



Annual Report 2024

ARDEN







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CONTEXT

A message from key school bodies

CHAIR OF SCHOOL COUNCIL'S REPORT

Arden's mission is the bedrock of our School; anchored in Christ. Centred on the Christian faith and finding joy in God, Arden provides an exceptional P-12 co-educational learning experience.

Arden strives to be an inspiring learning community that engages the mind, nurtures the spirit and nourishes the body within a caring Christian environment. We aim for Arden graduates to be curious, courageous and compassionate women and men with an enduring passion for learning.

Through the leadership of the Principal Mr Justin Beckett, and the dedication and expertise of our outstanding staff and students, Arden experienced another year of great outcomes in 2024. The collective efforts of students, staff and parents drove significant achievements across all areas of school life, reflecting a shared commitment to excellence and growth.

Strong foundations once again led to outstanding academic outcomes, highlighted by our 2024 HSC results with 94% of students earning a Band 5 / Band 6 (or equivalent) result and 12% of its students achieving an ATAR of 95 or higher. It was also wonderful to have the work of 15 students nominated for the HSC Showcase with one student's work achieving selection in the Industrial Technology – Multimedia category. These results are a testament to the hard work of our students and the dedication and support that our students received from both their teachers and their families.

Our core values—Compassion, Service, Respect, Hope, Love, and Courage—rooted in the Christian tradition, foster a strong sense of purpose and joy in each student. Arden students actively engage in a wide range of community service and charitable activities. The School hosted various fundraising events, donating to numerous organisations whose work cares for people in need both locally and overseas. Weekly, close to 200 Arden students gather in CRU groups to explore Christian faith, study the Bible, and pray together. Arden remains committed to serving the broader community and living out the School motto: **In God My Joy**.

The Arden Council and Executive Team remain committed to the wellbeing of the students in their care with regular involvement on programs and training in child safety and overall wellbeing.

On behalf of the Arden Council, I sincerely thank our staff, parents, and students. Your unwavering commitment to the School and to each other continues to strengthen and enrich the Arden community.

Santino Dimarco
Arden Chair of Council

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

2024 was a year of very strong academic results for Arden. Our Junior Campus (Beecroft) ranked #6 in the list of Sydney's Top Performing Primary Schools based on NAPLAN data. Our Secondary Campus (Epping) ranked #34 in the list of Sydney's Top 10 Performing Secondary Schools. In the Year 12 Class of 2024, four students achieved an ATAR of 99+. 12% of the cohort achieved an ATAR of 95+ and 94% of the Year 12 students achieved a Band 5, Band 6 (or equivalent) result.

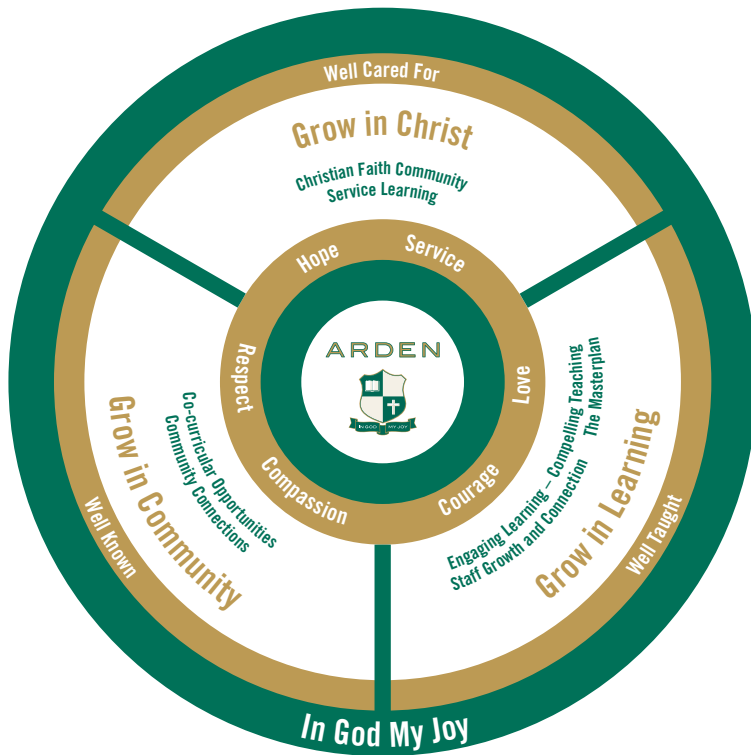
After an agile and consultative strategic planning process, the School finalised its Strategy Map for 2025 and beyond.



The Strategy Map comprises three elements that form the essence of an Arden education: **Grow in Christ, Grow in Learning, Grow in Community.** For each element there are several strategic projects to be delivered during the next 1-3 years. These are ambitious projects designed to optimise the everyday student experience of being 'well known, well cared for and well taught'.

In 2024 the School continued to offer a rich smorgasbord of co-curricular opportunities for students: music, sports, Duke of Edinburgh, Environment Group, TheatreSports™, debating, Tournament of Minds, and others.

Arden Anglican School has a strong emphasis on respect and responsibility. In 2024 this was evident in our community service and social justice projects: raising funds for a wide range of charity organisations and donating numerous gift boxes to the Anglicare Food Drive and Operation Christmas Child. Arden students hand-knitted 33 blankets for Wrap With Love. More than 20 Arden students travelled to central Australia to connect with and learn about Indigenous Australia for the Red Earth Indigenous Immersion. The pastoral care programs and social-emotional learning opportunities equip students to develop skills like self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills and responsible decision making.



There were many opportunities for students to explore or deepen their Christian faith: through chapel services, Christian Studies classes, CRU groups (VINE), Anchor Camp, Breakfast Club or Solid Rock. The School is staying true to its Mission: *Centred on the Christian faith and finding joy in God, Arden provides an exceptional co-educational learning experience that nurtures the uniqueness of confident, capable global citizens.*

The Arden community endeavours to be a 'light on a hill'; to inspire and encourage a generation of young people to live in purpose and hope.

Priority Areas for 2025:

- NESAS School Registration Renewal
- Implementation of the new Arden Strategic Plan
- Design and DA submission for the Arden Beecroft Campus Development project
- Refurbishment of Oxford St façade and Oxford Courtyard
- Development of a new Teaching and Learning Framework
- Development of a new Wellbeing Framework

Justin Beckett
Principal



SCHOOL CAPTAINS' REPORT 2024

The 2024 Prefect motto 'Ignite Passion' was inspired by Romans 12:11-12: "Be enthusiastic to serve the Lord, keeping your passion toward Him boiling hot! Radiate with the glow of the Holy Spirit and let Him fill you with excitement as you serve Him".

Over the year, the Prefects sought to implement the motto through each of their respective portfolios, striving towards the overarching goal of fostering an enthusiastic, supportive and growing Arden community.

One particular highlight over the course of our tenure was the increased visits to the Junior Campus, which allowed for the motto to reach the broader school community. We look forward to how future teams can further the relationship between the two campuses.

The 2024 Prefect team would like to express our gratitude for the opportunity to serve the School. We are hopeful that future teams will continue to lead with passion, continuing to serve the School in a positive and uplifting manner.

Laura Pinon and Lachlan Xia
School Captains 2024

Contextual information about the school

Arden Anglican School is an Anglican Independent co-educational school from Pre-school to Year 12. The school has a P-6 campus in Beecroft and a Years 7-12 campus in Epping. The school was established in 1922 in Beecroft, Sydney. Centred on the Christian faith and finding joy in God, Arden provides an exceptional co-educational learning experience that nurtures the uniqueness of confident, capable global citizens. The School aims to teach its students to think critically, communicate effectively, develop self-confidence and strong leadership skills whilst encouraging creativity and fostering an enjoyment of learning.

The Pre-school to Year 6 Campus at Beecroft provides a firm foundation for students and offers specialist programs in Chinese, Visual Arts, Drama, Music, PDHPE, Spelling, Technology as well as a separate Gifted and Talented program. The Year 7 to 12 Campus at Epping offers a competitive academic program delivered by well-qualified and dedicated teachers, who can offer a wide range of elective subjects and a variety of HSC extension subjects. The transition program to tertiary opportunities, career links with industry, excellence in Music and Sport and a tailored Gifted and Talented program are all part of an excellent educational offering which is supported by a strong pastoral care system. The School offers Academic and Music scholarships for students in Years 7-12. The School also provides bursary support for students where the family may be under financial pressure.

Characteristics about the student body

In 2024, the School had 987 students enrolled from K-12: 342 in the Junior School and 645 in the Secondary School, plus 40 students in Pre-School. The overall school enrolment trend remained strong with a very positive interest in all year groups across the School.

A feature of the School is the wide range of family backgrounds evident in the School, including several different language groups. In 2024, 29% of Arden students had a language background other than English. 1% of Arden enrolments are Indigenous students. The School has a relatively diverse population of students which includes students with specific needs, students with very high ability, as well as students with particular talents in specific areas such as the Creative Arts, Sport and Technology. Though Arden has a strong Christian ethos, families from other denominations and faiths are most welcome at the School.

Further information is available from the My School website: <https://www.myschool.edu.au>





OUTCOMES AND RESULTS

Student outcomes in standardised national literacy and numeracy testing

Overall, students have achieved excellent results in NAPLAN testing. Such results are used to guide Arden's teaching and learning programs and areas for focus. Knowledge of school-based assessments and tests combined with external tests assist us in diagnosing students who require support and/or enrichment in the areas of Literacy and Numeracy. The NAPLAN Tests track student progress from Years 3, Year 5, Year 7 and Years 9, revealing strong results and significant growth in Literacy and Numeracy skills for many students.

The table below shows a comparison of the average scaled NPI (National Progress Index) score at Arden as compared with students of similar background as determined by ACARA (Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority) and compared with all Australian Students. In all areas, Arden students performed well above the average Australian student and compared the same as or better than students of a similar background.

RESULTS COMPARED TO STUDENTS WITH A SIMILAR BACKGROUND

	READING	WRITING	SPELLING	GRAMMAR	NUMERACY
Year 3	523	514	517	533	504
Year 5	571	551	557	584	592
Year 7	606	608	595	617	632
Year 9	632	639	615	619	648

RESULTS COMPARED ALL AUSTRALIAN STUDENTS

	READING	WRITING	SPELLING	GRAMMAR	NUMERACY
Year 3	523	514	517	533	504
Year 5	571	551	557	584	592
Year 7	606	608	595	617	632
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INTERPRETING THE TABLE

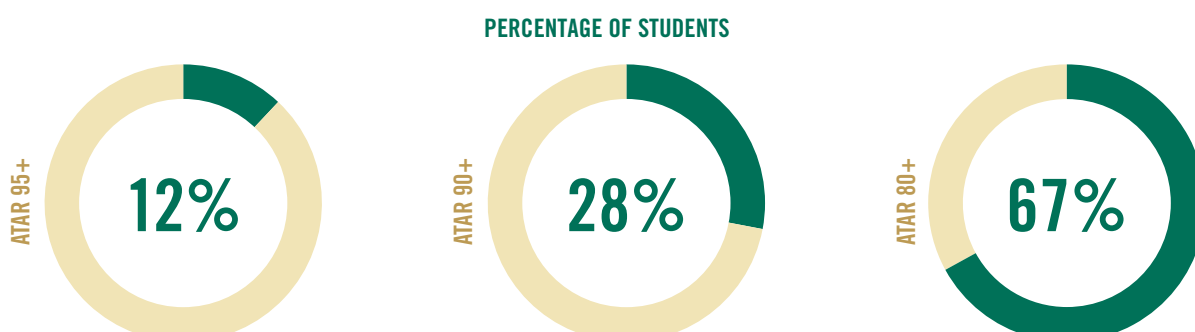
Selected school's average when compared to students with a similar background.

■ Well Above
 ■ Above
 Close to
 ■ Below
 ■ Well below
 ■ No comparison available

Previous NAPLAN results can be viewed at the My School website: <https://myschool.edu.au/school/43976/naplan/results>

Post School destinations of the class of 2024

At Arden Anglican School, 93 students were in the Year 12 class of 2024 who completed their Higher School Certificate and 93 qualified for an Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank. The range of ATARs is summarised below:

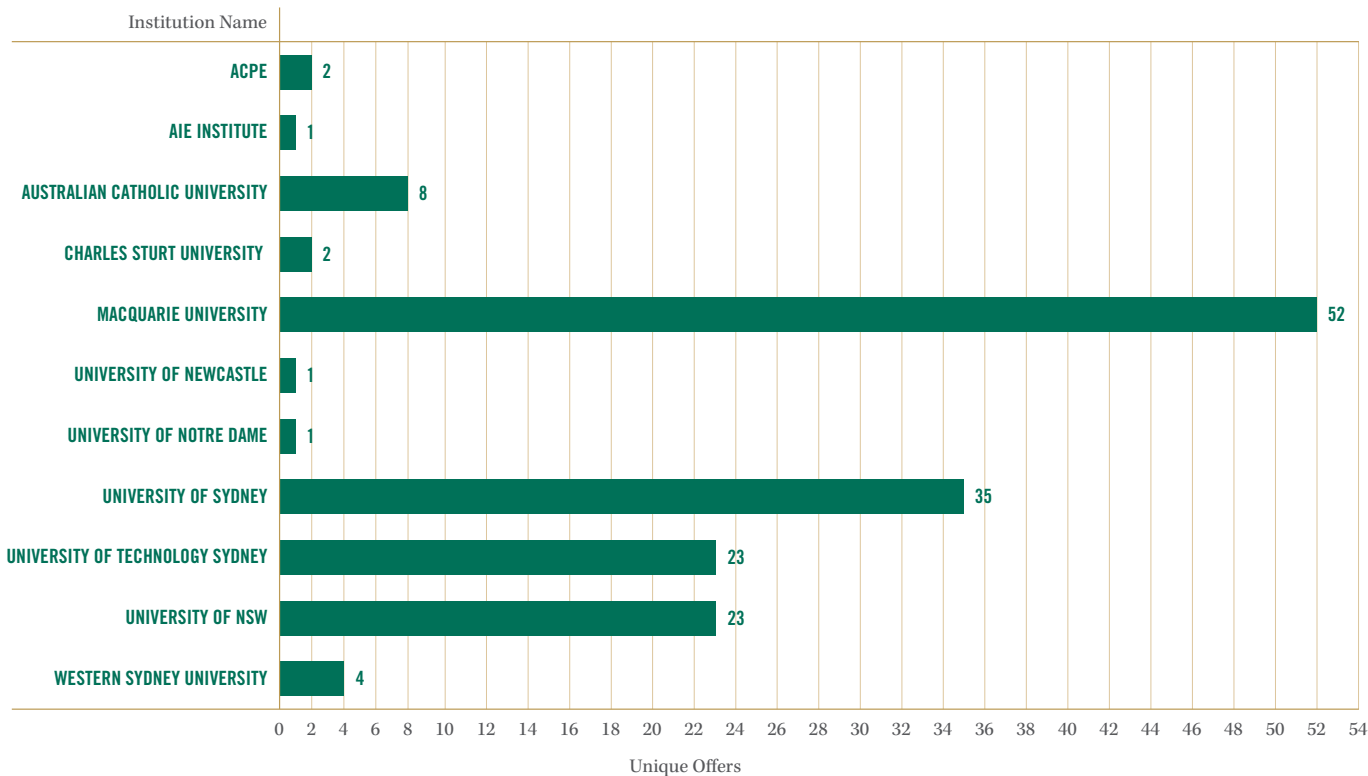




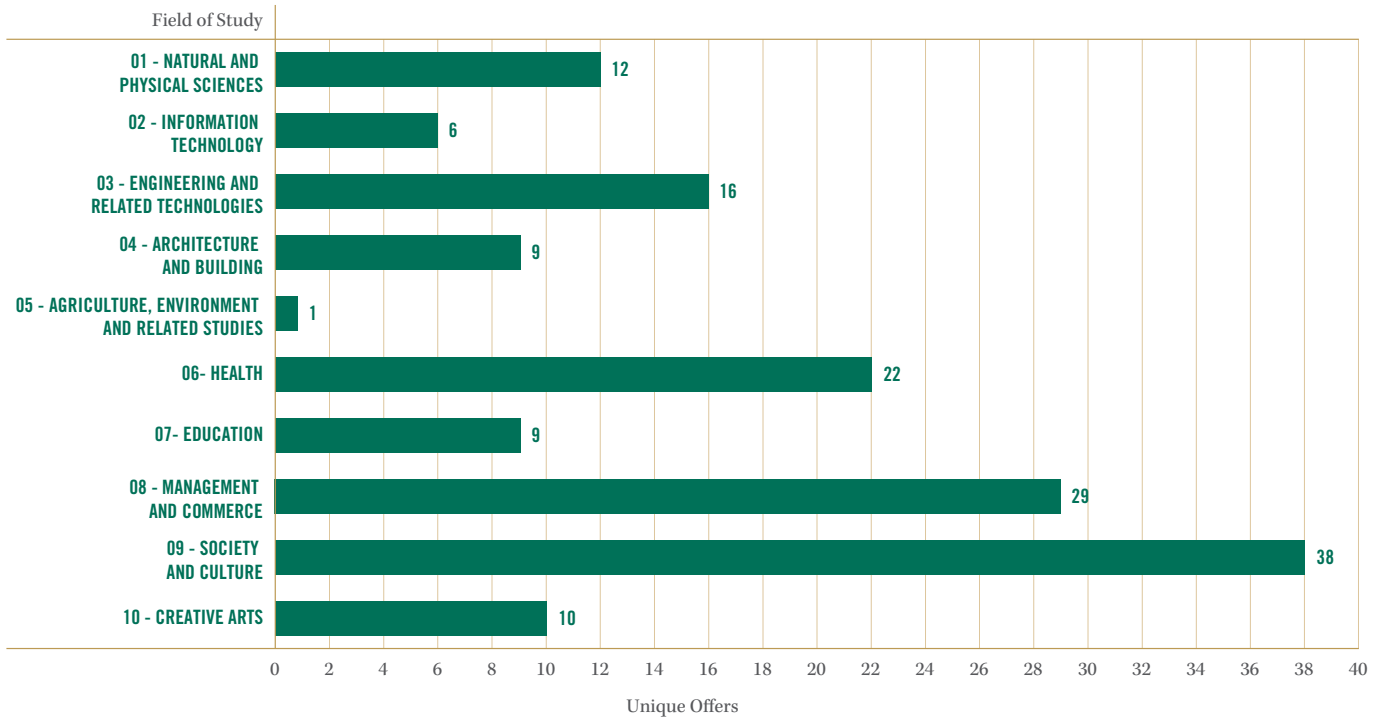
OFFERS OF PLACES

Over half of Year 12 students received early entry offers to tertiary courses before completing their HSC Examinations. There were 88 students who applied for university courses through UAC and 85 received University offers through the official round offers. There has been a consistent increase in the number of University offers received by students in Year 12. The following graphs represent the University offers made through UAC by Institution and Field of Study to our Year 12 2024 graduating students. Students who received early entry offers and accepted them directly through each university are not included in the offers made by UAC in the graphs below:

UNIQUE OFFERS



OFFERS BY FIELD OF STUDY

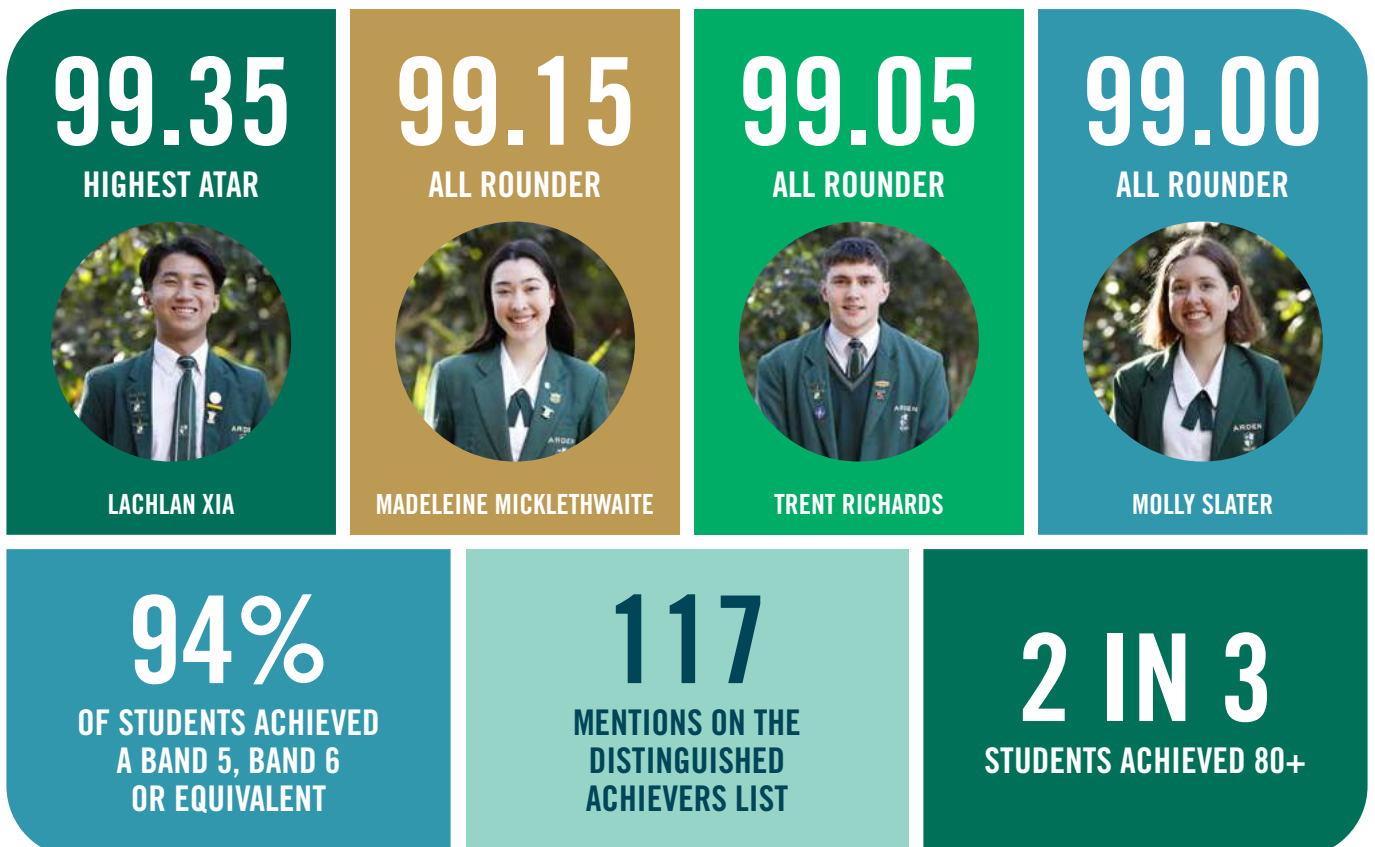


Results in the Higher School Certificate

ROSA (Record of School Achievement): 2024

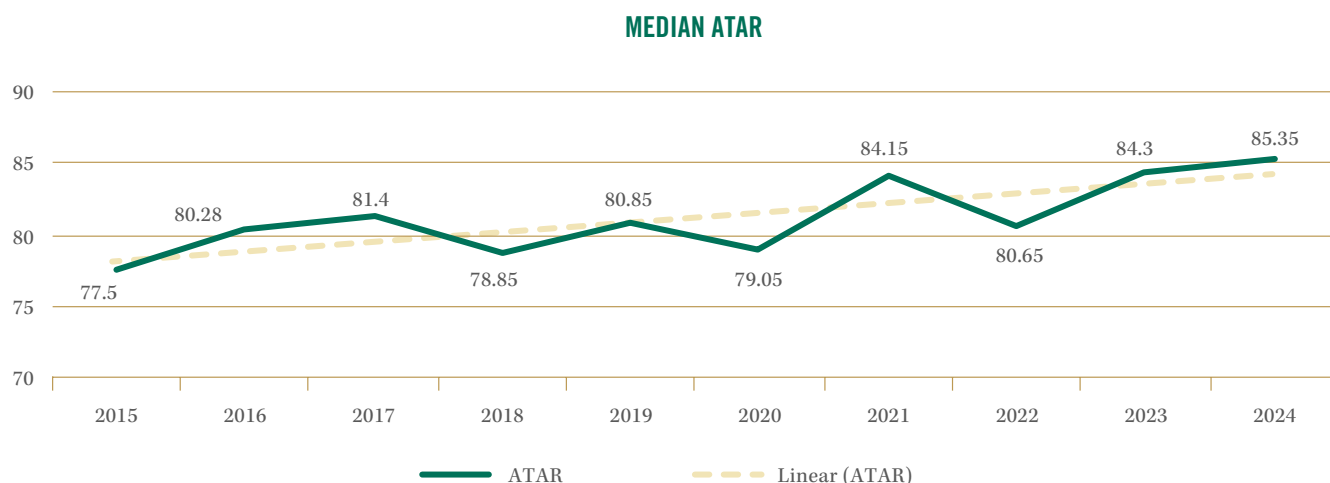
The School has advised NESA to issue a Record of School Achievement to one Year 10 student, and two Year 12 students in 2024.

INDIVIDUAL STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS AND HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE ACHIEVEMENTS



MEDIAN ATAR

Arden Anglica School has seen a continued positive trend in the median ATAR, achieving the highest median ATAR in the last 10 years.



TOP BAND STATISTICS – IN EACH COURSE

*B6 = Band 6/E4 results | NC = Number in Course | % = % of Arden students receiving top band results | State % = % of students in the state achieving top band results.

2024

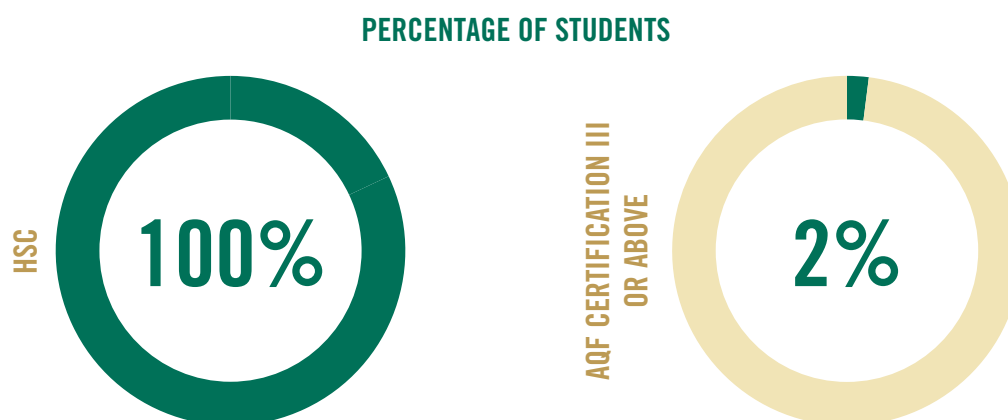
SUBJECT	B6	NC	ARDEN %	STATE %
Music 1	3	3	100	20
Music Extension	1	1	100	70
Food Technology	4	5	80	9
Music 2	3	4	75	36
Drama	5	8	63	23
Industrial Technology	7	12	58	7
Mathematics Advanced	22	52	42	22
Studies of Religion I	2	5	40	14
Investigating Science	3	8	38	7
Visual Arts	2	6	33	17
Business Studies	7	23	30	10
Mathematics Extension 1	12	40	30	35
Physics	6	20	30	12
Ancient History	2	7	29	9
Chemistry	5	19	26	11
Design and Technology	2	8	25	12
Geography	3	12	25	10
Mathematics Extension 2	3	12	25	40

English Extension 1	2	10	20	42
Legal Studies	4	22	18	15
Community and Family Studies	2	12	17	6
English Advanced	12	89	13	15
Engineering Studies	1	9	11	10
Mathematics Standard 2	4	38	11	9
Modern History	1	14	7	10
Biology	1	27	4	7
Economics	0	16	0	14
English Extension 2	0	6	0	34
English Standard	0	4	0	1
French Continuers	0	2	0	25
French Extension	0	1	0	26
History Extension	0	3	0	28
Personal Development, Health and Physical Education	0	17	0	8
Science Extension	0	2	0	9
Software Design and Development	0	6	0	13

Further information about Higher School Certificate results and comparative school information can be viewed at the My School website <http://www.myschool.edu.au>

Senior secondary outcomes (VET or equivalent)

The percentage of Year 12 Students attaining an HSC certificate and the number of students who additionally attained a VET qualification is summarised below.





STAFFING

Accreditation status of all teaching staff

Active teachers as at the end of 2024 accredited with NESAs

CATEGORY	NUMBER OF TEACHERS
Conditional	6
Provisional	1
Proficient	87
Highly Accomplished	1
Lead	1

Workforce composition

2024

Teaching staff	101
Full-time equivalent teaching staff	91.5
Non-teaching staff	61
Full-time equivalent non-teaching staff	46.1

At Arden Anglican School we embrace all faiths and backgrounds for all our staff and students. None of our staff members have identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, but we strongly encourage applications from First Nations teachers and other staff.



ATTENDANCE

Student Attendance Rates in 2024

YEAR	ATTENDANCE
K	96%
1	97%
2	97%
3	97%
4	96%
5	96%
6	95%
7	95%
8	95%
9	95%
10	96%
11	95%
12	96%
Whole School	96%

The whole school attendance rate, indicating the percentage of students attending school on average each school day in 2024, was 96%.

Management of non-attendance

Arden Anglican School has implemented policies and procedures to assist in the management of non-attendance.

These include:

- Student absences from classes or school are identified and recorded;
- Unexplained absences from classes or school are followed up with the student and their parents;
- The School notifies parents where a student has a poor record of school or class attendance;
- Where unsatisfactory class or school attendance is identified, appropriate action is taken to address the issue; and
- Extraordinary leave must be requested in writing, and requests will be considered in the light of individual circumstances.

Attendance at Arden Anglican School, including school days, compulsory events, sports, and co-curricular activities that a student has elected to join, is mandatory unless the student is ill or has received advance leave approval. Written requests for mid-term leave, early term departures, late term returns, or extended leave must be submitted to the Principal for approval.

Arden Anglican School maintains an electronic daily attendance register through Schoolbox. Parents must notify the School promptly of student absences using the Schoolbox app or platform. Where parents have not completed the absence form, they are notified automatically of their child's non-attendance. Any absence which remains unexplained after the seven-day period will be recorded on the School's daily Attendance Register as unexplained or unjustified.

Absences are monitored by Class Teachers (Junior Campus) and Year Coordinators (Secondary Campus), with significant absences escalated to the relevant School Heads. A termly report identifies students with excessive absences for intervention. For students not already on an individualised support plan with 30 days of absence in the last 100 days, a School Attendance Improvement Plan is developed with the involvement of relevant School Heads, Year Coordinators, Head of Learning Support, and Counsellor(s). Those with poor attendance records below the threshold are supported through the School's pastoral care system.



The following school policies are publicly available on the Arden Anglican School website.

- [Child protection policy](#)
- [Anti-bullying policy](#)
- [Discipline policy](#)
- [Managing complaints policy](#)
- [Enrolment policy](#)



STAKEHOLDER SATISFACTION

Arden Anglican School is committed to listening to the views and perspectives of students, staff, parents and community members. The School completes a comprehensive engagement survey of students, staff, parents and members of the School Council every two years. The most recent survey was completed in September 2024. There were 1,056 survey respondents in total, including 688 students and 245 parents and guardians. The survey responses covered five domains:

1. School Environment
2. Teaching and Learning
3. Student Wellbeing
4. Leadership
5. Community

Parent Feedback

The survey invited school parents to evaluate the effectiveness of Teaching and Learning at Arden, and compared the parent feedback between 2022 and 2024 on a scale from 0-6:

TEACHING AND LEARNING

(out of 6) – JC and SC campus combined

TEACHERS HELP LEARNERS OVERCOME BARRIERS



TEACHERS PROVIDE CHALLENGING LEARNING



90% of Beecroft parents agree teachers provide their child with feedback to support their learning.



98% of Beecroft parents agree teachers know their child's academic strengths and challenges.



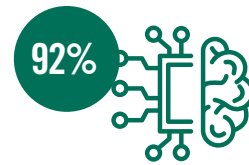
100% of Beecroft parents agree that teachers use a range of activities to help their child learn.



95% of Epping parents agree teachers provide their child with feedback to support their learning.



94% of Epping parents agree teachers know their child's academic strengths and challenges.



92% of Epping parents agree that teachers use a range of activities to help their child learn.



The survey asked Arden parents to evaluate the quality of feedback and reporting on student progress at school:

COMMUNITY – REPORTING

(out of 6) – JC and SC campus combined

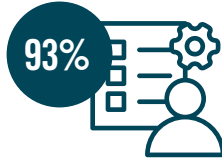
2022 – 4.69



2024 – 4.83



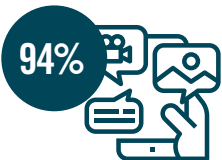
86% of Beecroft parents agree the school updates them about their child's learning in a variety of different ways.



93% of Beecroft parents agree that the information the school provides them with about their child's progress is easy to understand.



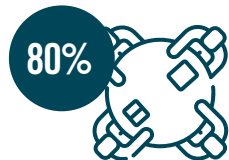
83% of Beecroft parents agree that there are regular opportunities to interact with teachers about their child's learning progress.



94% of Epping parents agree the school updates them about their child's learning in a variety of different ways.



95% of Epping parents agree that the information the school provides them with about their child's progress is easy to understand.



80% of Epping parents agree that there are regular opportunities to interact with teachers about their child's learning progress.

JC AND SC CAMPUS COMBINED

REPORTING IS UNDERSTANDABLE
5.05

REPORTING METHODS ARE VARIED
4.93

100% of parents surveyed believe that Arden helps their child to develop their knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith:

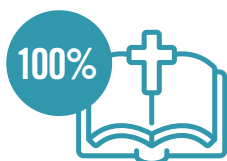
COMMUNITY – SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

Religion and Faith (out of 6) – JC and SC campus combined

2022 – 4.63



2024 – 4.74



100% of all parents agree that the school helps my child to develop their knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith.



99% of all parents agree the school fosters their child's spiritual growth.

The survey asked school parents to identify their most significant reasons for choosing Arden. The top 5 reasons for choosing Arden Junior Campus (Beecroft) or Arden Secondary Campus (Epping) are displayed here:

WHAT WERE THE MOST SIGNIFICANT REASONS FOR CHOOSING ARDEN?



Student Feedback

The survey invited students to evaluate their experience of the School in terms of connection, belonging and support. The results compared the 2022 and 2024 results on a scale from 0-6.

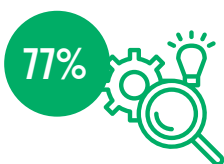
STUDENT WELLBEING

(out of 6) – JC and SC campus combined

2022 – 4.55



2024 – 4.57



77%

of students know their strengths and areas for developing.



82%

of students believe they can succeed.



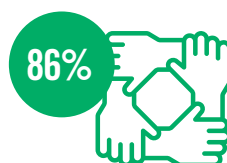
82%

of students actively seek help.



86%

of students have a sense of connection with adults.



86%

of students feel they belong at the school.



JUNIOR CAMPUS (BEECROFT)

The highest results (out of 6) from student feedback at the Junior Campus were:



STUDENTS HAVE A SENSE OF SAFETY IN CLASS



STUDENTS HAVE A SENSE OF CONNECTION WITH ADULTS



STUDENTS KNOW THEIR STRENGTHS AND AREAS OF PROGRESS



STUDENTS USE SOCIAL MEDIA RESPONSIBLY



TEACHERS USE IMPACTFUL TEACHING STRATEGIES



STUDENTS HAVE OPPORTUNITIES TO USE TECHNOLOGY TO LEARN



TEACHERS HELP LEARNERS OVERCOME BARRIERS

SECONDARY CAMPUS (EPPING)

The highest results (out of 6) from student feedback at the Secondary Campus were:



STUDENTS HAVE OPPORTUNITIES TO USE TECHNOLOGY TO LEARN



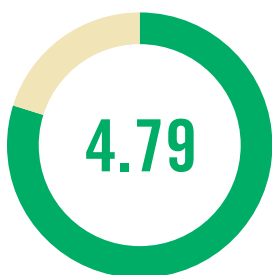
STUDENTS HAVE A SENSE OF WELCOME WHEN THEY ARRIVE AT SCHOOL



STUDENTS FEEL SAFE



KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF FAITH SUPPORTED



STUDENTS HAVE A SENSE OF CONNECTION WITH ADULTS



STUDENTS BELIEVE THEY CAN SUCCEED



STUDENTS ENJOY A VARIETY OF CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

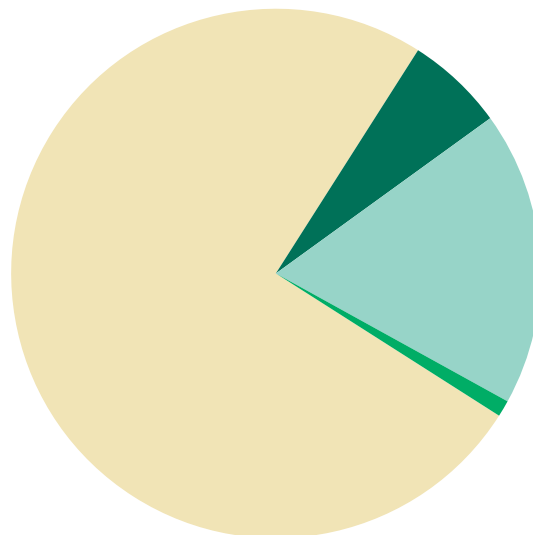
Domain: ■ Wellbeing ■ Learning ■ School Environment ■ Community



FINANCIAL INFORMATION

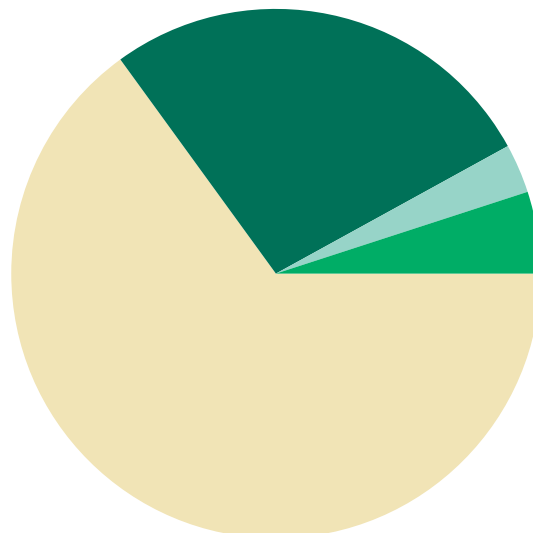
2024 INCOME

■ Fees and Private Income	75%
■ State Recurrent Grants	6%
■ Commonwealth Recurrent Grants	18%
■ Other Capital (Building Fund) Income	1%



2024 EXPENDITURE

■ Non Salary Expenditure	27%
■ Debit Services Expense	3%
■ Capital Expenditure	5%
■ Salaries and Related Expenditure	65%



ARDEN



AN ANGLICAN SCHOOL FOR GIRLS AND BOYS

PRE-SCHOOL AND JUNIOR CAMPUS

39-43 Wongala Crescent, Beecroft NSW 2119

SECONDARY CAMPUS

6B Essex Street, Epping NSW 2121

☎ 9484 1146 🌐 arden.nsw.edu.au 📱 [ardenanglicanschool](#)

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