



Christ Church
Grammar School
PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The Year 12 experience:

From now until December

Mahendra Vaswani, Deputy Principal/Director of Studies

A recording of this presentation will be made available this week

Year 12 – a rollercoaster year (for boys AND parents)





Christ Church Grammar School

Important academic dates for Year 12 students 2023

Please use in consultation with Calendar of Events –
not every school event for Year 12s is listed below.

The School Curriculum and Standards Authority is a source of much useful information about
Year 12 and the ATAR exams: <http://www.scsa.wa.edu.au>

Monday 30 January 6.00pm	Year 12 parent information Evening, at CCGS (Chapel): <i>The Year 12 experience: from now until December</i>
Tuesday 28 February	Year 12 Information Handbook 2023, Part I available from: https://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/publications/year-12-information
Tuesday 28 February	Registrations for UCAT open https://www.ucat.edu.au/ucat-anz/ucat-anz-2023/
Tuesday 7 March	Last date for changes of Year 12 subjects
Monday 20 March	Year 12 Parent/Teacher/Student interviews
Wednesday 29 March	Principal's Dinner – <u>Sandover</u> Dining Hall
Friday 31 March	School Ball – Optus Stadium
Wednesday 26 April	Year 12 Portrait and group photos (Day 1 of Term 2)
Tuesday 17 May	Registrations close for UCAT
Monday 22 May – Thursday 1 June	Year 12 Semester 1 exams

Term 1

- **Finalise subjects as soon as possible**
(Boys must be enrolled in a minimum of 5 courses)
- **Changing subject – Thursday 23 March (Week 9)**
- **Dropping subject?**
 - **With practical component: Thursday 20 July**
 - **No practical component or General: Monday 7 August**

Term 1

- **Year 12 Handbook from SCSA – Tuesday 28 Feb**
- **UCAT Registration opens Tuesday 28 Feb**
- **P/T/S interviews: Monday 20 March**
- **Past exams, Markers' Reports etc.**

Term 2

Semester 1 exams

Monday 22 May – Thursday 1 June

Predicted ATAR issued after these exams

SCSA 'permissions' online

2022 ATAR course examinations timetable available
on Wednesday 7 June

Term 3

- Year 12 Handbook from SCSA - 17 July
- Tuesday 1 August – Presentation at CCGS:
“Supporting your son through the ATAR/TISC process”
- Wednesday 13 September – Friday 22 September
Trial exams

Term 3

- Applications for university / TAFE – due end of September (but not final chance)
- Scholarship applications – easy to research online; Miss Alexis Tyson/Ms Jody Clarke (Careers Counsellor)
- Cert IV **MUST** be completed by **end of Term 3.**

Term 3 Holidays

- **ATAR Practical exams – don't make plans for the Term 3 holidays!**
- **23 September to 15 October**
ATAR practical examinations for Drama, Music, Physical Education Studies, French, Chinese, Japanese, EALD
 - **candidates must be available throughout this period.**

Term 4

- **Week 1: return of trial exams, feedback, focus areas for revision**
- **Week 2 – final important revision classes, Predicted ATAR issued, Year 12 Transcripts, Valedictory**
- **Week 4 - Monday 30 October**
Start of ATAR written examinations
- **Week 6 - Friday 17 November**
Finish ATAR written examinations

WACE 2022

**7 C grades
(or better)**

3 from Year 12

across Years 11 and 12

+ OLNA

+ ATAR or Certificate II

SCSA Prizes

- Fifty awards, known as **General Exhibitions**, are awarded to eligible students who obtain the highest WACE award scores.
- The **WACE award score** is based on the average of five *scaled examination scores* in ATAR courses, calculated to two decimal places, with at least two from each of List A and List B subjects.

SCSA Prizes

- A **Subject Exhibition** may be awarded to the eligible student obtaining the highest examination mark for each ATAR course
- **Certificates of Excellence** are awarded to eligible candidates who are in the top 0.5 per cent of candidates in each ATAR course examination

SCSA Prizes

- **Certificates of merit** and **certificates of distinction** recognise student achievement in the WACE and are based on school grades

Previous Results

185 students in the cohort – 162 ATAR

Median ATAR ~ 91.50

Ranked 2nd in League Table based on top performing subjects

~30 students in a Certificate course

Results 2022

- **5 General Exhibitions, 1 Subject Exhibition**
- **14 Certificates of Excellence**
- **17 boys in the '99 club'**
- **20 subjects 'top performing'**

Results 2023?

- **Capable cohort, 200 boys**
- **Will depend on**
 - **work ethic and initiative**
 - **cooperation**

Homework and Study

- 3 hours of homework per night
- 5 to 6 hours over the weekend



The best advice I was ever given was while you may not be able to study, make sure you keep up with homework.

TEA → ATAR

ATAR 70	TEA 216.5	Average 55%
ATAR 80	TEA 238.4	Average 60%
ATAR 90	TEA 270.2	Average 68%
ATAR 95	TEA 298.7	Average 75%
ATAR 99	TEA 348.9	Average 88%
ATAR 99.95	TEA 410.1	Average 102.5%*

Myth Busters

“I’ll just do a bridging course”

It is much easier to learn the fundamentals at school than it will ever be at university, even in a bridging course

Focus on personal best – be driven by capacity to succeed rather than aiming to just scrape through

Myth Busters

“I just need an ATAR of 80 or 75 to get into UWA”

It is very easy to miscalculate – 83 can easily become 79

UWA is only one university. Aim for the best university for the preferred course rather than just defaulting to 80 at UWA.

Myth Busters

“I have an early offer, so I’m not going to work hard for the ATAR exams”

Early offers may be conditional upon

- completion of ATAR courses
- achievement of a minimum ATAR

Myth Busters

“The ATAR Pathway is the only way into university”

ATAR pathway provides a direct route into university, if a minimum ATAR is achieved and prerequisites are met.

A non-ATAR pathway may also provide a route into university, either directly or indirectly via TAFE.

(Careers Counsellor)

Assessment

The best way to equip students for the rigours of the ATAR exams is to ensure

- valid
- reliable
- fair and
- accurate assessment

CCGS Reporting and Assessment Policy

- <https://www.ccgswa.edu.au> - Governance – Policies
- “Fairness check” - would I be happy if another boy at the school was given that allowance or if the school overlooked his attempt to gain advantage over my son?
- Students should not complete assessments or examinations when they are ill

A Medical Certificate is required

Assessment Policy

Where attendance drops below the 80 – 90% range learning is significantly affected.

A student's attendance record is important

Assessment issues

STEP 1: Boy reads over feedback, looks at model answers etc.

STEP 2: Boy speaks to teacher

STEP 3: Boy speaks to Head of Department

STEP 4: Boy speaks to Studies Office

STEP 5: Parent contacts Studies Office

Remember – time spent arguing / catastrophising / conspiracy-theorising is time not used for study

Assessment Periods and Exams

- **Assessment Periods Thursday period 4**
- **No phones or smart watches**
- **ATAR exam processes mirrored as far as possible**
- **Contact HoH and Studies Office if your son is ill**
- **Read exam timetables very carefully**

From SCSA

You must obey instructions regarding dress, conduct, smoking etc. that apply in the school or centre to which you have been allocated for the examination. School authorities have the right to ask you to leave the premises if you do not abide by these rules.

Students in General courses

- **Externally Set Tasks
in Week 4 of Term 2**
- **Set by SCSA, marked at school, used as a
moderation tool**
- **Workplace learning during exam period Term 2
and Term 3**

How Do I Study?

- Ad Astra (*remember this?*)
- Year 12 Study Skills in the Library

It is not feasible to work all the time and doing so will only hurt you. Instead, find a balance between work and play, ensuring that the balance you strike allows you to relax.

Non-assessment weeks

- Prior to exams in Term 2, Term 3 - Attendance is vital

After attending school for the entirety of this week, I fully believe that the information conveyed by all the teachers is more valuable than simply completing practice exam after practice exam... I am greatly appreciative of the hard work the teachers have put in.

Special examination arrangements

- Applications coordinated by Mr Michael Ralph
- similar or identical criteria at CCGS as those applied by SCSA
- Formal application for special provisions needs to be made to SCSA early in Year 12
- <https://senior-secondary.scsa.wa.edu.au/assessment/examinations/special-provisions>
- Exams sat either at CCGS or at different venue(s)

Communication

- **Parents: CCGS World and App**
- **Boys: email, Year 12 Luncheons, meetings**
- **SCSA – website, Facebook**

Holidays

- **Boys definitely require a complete break of a week or so**
- **They should aim to do some really solid revision and practice in the remaining week**
- **Getting organised is vital!**

Help from others

- **Tutor**
- **Head of House**
- **Alexis Tyson? Jody Clarke – Careers Counsellor**

Help from parents

- Encourage your son to be realistic
- No panicked over-reactions to a bad mark
- Encourage collaborative approach e.g. study groups
- Monitor co-curricular involvement
- Work with the school e.g. support attendance requirements
- Aim for calm holiday periods!

Scaling – why it is misunderstood

- The term ‘scaling’ can refer to just one step of the ‘scaling process’
- The term ‘scaling’ is sometimes also used to refer to the whole moderation, standardisation and scaling process
- The whole ‘scaling process’ is done by both SCSA and TISC
- The mathematics behind scaling is complex

TISC website explains scaling process

TISC

UNDERGRADUATE ▾

INTERNATIONAL ▾

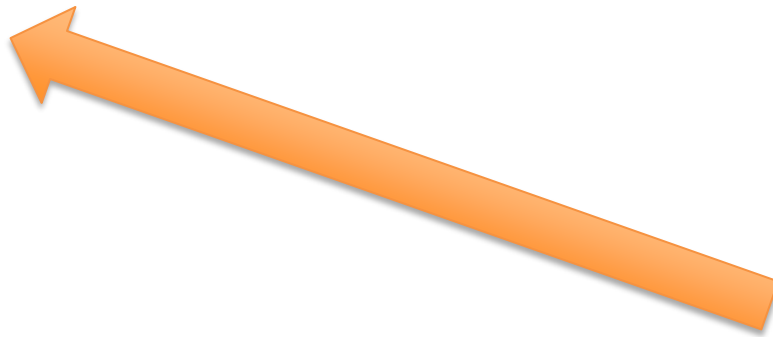
STAT ▾

RESOURCES ▾

Scaling Statistics

The purpose of scaling marks in WACE courses is to put all the results onto a common scale so the best four results can be added to produce a Tertiary Entrance Aggregate (TEA) and hence an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank.

For more information refer to the [Marks Adjustment Process](#)



Aims of scaling

- To be fair to all students
- To ensure that students who select 'less common' subjects are acknowledged
- To ensure that students who select 'harder' subjects are acknowledged
- To balance all subjects

The scaling process generally works.

Why to try in all subjects

- **Boys think they can predict their top 4, but they are not reliable in these predictions**
- **Well over half of boys think that they will not count English/Literature in their top 4**
- **In most subjects, around 80% of boys count the subject in their top 4**
- **50% of your son's final mark comes from the final SCSA examinations**

The 'scaling process'

In each subject:

- 1. The scores that CCGS boys achieve in their final exams become the 'school baseline' for each subject**
- 2. The boys' internal results are aligned to this baseline**
- 3. These marks are combined to give each student an overall mark in their subject**
- 4. The scores are moved up or down to reflect the overall strength of candidature of students in WA studying the course**

Then → The top 4 results of each student are counted

A mysterious scenario

A student studies a number of courses, 2 of which are:

- In Mathematics, he scores 75% internally but left out a question in the ATAR Examination. He ends up with a final scaled score of 70%**
- In English, he scored 60% internally and feels that he did comparably in the ATAR Examinations. Yet, he ends up with a final scaled score of 70%**

Scenario: what might have happened?

- **Mathematics: final CCGS result: 75**
 - SCSA Examination result: 65
 - Average overall result: 70
- **English: final CCGS result: 60 adjusted to 70**
 - SCSA Examination result: 70
 - Average overall result: 70

Data on Scaling

- **We have seven years of data on scaling**
- **Scaling can change quite significantly from year to year**
- **Boys have no control over scaling – what they can control is their level of effort.**

Summary of 'scaling'

- **There are too many factors going on to anticipate the scaling process**
- **It is a process that generally works for all students and is fair**
- **The best strategy is to try hard in all subjects**
- **Students will do best when they have a habitual routine and develop a mindset for intrinsically rewarding study**
- **Trust teachers' advice**

Advice from previous Year 12s

A major inspiration or motivator for working hard this year has certainly been the level of healthy competition and recognition of academic achievement that exists at Christ Church, as well as within my friendship networks.

Advice from previous Year 12s

I must pay respects to every teacher that gave me a 'bad' mark in a paper or exam, as it were these marks that galvanised me to work harder and prevent those mistakes from reoccurring.

Advice from previous Year 12s

Start strong. Try and make sure you make notes early during the term, when motivation is highest. This will ensure you finish Term 1 in good stead, and will play a pivotal role in the rest of Year 12

Advice from previous Year 12s

It's perfectly normal for marks to be going down from Year 11 to 12. I had to re-adjust what I thought was a successful result – because my expectations from Year 11 just weren't feasible for Year 12. However, that doesn't mean that it's impossible to improve marks as well!

In summary: from previous Year 12s

- **Set goals – begin with the end in mind. Aim high**
- **Work hard towards your goals**
- **Get organised**
- **Study efficiently – time is too tight to waste**
- **Boys will need to get 8 hours of sleep a night to learn efficiently in class the next day**
- **Eat well – resist the unhealthy snacks**

In summary: from previous Year 12s

- Make sure you give some time to a sport/hobby/interest every day
- Set up a study group. Take turns to teach each other things you've mastered. Be sure you **understand** and can **apply**, not just **know**
- Utilise your teachers – they will help you so much
- Enjoy the year, especially the highlights like the Ball, Valedictory, PSA sport/other competitions

Advice to Year 12 boys

- We can't guarantee results – but we can guarantee opportunities
- Work with us – teachers' help and encouragement makes all the difference
- Work with each other – form study groups, share notes, collaborate
- Get serious today – not in April or August or October. The longer it's left, the harder it gets

Thank you