



**SALESIAN
COLLEGE**
CHADSTONE EST. 1957

2016 VCE RESULTS

Congratulations to our 2016, Year 12 cohort on their successful VCE results.

Continuing Salesian College Chadstone's tradition of brothers achieving extraordinary results, College Dux Deeshan Ambawatta attained a near-perfect ATAR of 99, continuing his family's legacy of achieving ATAR scores in the 90's. Patrick Scott was another clear highlight of our 2016 results, earning himself a perfect score of 50 in English and a near-perfect 49 in Literature. This extraordinary double accomplishment put him in good stead for an ATAR of 91.45.

“ Boys, our school is like no other. It's not just a high school, it's a home, filled with people from every corner of the earth. We learn not only Maths and Science, we learn compassion, empathy, and friendship more than anything. ”

- Deeshan Ambawatta (2016 Dux)



Principal Mr Robert Brennan with 2016 Dux, Deeshan Ambawatta

THE HIGHLIGHTS

- Dux of 2016, Deeshan Ambawatta achieved an ATAR of 99; putting him in the top 1% of all Year 12 students in the state.
- **18.4% of our students** achieved an ATAR exceeding 90 (from 17.1% in 2015)
- **9.1% of our study scores** were 40 or above (from 8.7% in 2015)
- The cohort maintained a median study score of 31 (as in 2015)
- **36.8% of our students** achieved an ATAR above 80 (from 29.3% in 2015)
- VCE completion rate sat at 100 per cent



Principal Mr Robert Brennan with Patrick Scott

INSPIRING, EDUCATING BECOMING GREAT MEN

Deeshan Ambawatta

2016 Year 12 Salesian College Chadstone Dux

ATAR: 99

With an ATAR of 99, Class of 2016 Dux, Deeshan Ambawatta reflects on the factors that led to his success.

Deeshan, your avid commitment to learning and ability to focus is outstanding. Explain how you managed this throughout your final year.

I think the best way for me was to take it day by day, SAC by SAC. Once I got my marks for a SAC I'd readjust my strategy for the next one. My Chemistry teacher, Ms Apostolopoulos, gave me some valuable advice – "don't burn yourself out". Sometimes I can get caught up and go overboard, and by the end of the week I can't do any more. I had to make sure I was patient and consistent. In Year 12 it's paramount to discover the most effective study habits for you, and work around that.

Now that results are out, what are your immediate plans?

My immediate plans are just to relax and spend time with friends and family. Through the year I've noticed that I've lost touch with the people around me, and I want to reconnect with them.

With exceptional results come a variety of options. Take me through the process of how you made decisions about your future.

Without the help of the Salesian Careers Counsellor and my family and friends (in particular the people who have already made it to University), I would still be in that phase where I didn't know what to do. They all gave me suggestions on what I should do, but in the end the courses that were right for me are the ones I put down.

What has been your biggest learning through your final year?

I think this year I learnt a lot about myself, including my strengths and weaknesses and what motivates me. I think these lessons will be valuable in my life.

What comes to mind when you think about how your life will look like in 5-10 years from now?

In five years I'd hopefully be graduating from University with my eyes towards a career as an actuary, if my plans haven't changed of course. Definitely in ten years I would hope to be married and have made a family of my own.

How has faith inspired you to push forward with your dreams and aspirations?

I made sure that my faith was not challenged by the busyness that was VCE. I tried my best to make time for God, and in the end I think it all paid off. My mum always said that there were two extra angels that prayed for me in times of need, my grandma who passed away 18 years ago and my grandpa who passed away only less than a year ago. I am sure they were praying for me.

Tell me about the key relationships in your life that hold meaning and how these have guided you.

Firstly, my relationship with my parents, who I owe everything to. My mum and dad have made so many sacrifices for the education of my brother and I, and I believe it's only a matter of time before we start to repay them. I think my results showed my gratitude and appreciation for their hard work, especially since they moved to Australia purely for the opportunities offered. My brothers, both in their unique way, definitely made this year easier. Dinushan (who also graduated from Salesian College in 2013 with an ATAR of 91.1) often offered me advice and encouragement regarding subject selection, organization and so on. Andy (now in Year 7 at Salesian) on the other hand is yet to graduate but was equally helpful in terms of relaxing. He's a clown and always made me laugh, showing me the value of balance.

Throughout the six years I've been at Salesian, I've made a group of mates that I would never exchange. Without these people I would be lost. I consider them my family.

Without my teachers, my achievements also wouldn't have been possible. In particular, Mr McKail, my Literature teacher, guided me throughout the year, always pushing me to do my best and believing in me when I was doubting myself. I am forever grateful to him and all my teachers.

What are your parting words/suggestions for students at Salesian College Chadstone?

Boys, our school is like no other. It's not just a high school, it's a home, filled with people from every corner of the earth. We learn not only Maths and Science, we learn compassion, empathy, and friendship more than anything. Work hard, but don't forget the true and underlying lessons that are taught in the halls of our school.



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EDUCATE
BECOME
Great men

