

TOP SCHOLAR

AWWARDS



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Introduction

The Top Scholar Awards recognise the highest achieving students from the 2023 New Zealand Scholarship examinations.

The Top Scholar Awards ceremony was initiated by Mana Tohu Mātauranga o Aotearoa | New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) in 1991 and the first awards were hosted at Government House, Wellington, in April of that year.

Following the introduction of New Zealand Scholarship in 2004, the awards became the New Zealand Scholarship Top Scholar Awards. Two types of awards were presented – Top Subject Scholar Awards and Premier Awards.

In 2011, the Prime Minister's Award for Academic Excellence was established and presented for the first time.

About the awards

Top Subject Scholar Awards

Top Subject Scholar Awards recognise the highest achieving student in an individual New Zealand Scholarship subject. There are 37 Top Subject Scholar Awards.

Premier Awards

Premier Awards recognise the top New Zealand Scholarship students. At this year's ceremony, there are 10 Premier Award winners.

Prime Minister's Award for Academic Excellence

The Prime Minister's Award for Academic Excellence recognises the success of the highest achieving New Zealand Scholarship student. The winner will have the highest overall level of academic excellence of the Premier Award winners.

The Premier Award winners and the winner of the Prime Minister's Award for Academic Excellence have been recommended to NZQA by the Technical Overview Group Assessment (TOGA).

TOGA is chaired by Professor Jenny Poskitt and includes some of New Zealand's leading academic experts in assessment – Professor Don Klinger (Deputy Chair), Dr Charles Darr, Professor Sharleen Forbes, Dr Maraea Hunia (Mātaatua, Te Arawa, Tainui), Dr Earl Irving, Dr Michael Johnston, Dr Peter Keegan (Waikato-Maniapoto, Ngāti Porou) and Professor Jeffrey Smith.

Official Programme

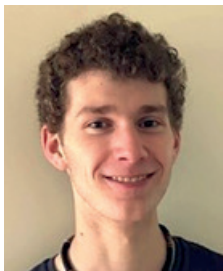
- 10:30am** All guests are seated
Ceremony begins with a karakia, mihi and waiata, *Hūtia te rito*
- 10:40am** New Zealand Qualifications Authority Board Chair, Hon Tracey Martin, speaks
- 10:45am** Top Subject Scholar Awards are presented
- 11:05am** Minister of Education speaks
- 11:15am** Premier Awards are presented
- 11:40am** The Prime Minister's Award for Academic Excellence is presented
- 11:55am** Ceremony ends with the singing of the National Anthem
- 12:00am** Official photographs
Refreshments served
- 12:30pm** Event draws to a close.

Our thanks to the musicians from Hutt International Boys' School

Top Subject Scholars

Accounting	Oliver Gunson Auckland Grammar School
Agricultural and Horticultural Science	William Duncan Lindisfarne College
Art History	Yina Yin St Cuthbert's College
Biology	Cruz Erdmann Westlake Boys' High School
Calculus	Nicholas McKinlay St Kentigern College
Chemistry	Benjamin Elder James Hargest College
Chinese	Yinuo Yin St Cuthbert's College
Classical Studies	Louisa Boyer Samuel Marsden Collegiate School
Dance	Noma Talakiaatu Mount Roskill Grammar School
Design	Ava Tuhega St Cuthbert's College
Design and Visual Communication	Benjamin Griffiths Hobsonville Point Secondary School
Drama	Oscar Shaw Avondale College
Earth and Space Science	Yiyang Tao Westlake Boys' High School

Economics	Sean Wang St Kentigern College
English	Alistair Ha Auckland Grammar School
French	Anika Hayes Waitaki Girls' High School
Geography	Jayden Kumar Auckland Grammar School
German	Samuel Reeves Mount Albert Grammar School
Health and Physical Education	Yina Yin St Cuthbert's College
History	Amelia Frear Diocesan School for Girls
Japanese	Rita Peryer St Cuthbert's College
Latin	Emily Whineray St Cuthbert's College
Media Studies	Mason Drylie Westlake Boys' High School
Music	Nate Carroll Glenfield College
Painting	Paul Austin Wellington High School
Photography	Jonathan Larsen Pukekohe High School
Physics	Oliver Gunson Auckland Grammar School
Printmaking	Gracie Liu Rangi Ruru Girls' School
Religious Studies	Archie Lamont-Bowden St Peter's College (Auckland)
Samoan	Serafina Sila McAuley High School
Sculpture	Oceanlee Tito-Heremaia Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Te Rāwhitiroa
Spanish	Sebastian Camus Rangitoto College
Statistics	Nicholas Stuart King's College
Te Ao Haka	Awatea Riipeka Taare Rivers Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Hoani Waititi
Te Reo Māori	Oceania Te Rere o Kapuni Pene Rotorua Girls' High School
Te Reo Rangatira	Te Atamihī Vivienne Papa Te Wharekura o Maniapoto
Technology	Jude Wilson Mount Albert Grammar School



Nicholas Clarke

Auckland Grammar School

Outstanding Scholarships: Classical Studies, English and Media Studies

Scholarship: History and Latin

Nicholas was a 2023 Auckland Grammar School Prefect and was involved with the Ethics Olympiad, the school's Literati group and Proceres Grammatici, an elite group of the school's most promising Scholarship candidates. He was a member of the Headmaster's Heritage Committee, working to increase awareness of the contributions of Auckland Grammar Old Boys, and was engaged in community service through the school's Interact Group. A keen hockey player, Nicholas was a member of the school 2nd XI hockey team and Somerville Hockey Club. He enjoyed singing in two school choirs, Grammarphonics and Grammar Voices, and now sings in the Auckland Youth Choir. Nicholas intends to study a conjoint Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws at the University of Auckland.



Henry Isac

Wellington College

Outstanding Scholarships: Chemistry, History, Physics and Statistics

Scholarship: Calculus, Classical Studies and English

Henry was Dux and Deputy Head Prefect of Wellington College and a reserve to the NZ Chemistry Olympiad Team. While at school, he enjoyed football, running and cricket, and was a proud member of Wellington College's successful McEvedy Shield team. An avid debater, Henry was part of the team that won Wellington's Premier A Intercollegiate Debating Championship in 2022, and was a recognised speaker at both the Wellington Regionals and Impromptu Cup in 2023. Henry was a finalist for the Sir Douglas Myers Scholarship, which provides an opportunity for students who have already distinguished themselves academically to attend one of the most prestigious universities in the world. He is currently studying a conjoint Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts at the University of Auckland, and has his sights set on opportunities for postgraduate study in physics at an overseas university.



Oliver Gunson

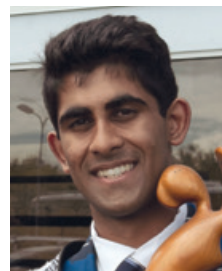
Auckland Grammar School

Outstanding Scholarships: Accounting, Calculus, Chemistry and Physics

Scholarships: Biology, English and Statistics

Top Subject Scholar: Accounting and Physics

Oliver was the 2023 Proxime Accessit for Auckland Grammar School, top of the University Entrance Scholars Board and served as a school Prefect. In Form 6, he was recognised with the Flying Officer Alfred P. Fogerty Memorial Scholarship, the Headmaster's Prize for the Outstanding Scholar in 6A, and the Dr F. Wilson Lang Memorial Prize for Mathematics. Oliver was one of four students selected to represent New Zealand at the 55th International Chemistry Olympiad in Zurich, Switzerland, where he received a Silver Medal. He was captain of orienteering for his school and was involved with the Duke of Edinburgh programme, senior football, the school library, and the scholar's group Proceres Grammatici. Oliver is currently studying conjoint Bachelor of Engineering and Bachelor of Commerce at the University of Auckland and plans to pursue a Masters in Engineering at an international university in the future.



Tapas Kant

Havelock North High School

Outstanding Scholarships: Calculus, Chemistry, English and Statistics

Scholarship: Agriculture and Horticulture, Biology, Economics, Health and Physical Education and Physics

Tapas was Dux of Havelock North High School as both a Year 12 and Year 13 student. He collected numerous academic awards during his time at school and was a valued member of the 1st XI football and cricket teams, while also enjoying great success in chess and table tennis. Tapas participated in several robotics competitions as a member of the NZ Blackbots robotics team, representing New Zealand at the First Tech World Championships in Houston. He was also selected as one of five international students to attend the International Science School in Sydney and was the recipient of the Best Asian School Student award from the Hawke's Bay Multicultural Association, along with the Young Achievers Award from the Hastings Lions Club. Tapas is studying Health Sciences First Year at the University of Otago, with the aim of pursuing a future in medical research.



Jayden Kumar

Auckland Grammar School

Outstanding Scholarships: Chemistry, Geography, Physics and Statistics

Scholarship: Biology, English and Latin

Top Subject Scholar: Geography

Jayden received the B.F. Connell Prize as Dux of Auckland Grammar School, where he also served as a Prefect and captain of the debate team. He was involved in the editorial committee for the school magazine, the Duke of Edinburgh programme, the school library, Interact Group, senior football and the Model United Nations programme. Jayden was one of four students selected to represent New Zealand at the 2023 International Chemistry Olympiad in Zurich, Switzerland, where he was awarded a Bronze Medal. He was also selected to attend the Rotary National Science and Technology Forum. As the recipient of a Top Achiever scholarship, he is now studying a Bachelor of Science (with a Biomedical Specialisation) at the University of Auckland and hopes to pursue medicine in the future.



Yiyang (Andy) Tao

Westlake Boys' High School

Outstanding Scholarships: Chemistry, Earth and Space Science, English and Statistics

Scholarship: Agriculture and Horticulture, Biology, Calculus, Geography, Health and Physical Education, Media Studies and Physics

Top Subject Scholar: Earth and Space Science

Andy was recognised on the Westlake Boys' High School Academic Honours Board for three years in a row and was named Dux in 2023. A talented scientist, Andy achieved High Distinction for the International Chemistry Quiz and was invited to attend the Chemistry Olympiad selection camp. He served as a Prefect, a member of the Academic Council, and was the leader of several school groups, including Calculus Club, Mathex, and the Education Consulting Service. Andy was a member of the Premier Advanced debating team, sang in the Premier Choir and played saxophone for the Westlake Premier Concert Band – both of which won the top award in their category in Auckland Regionals. He plans to study Biomedical Science at the University of Auckland in hopes of getting into medicine and pursuing a career as a specialist doctor or a medical scientist.



Alexander Mayo

Hamilton Boys' High School

Outstanding Scholarships: Chemistry, Earth and Space Science, Physics and Statistics

Scholarship: Biology, Calculus, Economics, English and History

Having finished top of his class in Year 12, Alexander was named as the Proxime Accessit of Hamilton Boys' High School in 2023, where he also served as a Prefect. He was a winner of the NZIC Analytical Chemistry Competition, was invited to the Chemistry Olympiad training camp, received a High Distinction in the International Chemistry Competition and the NZ Economics Competition, and reached the national finals of the NZ Secondary Schools Case Competition. Outside the classroom, Alexander was a finalist in the NZ Regional Debating Competition, a member of the global issues problem solving club and the school chess club. He also engaged in community service through the school's Leo Club. As the recipient of a Top Achiever scholarship, he is now studying a Bachelor of Engineering at the University of Auckland and hopes to become a quantitative trader.



Sean Wang

St Kentigern College

Outstanding Scholarships: Chemistry, Economics, English and Physics

Scholarship: Biology and Calculus

Top Subject Scholar: Economics

Sean was part of the St Kentigern College Academic Council and a member of the team that represented New Zealand at the International Young Physicists' Tournament in 2023. He placed 1st in the Senior Science Category at the NIWA Science Fair 2022, earned High Distinction at the New Zealand Economics Competition in 2022, and received a Silver Award at the New Zealand Chemistry Olympiad in 2021. He played euphonium in the school Concert Band that won KBB Gold Awards and co-founded a brass quartet to play at the Saint Andrews Retirement Village and Papatotoe Intermediate School. Sean completed a research internship with Kasetsart University investigating liquid crystals. He plans to study physics and has received an offer to attend the University of Cambridge later in the year. He is currently spending time in Auckland as a private tutor.



Yina (Ena) Yin

St Cuthbert's College

Outstanding Scholarships: Art History, Economics, English and Health and Physical Education

Scholarship: Calculus, Chemistry, Chinese, Music, Physics and Statistics

Top Subject Scholar: Art History and Health & Physical Education

Having already achieved a great deal at a young age, Ena is currently in her final year at St Cuthbert's College as a Year 13 student and Prefect. She was a Gold Medallist at the NZ Chemistry Olympiad and a Silver Medallist and National Squad member of NZ Maths Olympiad. She was also selected for the national training group for the NZ Economics Olympiad and the NZ Olympiad in Informatics. She qualified for the European Girls' Olympiad in Informatics – for which four girls are selected nationally – and obtained Gold medals in the National Latin Exam for consecutive years. Ena is an Empowerment Volunteer at UN Women Aotearoa NZ and, with her sister, co-founded U&Earth, a socially-conscious enterprise dedicated to achieving period equity. She plans to combine her interest in entrepreneurship, passion for STEM and awareness of societal issues, especially gender inequality, in her future study and career paths.



Yinuo (Belle) Yin

St Cuthbert's College

Outstanding Scholarships: Calculus, Chinese and Health and Physical Education

Scholarship: Art History, Economics, English, Music and Statistics

Top Subject Scholar: Chinese

Belle was recently selected to represent New Zealand at the 2024 International Young Physicists' Tournament and has previously been a Gold Medallist and National Squad member of the NZ Maths Olympiad, a two-time prize winner in the Australian Maths Competition and a multiple-time Gold Medallist for the National Latin Exam. She and her sister were the youngest participants ever to place in the Top 10 finalists at the Global Young Entrepreneur Summit and were invited to Germany for the final competition. This year she is in her final year as a Year 13 student and Prefect at St Cuthbert's College, where she is also the President of the Environmental Council and leader of the Coding and Robotics clubs. She also serves as the coordinator of Forest & Bird's Youth Auckland Hub and the co-chairperson of Albert Eden Youth. She aspires to discover new ways to care for the environment and ensure the sustainability of our planet.

National Anthem of New Zealand

E Ihowā Atua,
O ngā iwi mātou rā
Āta whakarangona;
Me aroha noa.
Kia hua ko te pai;
Kia tau tō atawhai;
Manaakitia mai
Aotearoa.

God of Nations at Thy feet,
In the bonds of love we meet,
Hear our voices, we entreat,
God defend our free land.
Guard Pacific's triple star
From the shafts of strife and war,
Make her praises heard afar,
God defend New Zealand.



Mana Tohu Mātauranga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Qualifications Authority