



Inspired by their teachers, five top performing Catholic school graduates take the first step towards a career in teaching

Five top performing students from Catholic secondary schools in the Illawarra and Macarthur will take their first step towards a career in teaching this week as they receive a \$20,000 scholarship from Catholic Education Diocese of Wollongong (CEDoW) to put towards their tertiary studies in education.

The *Step into Teaching* scholarship program was introduced in 2020 to encourage more high performing CEDoW secondary school graduates to consider a career in teaching. Now in its second year, the program will award five 2021 graduates each with:

- \$20,000 towards the cost of their tertiary studies in primary or secondary education, plus an additional contribution to meet living away from home costs;
- the option of part-time employment as a school support officer while they study; and
- a three year conditional permanent teaching position in a CEDoW school after they graduate.

The five recipients include:

- Holy Spirit College Bellambi, graduate, Sabine Abou-Fassal, who will study a Bachelor of Mathematics Education at the University of Wollongong
- John Therry Catholic College Rosemeadow, graduate, Tasmyn Reynolds, who will study a Bachelor of Mathematics Education at the University of Wollongong
- Corpus Christi Catholic High School Oak Flats, graduates, Caitlin Daly and Nyah Riddell, who will study secondary education and primary education, respectively, at Notre Dame
- Mount Carmel Catholic College Varroville, graduate, Zoya Huang, who will study a Bachelor of Education (Primary and Special Education) at the Australian Catholic University.

Ms Daly, an All Round Achiever on the 2021 HSC merit list, is thrilled to be recognised for her dedication and hard-work.

“The scholarship will allow me to complete my degree in a supportive and driven environment,” she said. “I am thrilled to be the recipient of such a scholarship, and to be empowered to give back to an education system that has inspired me to become the person that I am today.”

Director of Schools, Peter Hill, said teachers have a unique opportunity to transform students’ lives.

“Like never before, the young people in our schools need teachers who are women and men of hope, faith and life,” he said. “The scholarship recipients were each inspired by the teachers in their classrooms and it gives me great confidence to know that future generations of students will have their lives transformed for the better by Caitlin, Nyah, Tasmyn, Sabine and Zoya.”

Media representatives are invited to attend a COVID-safe scholarship award ceremony at 9:30am on Friday 4 February 2022 at the Catholic Education Office, 86-88 Market St Wollongong.

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