

## Class of 2018 commended at 31<sup>st</sup> SACE Merit Ceremony

**Tuesday 5 February 2019**

**The highest achieving SACE students from the Class of 2018 are being celebrated at the 2019 SACE Merit Ceremony.**

The 31<sup>st</sup> Merit Ceremony at Government House will see 902 students receive 1141 subject merits for outstanding achievement in SACE Stage 2 subjects.

The Governor of South Australia, His Excellency the Hon. Hieu Van Le AC, will present 26 Governor of South Australia Commendation Excellence Awards to 25 students. The Governor of South Australia Commendation recognises excellence in Year 12 SACE subjects, and in the qualities young people need for community life, citizenship, and work.

Education Minister John Gardner will also present the prestigious Tennyson Medal to the student with the highest result in English Literary Studies.

The 2018 Tennyson Medal recipient is 17-year-old Rostrevor College graduate Cyril Saji, who is the first male in eight years to win the award.

Cyril, who also achieved three subject merits in English Literary Studies, Integrated Learning A, and Psychology, said he was thrilled to win the Tennyson Medal.

“Winning the Tennyson Medal has been a major goal of mine for the past couple of years, so to actually win it seems utterly surreal,” Cyril said.

“Being the first male Tennyson Medallist in eight years is something that I am proud of, and I hope that it inspires all students to embrace emotion, seek deeper meaning and to feel connected to both themselves and the world around them, as I believe this is when the best work is produced.”

Cyril was also among almost 2,000 South Australian students who became the first in Australia to sit a Year 12 end-of-year electronic exam – for Stage 2 English Literary Studies. He now plans to study a double degree in Law/Economics.

SACE Board Chief Executive Professor Martin Westwell congratulated the Class of 2018.

“Every student has worked extremely hard to achieve their SACE and achieve their own personal success,” Prof Westwell said.

“The SACE is a qualification that is preparing our students for life. Our graduates have learned how to be agile and innovative thinkers and apply their knowledge to solve problems. These are the personal capabilities and skills they need to take on the world.”

Governor of South Australia Commendations include awards to the Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander student with the best overall performance in the SACE, and the student with intellectual disabilities who demonstrated outstanding achievement through SACE modified subjects.

Subject merits are awarded to students who gain an overall subject grade of A+ and demonstrate exceptional achievement in that subject.

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