

Bialik College tops the state

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BIALIK College's remarkable VCE results have earned the school first place in Victoria for 2016 based on median study score and percentage of study scores over 40.

The school achieved a median study score of 39, with 44.2 per cent of study scores 40 or above, giving it the edge over Mac.Robertson Girls' High School, which placed second.

Bialik principal Jeremy Stowe-Lindner congratulated the year 12 cohort, commenting that the "menschlichkeit, communal activism and leadership" displayed by the students was of foremost importance.

"Being number one in the state for VCE is the icing on the cake," he told *The AJN*.

Bialik has been in the top five schools in the state for 19 of the last 20 years, but has not been in first position for 18 years.

"I think it says some great things

about the Jewish sector," he added. "To have three Jewish schools in the top 10 and five in the top 20 is a remarkable outcome for a community that is passionate about education. Every one of those schools should be so proud of their students."

The rankings published last week by the *Herald Sun* and *The Age* saw Yeshivah College place third, with a median study score of 38 and 31.9 per cent of study scores over 40.

Principal Rabbi Yehoshua Smukler praised the students, who he said rose to the challenge of maintaining their Torah education alongside the demands of VCE.

"They have imbibed the joyous Chassidic approach to Yiddishkeit, life and learning," Rabbi Smukler told *The AJN*.

"Their combined rigorous Jewish and general studies program, together with the total devotion, nurturing care and encouragement of the Yeshivah staff has resulted in

motivated and successful students.

"We are especially proud of the fact that they have all chosen to continue their Torah studies in yeshivos post school prior to embracing their tertiary options," he added.

Close behind was Mount Scopus College, who, with a median study score of 37 and 35.4 per cent of study scores 40 or above, came in fourth.

"I am delighted that the efforts of Scopus students and their teachers, and the support of their parents, have been awarded with such a high position in the league tables," said principal Rabbi James Kennard. "It is a great achievement that the top three non-selective schools in the state are all from our own community."

Leibler Yavneh College and Beth Rivkah Ladies College polled in 12th and 13th spots respectively, while the King David School ranked approximately 30th and Yesodei HaTorah College well within the top 50 out of more than 500 schools in Victoria.