



Class of '24 **OUTCOMES**



A group of students in school uniforms are gathered outdoors, celebrating. They are holding large white sheets of paper, and colorful confetti is falling all around them. The students are smiling and looking in various directions. The background shows a brick building and a white overhang.

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Life will bring new challenges and opportunities, but may you always find peace in God's presence and confidence in His plan for you.



Executive Principal Address

Ross Grace



Congratulations to our Class of 2024!

As we celebrate the remarkable accomplishments of this year's graduating class, I am delighted to reflect on how God has grown and shaped every one of them throughout their time at Heathdale. The dedication and passion of all our VCE and VCE VM students is matched by our staff and the community of supporters around them, and it is a joy to see the whole of Heathdale unite around our purpose of nurturing and developing each child's God-given potential.

This year, the students chose to emblazon a New Testament passage from Philippians 4:6-7 on their Year 12 jackets that reads: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

To our graduates, as you step into the next chapter of your lives, we encourage you to carry these words with you. Life will bring new challenges and opportunities, but may you always find peace in God's presence and confidence in His plan for you. As you move forward, we pray that you continue to seek God in every situation, trusting in His guidance and provision.

To parents and families of our graduating class, we extend our heartfelt thanks for your unwavering support and encouragement. Your partnership has been instrumental in fostering an environment where students can grow in knowledge, character and faith.

As our Class of 2024 moves into the future, may you embrace each opportunity with courage, pursue wisdom with a grateful heart, and trust that God's peace will guard and guide you always. We look forward to celebrating your future achievements and hearing about the difference you will make in the world. May God bless your journeys abundantly.

College Captains Q&A

Chloe Zimmerman, Getadegu Gebremichael, Endria Ang & Michael Lozanovski

Our College Captains demonstrate true Godly character as during their most senior year of study, they also dedicate their time in service and leadership of our entire student cohort. We are eminently proud of the leaders they've become and spent some time with them inquiring about the lessons they learned this year.



What goal did you set for yourself at the beginning of the year, and how have you achieved it?

At the start of the year, I mentioned that I wanted to connect with younger students during lunch or class time, lead devotions for each year level, explore ways to engage with older students and share God's love through everything I do. I helped with the Year 1s a few times, sitting in their class and assisting with their work, spelling and activities. I also joined them at lunch and recess, playing games like 'Duck, Duck, Goose' and tag! *Chloe*

At the beginning of the year, I wanted to make the year more enjoyable for everyone and to bring the school closer together as a community. We worked on bringing year levels closer to each other by going down to the Primary area and playing downball with the younger kids, as well as giving devotions across multiple year levels. We also aimed to make this year especially enjoyable for the Year 12s, as it was our final year. We helped achieve this by running a few games at our Year 12 camp and planning additional activities for the Year 12s during a wellbeing session. *Michael*

How has being part of a Christian educational community at Heathdale shaped you personally?

Being a part of a Christian educational community was honestly a blessing. In my experience, Heathdale was always a safe haven from many worldly influences that could have completely changed my character. I was able to look up to and learn from my teachers through their example, whether it was their reliance on prayer or their devotion. *Geta*

One example that shaped me was 'Lunch with Jesus,' where a group of Year 11 and 12 students came together for a weekly lunch on Wednesdays and a student or teacher would lead a Bible study or conversation about the Word of God. It was really exciting at the start to see a large influx of students. It provided an open space for believers and those who had not yet decided to come, hang out, chat about the Lord, pray for each other and encourage one another. *Chloe*

What has been your most rewarding experience as a College Captain/Vice-Captain this year?

My most rewarding experience as College Captain was how close I was able to get with the other students. When I was younger, I rarely talked to people outside of my year level, which kept me from connecting with the broader community. But over the years, especially this year, I became more involved, and I hope I made a positive impact on some of the students. *Geta*

Getting to know my fellow Captains was one of the most rewarding experiences for which I am truly grateful. Together, we expanded our faith and formed deeper friendships. I enjoyed helping with the College's Open Days and talking with the parents during the tours. I was honoured to go to Canberra for the Compass School Leaders' Conference and learn a lot. The skills I gained throughout the year will help me in my future endeavours. I know that my life has been changed for the better by the multitude of experiences I had throughout Year 12. *Endria*

What is your prayer for the 2025 College Captains?

To the 2025 College Captains, I hope and pray that you will trust and rely on one another and persevere throughout your Year 12 experience. There will be times when you must sacrifice your time, but it will be worth the effort because of the contribution you make to the school community. I pray that you will learn good leadership skills and use your gifts to benefit others for the glory of God. *Endria*

My prayer for the 2025 College Captains is that they appreciate their time as Captain and seize every opportunity to serve and lead. At the start of the year, it all seems so far away, but suddenly it's over and you haven't done half of the things you intended to. While assessments do creep up and it's easy to get busy, doing small things like organising a devotion for different year levels or hanging out with students from other cohorts at lunch can help bring the school together. *Michael*



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a safe haven...



Dux of 2024



**Darcey
Gifford**

99.4 ATAR

**It's been such a gift
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Darcey Gifford's achievement as the highest Dux ever at Heathdale reflects her love for studying and the supportive environment she found at the school. Initially, Darcey was unsure about being named Dux and needed time to grasp the significance of her high score. "When I saw the score, I don't think I realised how high it was," she reflected.

For Darcey, this accomplishment was more than just a number; it was an unexpected blessing. "I feel like I've spent a lot of time just kind of going, why me? This is such an abundant blessing from God, beyond anything I'd even imagined," she shared.

Starting at Heathdale in Year 11, Darcey quickly experienced its welcoming and supportive atmosphere, which helped her thrive. This support extended to her teachers, who were always available to assist with questions and personal challenges. "A big shout-out to Mr. Sega, my Biology teacher. He had a group of us keen on Biology and ran extra lunchtime sessions," she added.

This year, Darcey is pursuing a Bachelor of Science at the University of Melbourne. Although still deciding on her career path, she finds the journey exciting. "It's terrifying but exciting at the same time. I try and lean into that."

Balancing study and rest in school was key to Darcey's success. She set study limits, observed a weekly Sabbath – avoiding both her phone and studying on Sundays – and made sure to enjoy family time. "We still read books out loud, even though we're older now," she shared, mentioning their journey through the Chronicles of Narnia last year.

Darcey advises future students to use their teachers' expertise. "They are there to help you out in any way they can. I sent them a lot of questions, practice pieces and asked them to explain concepts when they didn't quite make sense."

She also encourages making studying enjoyable. "One thing my friends can tell you is that in Year 12, I became obsessed with drinking tea. I'd drink tea while studying and tried all kinds of flavours." Darcey highlights the importance of finding study strategies that suit your individual style. "Some people found study timetables helpful, but they didn't work for me. Instead, I used timers to tackle tasks, especially the ones I didn't want to do. Others tried timers and found them unhelpful, so it's really about discovering what works best for you."

When Darcey learnt she was Dux, it was a surreal moment. "It's been such a gift and blessing from God, and it's really important not to forget him in all of this or the people who supported me. Receiving this honour doesn't reflect all the people who made that number possible. I want to thank my Biology study group for their support, my parents for encouraging me and helping me take breaks, and my friends. There are many people from Heathdale I think I'll stay in touch with, who truly cared for me."

Darcey Gifford's story is one of hard work, faith, and the power of a supportive community. Her journey highlights the blessings of persistence, the joy found in a nurturing environment, and the importance of leaning on faith and family. Darcey's experience serves as a reminder of what can be achieved when dedication meets encouragement, inspiring both students and educators to strive for their best. Her achievements as Dux inspire students and educators alike.

Year Twelve

By the Numbers

30.04

Average Study Score

Two of our students achieved a perfect study score of 50 in General Mathematics. In an outstanding achievement, students attained study scores of 40 or more across 12 different VCE subjects, ranging from English and Chemistry to Business Management, Visual Communication Design and more. This reflects our commitment to nurturing each child's God-given potential and supporting them in their diverse academic pursuits.

72.13

Average ATAR

Our 2024 ATAR exceeded the state average of 69.52. With a 23% growth in our Year 12 cohort, 97 of whom completed the VCE, we are thrilled to have walked alongside so many students throughout their school journey and to witness such a large group achieving results consistently above expectations.

26%

of VCE students earned
a study score over 40.

2x Perfect 50

Study Scores earned in
General Mathematics

29

Study Scores Over 40
Achieved in the following subjects:

General Mathematics 17
Chemistry 1
English 3
Biology 1
French 1
Literature 1
Geography 1

Legal Studies 1
History Revolutions 1
Business Management 2
Visual Communication
Design 1
Health and Human
Development 1

ATARs above

90

9.47% of our VCE students gained an ATAR of over 90. Of these students, 2 of them achieved an ATAR of 95 or above. This is a testament to their hard work and our teaching staff's dedication to helping our students reflect their potential.

1 Top Design Nomination

1 Top Arts Nomination



Chloe Zimmerman

Chloe, one of our 2024 College Captains, made history as the first student in this role to pursue a vocational pathway in her senior years, completing the VCE Vocational Major (VM), which replaced the former VCAL program. She thrived throughout her schooling, excelling particularly in VCE Art Making & Exhibiting in Year 12, where her work was shortlisted for Top Arts. We congratulate Chloe on her outstanding achievements and pray she continues to flourish in her future endeavours.

Why did you choose the VCE Vocational Major pathway and how did it align with your goals? I chose VCE VM for a couple of different reasons. Firstly, I do not work to the best of my ability with exams and tests where all your knowledge is put on the spot. I tend to excel with projects and presentations as they are more creative, hands-on and developed over time. Another reason for choosing VCE VM was that I wasn't sure what I wanted to do post-school. VM allowed me to try out different skills and explore what I enjoyed without all the stress and study hours that don't suit my learning style.

How did the VM pathway support your learning style and future aspirations? Over the past two years, I gained experience in food handling through the café, which has become a passion. I have been looking for jobs as a barista. I also had the opportunity to teach kinder kids as a project, which helped me develop organisational skills and sparked an interest in teaching.

How do you think the combination of College Captaincy and VM studies prepared you for life beyond school? Being both a Captain and in VM presented many different opportunities such as working with people, helping others, leading, hands-on work and giving presentations. These experiences tied together a variety of skills that I can take with me wherever I find myself in the future.

Were there specific skills you developed through the VM pathway that helped you in your leadership role as College Captain?

Definitely. In the subject Work-Related Skills, we often discussed leadership in the workplace and different occupations which I connected with my role as a School Captain. We also did a lot of presentations which strengthened my confidence in speaking to others and presenting in front of groups. Running the café was also great for developing my communication skills.

What role has art played in your personal growth and expression during your time at Heathdale? Believe it or not, I chose art in late Year 10 as an elective for VCE as a last resort. I needed one more subject and art was the only one I could see

myself getting through. Two years later, it became my favourite subject and where I spent most of my time, especially in Study Hall. It was an escape to go down to the Year 12 art room and spend hours creating instead of being stuck at a desk. In Year 11, I expressed my faith through a multimedia artwork based on the journey of faith. In Year 12, I developed a passion for early 1900s cartoons which eventually came to life in my 'Caught in a chook-hold' sculpture. This piece was shortlisted for Top Arts.

What was the most challenging part of creating your nominated piece and how did you overcome it? The biggest challenge was transforming a small cartoon into a life-sized piece. I experimented with a smaller model and did many sketches to break down the construction. The process involved creating, building, painting and a lot of trial and error. Patience was key. I took breaks, focused on different parts of the piece and returned with a fresh perspective.

How do you see art playing a role in your future, whether as a career or a personal passion? Art will always be an enjoyable hobby for me. I can sit down for hours sketching or painting and it really helps me unwind. I will miss the art room, Miss Watson and all the supplies, but art will always be something I turn to for creativity and joy.

How do you hope to use your art, leadership skills and education to make a difference in the world? I'm open to new opportunities and want to step into different experiences. Being creative, gaining leadership experience and having access to so many opportunities at school has equipped me with skills that will be valuable in many different jobs or hobbies. I want to find something hands-on that allows me to help and support those around me.

What's a highlight from your time at Heathdale that you'll always cherish? I will always cherish the conversations with teachers who never held back from having a great chat. They were always passionate, willing to discuss things and gave great advice. Another thing I'll always treasure is the art room – the freedom to create, work alongside like-minded friends and share ideas. I had my best laughs, my best ideas and my best moments in that space.

Offers & Placements

In 2024, our Year 12 students received early entry offers to a range of Bachelor degree courses at universities including RMIT, Latrobe, Swinburne, ACU and Victoria University. Some students also qualified for Melbourne Uni Access and the Monash Guarantee. The courses offered spanned areas such as Science, Biomedicine, Design, Law, Arts, Criminology, Business, Psychology, Architecture, Engineering, Information Technology and Commerce. While students are not required to accept these offers, they provide a guaranteed pathway based on their previous academic achievements.

Students offered Early Entry:

60

(42% of 2024 VCE students)

Students who accepted their Early Entry Offer:

10

students accepted the offer and have
commenced that course in 2024

50

students accepted an offer higher than the Early
Entry course they were initially offered

Students who achieved their first or second round University/TAFE offer:

69

out of 95

70% received their first preference

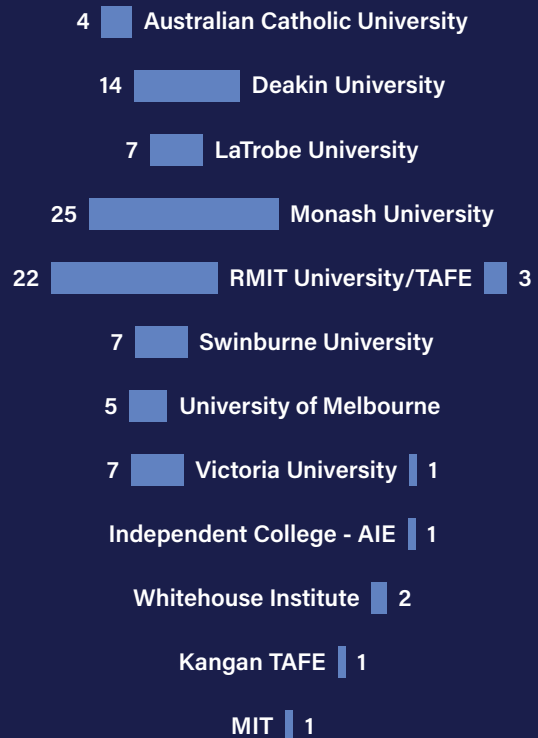
30% received their second preference

Summary of All Year 12 Destinations

We are delighted to share that all nine VCE VM students chose a pathway into either jobs or courses they are interested in. Additionally, of our 97 VCE students, 92 took an offer at a university. Two students received direct entry to high schools in the USA, and another student is travelling overseas hoping to also study in the USA.

Total Tertiary Placements

92 VCE | 8 VCE VM



Total Alternative Pathways

5 VCE | 1 VCE VM





Dandi Fufa

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...the guidance and support provided by teachers played a crucial role in shaping my experience. By offering frequent feedback, areas of weakness were identified, allowing for proactive action to be taken.

Dandi joined Heathdale in Year 9 and his success in his final year can be attributed to the determination and hard work he put in during his VCE years. He is well known for his sense of humour and strong work ethic in Year 12. We congratulate Dandi on his acceptance to Deakin University, where he will be studying a double degree in Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Commerce.

How did you feel when you received the offer for your course at Deakin? Receiving the offer to study Commerce/Law was an amazing opportunity, as it provides the chance to explore both the legal and business worlds together and marked a significant moment. The course offers a unique learning experience, allowing me to see how one field can influence the other.

What do you think most contributed to your academic success? Throughout the year, the guidance and support provided by teachers played a crucial role in shaping my experience. By offering frequent feedback, areas of weakness were identified, allowing for proactive action to be taken. Using the different resources available significantly strengthened my understanding of topics.

Why did you choose Law/Commerce, and what excites you about studying it at Deakin? The Commerce/Law degree provides an opportunity to study two areas of interest simultaneously. This combination offers knowledge of both the legal and business worlds. With work-integrated learning, the program presents real-world experience while also delivering theoretical knowledge.

What are your hopes and goals for your time at university? My hopes and goals for university are to take advantage of work-integrated learning opportunities and gain real-world experience from the knowledge acquired. Through this, valuable insights can be gained into how this knowledge applies across multiple industries. This opportunity will also provide a deeper understanding of key concepts.

