

HAWTHORN

Bialik College top of class

Greg Gliddon

VCE students' high scores place school at No.1 in area

BIALIK College has been named the top school in Boroondara for VCE students, with the highest percentage of study scores over 40.

The Hawthorn school was also the top co-ed private school in the entire state.

The accolades come out of the yearly survey which informs the annual *Good Schools Guide*, published by the Good Education Group.

The school has been in the top five in the state for 19 of

the past 20 years and beat Ruyton Girls' School, Trinity Grammar, Korowa, Strathcona, Camberwell Grammar and MLC.

The ratings are based on the percentage of students scoring more than 40 out of 50 in any VCE subject.

Bialik College had 40 per cent of its students attain a study score of at least 40 in at least one subject.

Bialik principal Jeremy Stowe-Lindner described the

school's success as a spectacular achievement for a non-selective school.

"It is a really supportive catchment, superb teachers, and the students enjoy being in a culture that celebrates success," Mr Stowe-Lindner said.

"I don't think there is a secret, but I think there is a recipe which involves supportive parents, quality teachers and kids who are passionate about education."

Mr Stowe-Lindner said a good work-life balance was also crucial.

"If you look at our VCE letter when we summarise the year, it looks at community, it looks at fundraising, sport, volunteering and then VCE," he said.

Good Education Group, Melbourne's largest provider of independent education data, releases the annual *Good Schools Guide* which comprehensively details

nearly 600 schools across Victoria, including a breakdown of each school by sector, academic performance, tuition fees and curriculum.

"What we've seen in the data is that you don't necessarily have to spend a lot of money to get a quality education. Across the state, there's a great mix of government and non-government schools all achieving a high percentage of 40-plus study scores," Good Education Group chief executive Chris Lester said.