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20 November 2020

## **Historic Year 12 Cohort Farewells School Forever**

The 13-year school journey of more than 50,000 Queensland Year 12s comes to an end today (20 November).

Independent Schools Queensland (ISQ) Executive Director David Robertson congratulated the Year 12s, particularly the more than 10,000 students from independent schools, on successfully making it through a challenging final year and wished them every success for the future.

Mr Robertson said the Class of 2020 were a historic cohort who had experienced a number of firsts.

“They were the first to start high school in Year 7 following the statewide transfer of Year 7 into secondary school in 2015,” he said.

“They are the first to graduate under the new Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) system, which also involved being the first to sit subject-based external assessments in 50 years and the first to receive an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR), if university admission is their goal.”

Mr Robertson said the Class of 2020 were also the first to navigate an entirely different senior year that included studying from home, truncated sporting seasons, cancelled events and modified formals, graduation ceremonies and end-of-school celebrations.

“However, these young people have taken the twists and turns of this extraordinary year in their stride, displaying resilience and perseverance in their studies, and gratitude for the support of their schools, teachers, family and friends.”

Year 12s from a number of independent schools shared their dreams for the future, their accomplishments, the challenges of 2020 and their appreciation for their families and teachers with ISQ and the Queensland Independent Schools Parents Network (QIS Parents Network). [Read their stories.](#)

QIS Parents Network Executive Officer Justine Cirocco wished the graduating class of 2020 and their number one support team – their families – a memorable final day.

“There won’t be a dry eye in the households of these young people. I’d like to give a big shout out to the parents and carers of this year’s graduates to acknowledge and thank them for the essential role they’ve played to help their children reach this pivotal milestone,” Ms Cirocco said,

“I wish today’s graduating seniors every success as they embark on the next exciting chapter of their lives.”

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Students will be able to access their final results, including ATARs if eligible, online from 19 December.

**MEDIA CONTACT**

**Justine Nolan 0428 612 315 | [jnolan@isq.qld.edu.au](mailto:jnolan@isq.qld.edu.au)**