

BOY OH BOY ... LOOK AT THE TOP SCHOOLS

EXCLUSIVE

BETHANY HIATT
Education Editor



Christ Church students Edward Elias, Tom Salter, David Lind and Ben Davison-Petch have just finished Year 12. Picture: Jackson Flindell

TOP 50 SCHOOLS

1 Perth Modern School	27 Trinity College
2 Hale School	28 Servite College
3 Christ Church Grammar School	29 St Norbert College
4 St Mary's Anglican Girls' School	30 St Mary MacKillop Catholic College
5 Presbyterian Ladies' College	31 Thornlie Christian College
6 Methodist Ladies' College	32 Carine Senior High School
7 Perth College	= Mt Lawley Senior High School
8 St Hilda's Anglican School for Girls	34 Aquinas College
9 Ursula Frayne Catholic College	35 Camel School
10 Shenton College	= St Stephen's School
11 Penrhos College	37 CBC Fremantle
12 Rossmoyne Senior High School	= Peter Moyes Anglican Community School
13 Willetton Senior High School	39 Lynwood Senior High School
14 Sacred Heart College	40 Australian Islamic College
= Santa Maria College	= Corpus Christi College
16 Iona Presentation College	= Duncairn Senior High School
17 Wesley College	= Leeming Senior High School
18 John XXIII College	44 Bunbury Catholic College
19 All Saints' College	= John Septimus Roe Anglican Community School
= Scotch College	46 Prendville Catholic College
21 Kennedy Baptist College	47 Australind Senior High School
22 Chisholm Catholic College	= John Calvin Christian College
23 Applecross Senior School	= Newman College
24 Mercedes College	50 Bunbury Cathedral Grammar School
25 Churchlands Senior High School	
26 John Curtin College of the Arts	

FULL RESULTS FOR ALL 143 SCHOOLS ONLINE NOW AT THEWEST.COM.AU

Single-sex classrooms dominate the university entrance results

Single-sex schools have dominated the top placings in the annual Year 12 league tables, with boys-only schools outshining the girls for the first time in years.

While the co-educational, academically selective Perth Modern School claimed the top position on the first-50 list based on median ATAR scores for the fourth year in a row, seven singlesex schools made the top 10.

Two boys' schools, Hale School and Christ Church Grammar School, ranked second and third, above girls' schools that usually take out the top places.

Hale shot up from ninth place last year, with a median ATAR of 92.85.

It just pipped Christ Church on 92.50, which climbed from sixth last year in one of its best performances since 2006.

The West Australian can reveal the schools ranked in the top 50 — and the full list online — ahead of their release today by the School Curriculum and Standards Authority.

Christ Church Grammar School principal Alan Jones — who has also previously worked in a girls' school — said a recent study of public boys' schools in New Zealand found that boys performed better in boys-only schools.

He said the advantage of single-sex education was it allowed Christ Church to choose teachers who wanted to specialise in teaching boys, as well as tailoring curriculum, resources and teaching methods.

"Teaching boys and girls is completely different," he said. "Boys and girls learn, play, socialise and fight completely differently."

"Boys need to be motivated to learn. Stereotypically, girls are more generally ready to learn and please the teacher, whereas boys are not."

"Boys need to have a reason to get out of bed and come to school - they need to really like school."

Mr Jones said it was also vital for boys to mix with girls in non-competitive settings, so Christ Church shared some classes, study tours and music performances with girls from nearby schools.

"To have boys go through school and not be able to interact and treat females correctly in society, we would have failed them," he said.

Mr Jones said the school was non-selective so its results showed it added value, though he acknowledged it drew students from an advantaged catchment.

But he stressed it was unfair to make assumptions about any school's quality based on its median ATAR.

Students at all schools performed in drama, sport, music and their own health and wellbeing, as well as academically. "So an ATAR is just one very small measure of performance in school," he said.

High-achieving Christ Church Year 12s, pictured, said the school had encouraged collaboration as well as competition that pushed them to excel.

Ben Davison-Petch, who hopes to study natural sciences at Cambridge University, said he valued the way the school took him out of his comfort zone.

"I was pushed to get involved in stuff that was not academic," he said.

Perth's other boys' schools to make the top 50 include Wesley, Scotch, Trinity and Aquinas colleges and CBC Fremantle.

St Mary's Anglican Girls' School was the top-ranked girls' college, in fourth place. It was closely followed by Presbyterian Ladies' College — which rebounded from 20th last year to fifth — Methodist Ladies' College, Perth College and St Hilda's Anglican School for Girls.

South Perth girls' school Penrhos College was 11th, while Catholic girls' schools Santa Maria and Iona Presentation Colleges were 14th and 16th.

Former boys-only school Guildford Grammar School, which recently became co-educational, dropped out of the top 50 after it ranked 48th last year.

Alliance of Girls' Schools Australasia executive officer Loren Bridge said the ATAR results showed that single-sex schooling made a real difference to academic performance.

"While academic results alone are not the measure of successful schooling, they are a very relevant measure, and the evidence is building worldwide that girls do better academically, as well as socially and emotionally, in single-

sex learning environments," she said.

"The WA pattern is repeated across Australia and is consistent year after year. The reasons are lack of gender bias and gender stereotypes in a single-sex environment, strong role models and programs designed to suit the way girls learn — and the same for boys in boys' schools."

Ms Bridge said many coeducational schools ran single-sex classes, but there was still gender bias and socialisation outside the classroom that had an impact on girls' confidence levels.

She said WA should give parents more educational choice by providing public single-sex schools.

See this article in the e-Edition [Here](#)