

# VCE results 2016: Small schools prove potential, with analysis showing impressive gains

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VICTORIA'S star VCE improver is a small rural school making impressive gains year after year.

Independent and high-flying state schools again topped the state for median study scores, but lesser-known schools also proved their potential.

An analysis of subject scores for the class of 2016 found one rural school stood out for its rapid improvement — with a median VCE score up five points.

Mortlake College rocketed to 35 from 30 in 2015 and an eight-point gain from 2014. Principal Graeme Good said he was delighted with the result.

He said he believed the improvement was due to the school encouraging a "growth mindset" — promoting effort, positive attitudes, and an awareness intelligence was not fixed.

"Teachers encouraged a philosophy that the harder you work the greater the benefit," Mr Good said.

The rural P-12 school with 240 students, located 216km west of Melbourne, had nine year 12 VCE students and about 23 who sat year 12 VCE exams.

"We expected them to do well, but we didn't expect them to do this well," Mr Good said.

Bialik College in Hawthorn East rose to number one in the state with a median study score of 39.

Principal Jeremy Stowe-Lindner said he was proud of all students' efforts.

"We are very fortunate we have a community where success is cool and something to be celebrated," he said. School dux Nimrod Shapir, 17, received his results, an ATAR of 99.9 and his best study score, a 48 in physics, early due to the [tech data glitch last week](#).

"If anything I preferred it ... people tend to freak out before results and I didn't have that period of getting scared or nervous," he said.

"I think the school always does so well as it has a very practical approach to learning and teachers are always available to help when you need."

Mac. Robertson Girls' High and Yeshivah College shared joint second on 38.



📷 Bialik College students Simon Adler, Nick Serry, Paige Roseman, Jordan Sandler, Max Needleman, Shahla Marabel-Whitburn and Robbie Nestadt. Picture: Rebecca Michael