



# Adrian Piccoli MP

## Minister for Education

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### MEDIA RELEASE

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Tuesday 18 December 2012

#### **NSW EDUCATION MINISTER AWARDS 2012 HSC FIRST IN COURSE RECIPIENTS**

NSW Minister for Education Adrian Piccoli attended Australian Technology Park, Eveleigh today, to officially recognise students coming first in a Higher School Certificate (HSC) course.

“The Higher School Certificate is a world-class credential and coming first demonstrates an extremely high level of achievement on an international level,” Mr Piccoli said.

The ceremony was attended by teachers and parents who were proud to see students take the stage to meet the Minister and receive their Certificate for Excellence.

“Preparing students for the HSC not only involves dedication from the student – it also requires a quality learning experience in the classroom supported by understanding parents and carers at home,” Mr Piccoli said.

2012 highlights include:

- First in Course awards were given to 117 students in a total of 111 courses.
- Equal first place was given in nine courses
- Five students received a First in Course Award for more than one course, with one student topping four courses
- Two-thirds of First in Course recipients are young women
- 17 students live in regions outside of Sydney including: Wollongong, Canberra, Woy Woy, Tuggerah, Picton, Bolwarra, Welby, Wallsend, Scone, Canowindra, Belbora, Nimmitabel, Wanaaring, Indonesia and Hong Kong.

For the first time, the 2012 HSC included three new Heritage Language courses in Chinese (Mandarin), Korean and Japanese. These courses are offered nationally for students who have a background in speaking a language, and who are looking for opportunities for advanced language learning.

“I think it’s very exciting to see that young women have dominated the First in Course results for mathematics courses,” Mr Piccoli said.

“This is the first time since the HSC was reviewed in 2001 that women have achieved a clean-sweep of the mathematics courses.

“This is a very proud day for all the students who have achieved a First in Course result, as well as for their families and their teachers.

“Hearing about the experiences of these HSC students, it is very clear that their HSC courses have demanded diligence and application.

“Regardless of a student’s goals, regardless of whether they top the State or not, undertaking the HSC gives young people skills and experience that will serve them well in their lives beyond school.

“Those results are important, but we all have to remember that young people are much more than an HSC mark. There are lots of pathways to success, and doing well in the HSC is just one of those opportunities.”

Over 70,000 students will receive their HSC results from 6am tomorrow (Wednesday 19 December).

The HSC Results Inquiry Centre 13 11 12 will be available for students to talk with experienced Board of Studies staff about any aspect of their results.

Students will be able to get their results from 6am onwards via SMS by texting their Student ID, followed by a space, followed by their PIN to 0427 555 999, or by phone on 1300 669 248.

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