths Extension 1 and Extension 2, English Advanced, Economics, Legal Studies. I undoubtedly enjoyed Maths the most as it is my most applied subject.

The teachers, especially during online learning, have encouraged me to do my best and stay motivated, and have supported me throughout my School experience. Joining 'Reggae Friday' in economics with Mrs White or 'cake day' with Mr Sadler, are just two examples of how creative the teachers are at Cranbrook!

My advice to the incoming Year 12 group is not to set unrealistic study goals and enjoy every moment of Year 12 while you can.



### Adeel Tejani ATAR 99.45

#### "My main piece of advice to this upcoming Year 12 group is that you will never regret working hard."

I joined Cranbrook in Year 7. The best part about the School is the extremely supportive network of teachers and other students that have been able to guide me through.

For the HSC I studied Advanced English, Advanced and Extension Mathematics, Economics, Chemistry and Geography.

I really enjoyed Chemistry because of its application in the real world, throughout the subject although doing large amounts of content there was always an example of this technology having positive effects.

My main piece of advice to this upcoming Year 12 group is that you will never regret working hard. Once you get to the end of your Year 12 journey you will not regret putting in as much effort as you can and trying to be as successful as possible, but, you will regret not working. I also recommend finding consistency with study and maintaining a work-life balance, as this will ensure that you won't get burnt out.

I hope to be doing a double degree of Actuarial Studies and a Bachelor of Commerce at UNSW this year.

### **OnSTAGE 2021 Nominations & Selection**

OnSTAGE is the presentation of outstanding performances and projects by HSC Drama students.



#### Nominations for the OnSTAGE showcase

Thomas Findlay for his performance *Decadence*, Asher Learmonth for his performance *Dog*, William Munday for his performance *Love is Lovely* 

#### **Selection for the OnSTAGE showcase**

**Milo Ritchie** for his video drama film *Diary of a Drama Student*. This film will be on display at the Seymour Centre from 14 - 18 February 2022



### **Marcus Lowe**

ATAR 99.45

"My key advice for any new Year 12 students is to keep a balance in your life of exercising, socialising and studying."

I came to Cranbrook in Year 7. The teachers here have been so supportive and always happy to help but definitely the best thing about School is the lunchtime basketball games; truly the highlight of every day!

I studied Maths, Advanced English, Chemistry, Physics and Modern History for the HSC. I definitely enjoyed my Maths classes the most as these classes were always the most lively. Studying for the HSC is challenging and whilst I enjoy learning, the process of preparing for examinations, revising and memorising content is laborious.

My key advice for any new Year 12 students is to keep a balance in your life of exercising, socialising and studying - you don't have to sacrifice any of these during the HSC.

This year I hope to be off to Melbourne University or Sydney University or maybe become a professional tennis player!



## Chang (Luke) Su

**ATAR 99.3** 

#### "The values and teachings of the School have significantly impacted what type of person I've become, and has built me into a proper leader."

Cranbrook has been crucial towards not only my academic development, but how I have grown as a person. The values and teachings of the School have significantly impacted what type of person I've become, and has built me into a proper leader. I'm sure that I'll take the values I've learnt from the school's ethos and teachers from this year and I strive to one day spread them to those I meet and lead next year in university where I'll hopefully study law.

Following my graduation from Cranbrook, I aim to still contribute to the great Cranbrook community and foster the growth and development of all boys present and future.

### **ENCORE 2021 Nominations**

ENCORE is the programme of outstanding performances and compositions by students from the HSC Music examinations.



Henry Docker for his piece Diametrically, the Same

Music 2
Paul Nicolau for his piece The Harp and the Moon
Music Extension



### Asher Learmonth ATAR 99.25 Head Prefect 2021

The advice I'd give to the Year Group starting the HSC is to surround yourself with conscientious, hardworking, and successful students in the college. By doing so, you will be taught new ways to study, you will realise the things that are missing in your preparation, and you will be motivated to work harder, longer and more efficiently.



### Alfred Broekhuizen ATAR 99.1

Cranbrook has been fantastic. With continuous support from my teachers and friends, the School became a backbone to rely on during the times of online classes, helping me to achieve my desired result and more in the HSC. Since I first joined in Year 3, Cranbrook has been a place that has nurtured my talent and given me so many opportunities. Whether it be sport or debating, or anything in between, Cranbrook provided these resources and helped to better its students.

I am hoping for an offer from the US for university starting in September. In the meantime, I am attending Trinity College in Melbourne.



### Ajay Murugasu

**ATAR 99** 

#### "Along the way I did make more connections with peers and learnt valuable knowledge which will help me in the future."

I joined Kindergarten at Cranbrook in 2012 and the School has enabled me to accelerate beyond my years. Making new friends and establishing connections with teachers and classmates was definitely the best thing about being at this School.

I studied the following subjects for the HSC: English Advanced, Economics, Modern History, Mathematics Extension 2, Physics, Chemistry.

The HSC has always been challenging for all of us but this year Covid did disrupt the learning process and trials. Along the way I did make more connections with peers and learnt valuable knowledge which will help me in the future. My key advice for anyone starting their HSC studies is to put the work in from Day 1 and don't delay your study until trials.

I really enjoyed playing the violin and the Investment Club during my time at Cranbrook. A key highlight for me was teaching in the Investment Club to the younger years.

I'm still unsure about my plans for this year but I hope to attend a university in Sydney.

### Shape 2021 Nominations

The Shape 2021 exhibition features a selection of students' exemplary HSC Major Projects from Design and Technology and Industrial Technology.



#### **INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY**

Will Rouse for his Butcher's Block

#### **DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY**

William Marsh for his Fishing Portable Floatation Device



