



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

An inquisitive heart



Pictured with The Hon. Natalie Hutchins MP - Minister for Education and Minister for Women

With six perfect study scores of 50 across five subjects and a median ATAR of 75.5 the success of the entire VCE Class of 2021 is something to celebrate. Our students demonstrated yet again the academic rigour provided by a Sacred Heart Girls' College education.

Two students were the recipients of Premier's VCE Study Awards, an honour given to the very top performers in individual subjects: Aurora Lahur for English (Class of 2021), and Claire Duckett (Year 12) for Health and Human Development.

Claire is this year's Deputy College Captain – Faith, and is completing her VCE, with the subjects Chemistry, Indonesian, Literature, Mathematical Methods and VET Applied Fashion Design and Technology (through Kangan TAFE).

Claire acknowledges the varied nature of her VCE studies. "I'm interested in a lot of areas, so I just chose to do it all."

She believes this approach helps to maintain her intrinsic motivation and will increase the opportunities available to her post schooling.

"If you love it, your studying is more enjoyable, the classes are more enjoyable so you're going to put more time and effort into it. You want to be part of the conversation."

Claire's advice to other VCE students is simple.

"Just give it a 100 per cent. You only get to do it once."

She advocates for being organised, establishing a study schedule, and talking to teachers.

"Asking questions make a big difference. Then you know you're on the right track."

Finding a balance between study, rest and socialising also helps her to give her best.

"When you're studying just study and when you're breaking completely break."

To help avoid distraction she leaves her phone in another room and handwrites her notes before summarising using her laptop.

Claire also credits her teacher, Mrs Nicole Unwin for helping her to succeed.

"She was a fantastic teacher. She was so enthusiastic, and she wanted to help us and she was ready to answer questions. When your teacher loves the subject, it makes you want to be there as well."

While Claire has not yet decided what path she will pursue when she finishes her time at SHGC, she is appreciative of her time at the school and the friends she has made along the way.

"I feel really grateful for the girls in my year level. I feel really close to them."

She believes that the support within her cohort means that they "lift each other up" and that everyone's learning outcomes are better than if they worked alone, reflecting the school motto, "Always Striving Upwards".

Sacred Heart Girls' College is proud of Claire, and each and every one of our students, for their effort and dedication to their learning.