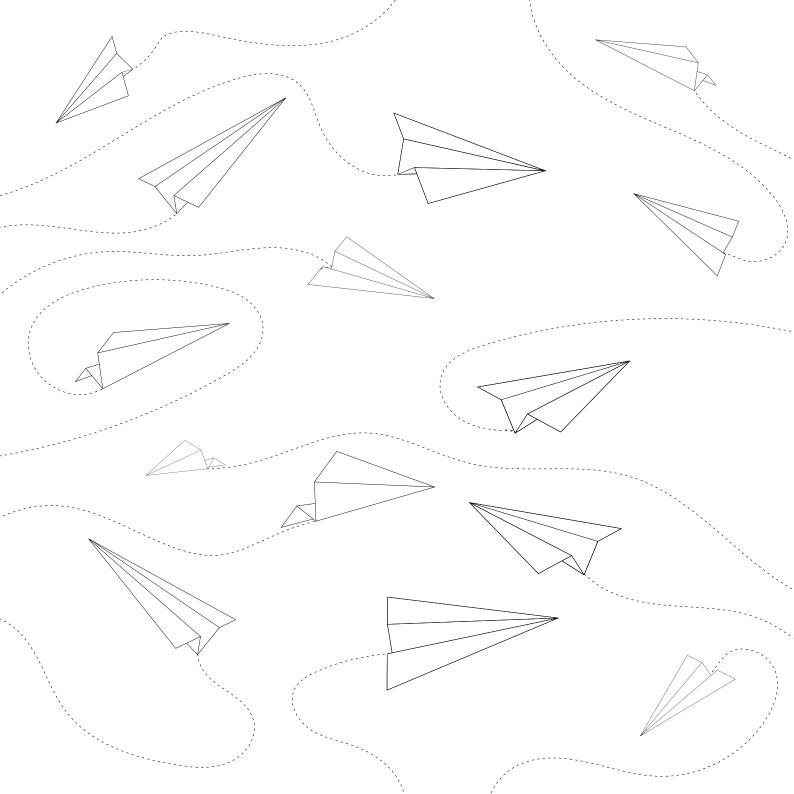
## SOARING ACADEMIC SUCCESS 2020





As educators, St John's is at the forefront of teaching and learning practice.

We are dedicated to providing a NURTURING, CHALLENGING and REWARDING EDUCATION to enable our students to be active participants in a changing world, even more so, to be CATALYSTS of POSITIVE CHANGE.

## **FROM** the Principal Mrs Maria McIvor

2020 saw the largest academic upheaval in Queensland schools in the last 27 years with the move from the Overall Position (OP) system to the Senior Assessment and Tertiary Entrance (SATE) and associated ATAR system. That was before COVID-19 became a reality.

> It was a remarkable and challenging year, to say the least, however, our students embraced these challenges with courage and positivity. The Class of 2020 will be remembered as the most resilient of seniors at St John's.

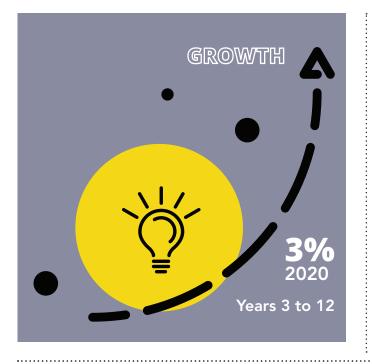
As a College, we approached the multitude of changes and challenges and viewed them as an opportunity to review our teaching and learning practices, to adapt and modify where needed, and to focus our efforts on providing all that is needed to facilitate the best possible outcomes for our students. I would like to acknowledge Deputy Principal - Curriculum and

Innovation, Mr Andrew Landroth, for his outstanding leadership in managing the changes to the curriculum during this unpredictable year.

Despite the disruptions and uncertainty surrounding the 2020 academic year, the Class of 2020 delivered the strongest results in OP equivalents in thirteen years with 8% of students achieving an OP 1, 18% OP 1-2 and 33% OP 1-5. I am also delighted to share that nine students from our Year 12 cohort were awarded the QCAA Certificate of Academic Commendation. This award recognises students who have achieved A grades in all six general subjects.

At the heart of this academic success is positive student wellbeing. Positive emotional, social, spiritual, physical and intellectual development of our students goes hand in hand with supporting our students to gain the skills and competencies to flourish in their educational journey. It is for this reason that within our Personal Learning and Success and Faith Mission and Wellbeing Strategic Enterprises that our Teaching and Learning and Wellbeing Frameworks are being developed simultaneously, in consideration of each other.

These exceptional outcomes are reflective of the hard work and commitment of our Year 12 cohort, outstanding resilience, perseverance, and positivity consistently demonstrated throughout the year.



**62%** 2019

70%

2020

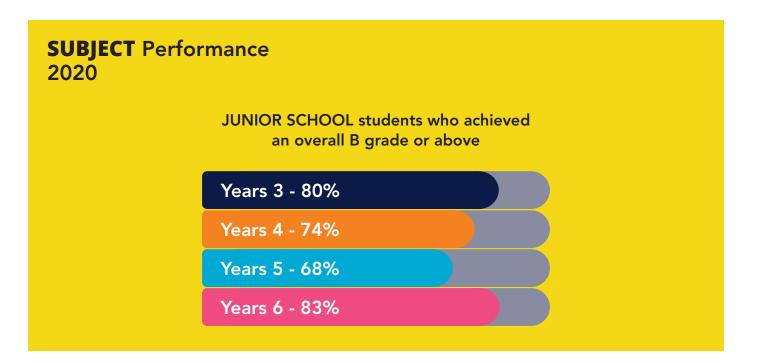
# ACADEMIC Growth 2019 to 2020

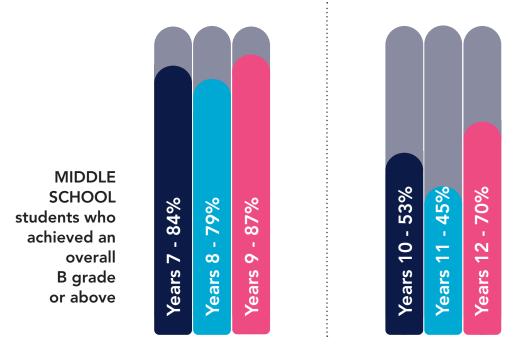
We have seen pleasing academic growth across the College in 2020 with a GPA average of 11.02, the highest in six years.

This is reflective of the outstanding preparation and professionalism of our teaching staff and the ongoing investment in academic strengthening underway at St John's.

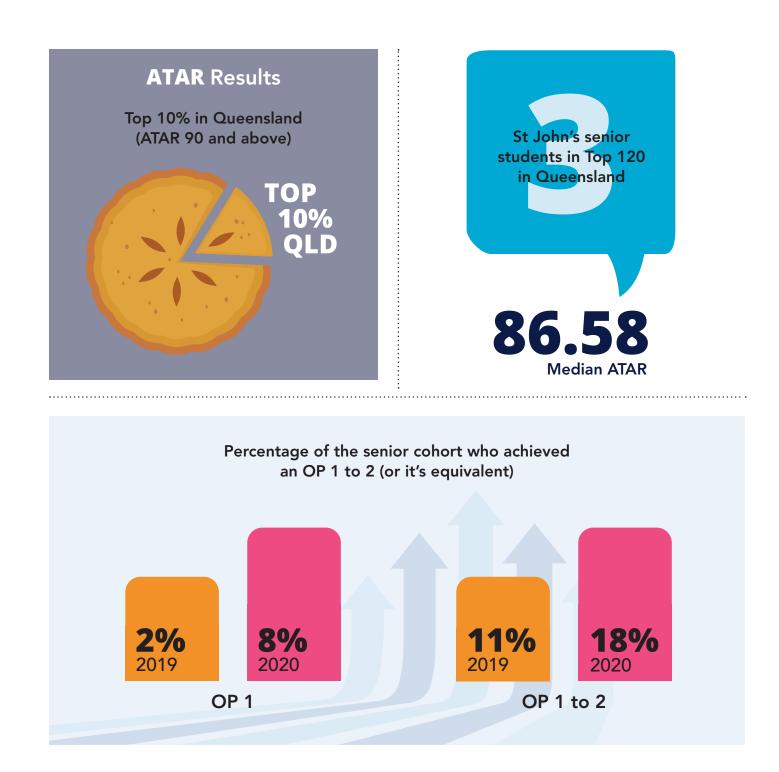


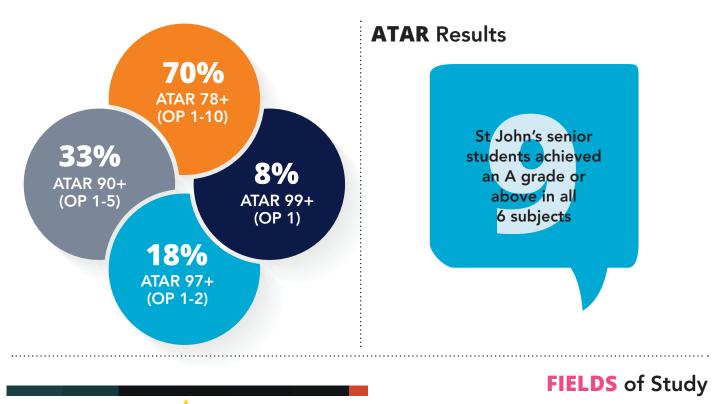
Students in Years 3 to 12 who achieved an overall B grade or above (GPA 11)

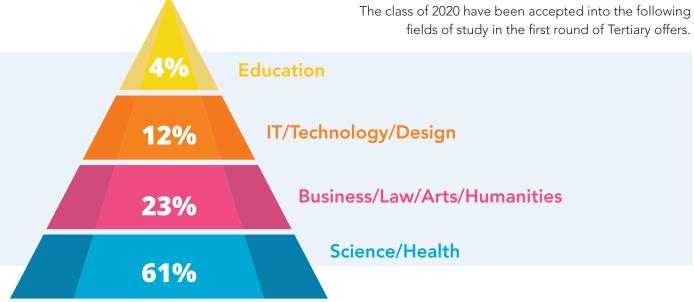




SENIOR SCHOOL students who achieved an overall B grade or above







### **LOOKING** Ahead

St John's is looking forward to a bright 2021 and beyond. Our students will be even better prepared to become lifelong learners and their learning experiences at the College will better equip them to embrace the challenges of any future.

#### **Enhance our Teaching Practices –**

continue to utilise the data gathered on the academic performance of 2020 across the College to inform and enhance our teaching practices more thoroughly. This will include the delivery of a more globally focused reporting approach and collaborating with Mighty Minds, an educational consultancy program, to provide a more personalised and effective learning solution.

Customisation of the **Student Learning Experience** – continue to customise the student learning experience to suit individual student needs through St John's accelerated learning and enrichment program; SOAR. Following a pilot English and Mathematics program in 2020, students in Years 7 to 10 commenced their SOAR English and Mathematics classes from Term One, 2021. The Junior School SOAR Program will be rolled out throughout 2021 providing students in Years 5 and 6 with access to specialist teachers from the Secondary campus and the opportunity to attend Middle School classes.

Development of our **Teaching and Learning Framework** – the ongoing development of our Teaching and Learning Framework participating in Independent Schools Queensland (ISQ) Teacher Growth and Development program as part of our Personal learning and Success Enterprise.

Development of our **New Middle Years Program** – with the discontinuation of the International Baccalaureate MYP, St John's has the opportunity to develop a Middle Years program aligned to the Australian Curriculum and the QCAA 21st Century skills of critical thinking, communication, citizenship, creativity, collaboration and growth mindset.

### **STUDENT** Feature 2020 Graduate, Viraj Sashankan

Placing as one of the top 10% of students in the state, Viraj was delighted to receive an ATAR equivalent of an OP 1-5.

Over my 13 years at the College, I've been blessed with countless opportunities to learn and develop in all facets of my life. As a student of St John's since Prep, I had access to first-class facilities, industry-leading resources and expert and passionate teachers to assist me in growing and developing as a person of character.

Underpinning the College values of Faith, Service and Courage is servant leadership which is amplified across many aspects of St John's life including Student Council, the Prefect Team, yLead, ANZAC Day, and the mentoring program. I was drawn to the many leadership opportunities at St John's to serve our community and I am to this day sincerely grateful to the College for facilitating my leadership journey.

As an Old Collegian, proud of my roots here at St John's, I'm honoured to give back to the College that has shaped who I am today. I'm currently coaching St John's basketball teams and look forward to other opportunities to contribute in some small way to the ongoing success of the College. At the Secondary campus, the teaching staff at St John's offered invaluable advice and shared their wealth of knowledge to guide me in my academic decisions. Like all Middle School students, I was encouraged to try a range of elective subjects to help explore my strengths and weaknesses in the core subjects. This allowed me to select the most suitable combination of subjects in my senior years to achieve the best results and to be accepted into my desired course. In March I will begin my tertiary studies at Griffith University, Bachelor of Physiotherapy.

Throughout the challenging year that was 2020, St John's staff worked tirelessly to ensure a sense of normality for all students. Teachers focused on learning continuity and ease of access to resources so that we felt prepared and supported going into our external assessments. This continued support put my mind at ease and allowed me to focus on achieving my desired academic outcomes.

My advice for the Class of 2021 is to be open to embracing the challenges of Year 12. Learn from the obstacles you face and take it as an opportunity to grow during your senior year. Adapt quickly, bounce forward, and continue working hard towards finishing your final exams and graduating from St John's. In the challenging times of your final year, remember that you are never alone, you are part of the St John's family, now and forever.



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