

One bursary boy's journey

Mr Rohen Wong (ON 2018), a cellist from Malaysia, came to Newington in 2016 as a Year 10 student on the Robert Walter 'Bob' Storr (ON 1938) Bursary.



Mr Theodore Iannuzzi (ON 2013) congratulates Mr Rohen Wong (ON 2018) at the Academic Excellence Assembly In February 2019

This music bursary is funded by a bequest from the Estate of the Late Robert Walter 'Bob' Storr and was first given in 1998. Rohen studied the IB and graduated in 2018 with a top IB mark in the Extended Essay, the top IB mark at Newington in Mandarin, and an IB score of 41 out of 45 (equivalent to an ATAR of 98.80). Rohen was also awarded Dux of Edmund Webb Boarding House for the Year 12 boarder achieving the highest ATAR.

Here, Rohen reflects on his journey at Newington and plans for the future.

Where did your results take you? What are your career plans for the future?

I am very fortunate to have received such a result. It has allowed me to gain entry to the University of Sydney, where I will study Data Science and Psychology.

My career plan is to become a data scientist with qualifications also in clinical psychology.

How do you look back on your time at Newington?

When I reflect on my time at Newington, I feel (undoubtedly like many others) that it was far too brief. Walking out the exam hall after my last paper, I vividly remember harbouring a nonsensical wish that it wasn't actually the last paper and that I was, actually, still in Year 11. My reluctance to leave was built on the certainty that if I could just stay at Newington a while longer, it would continue to teach me many more things.

My time at Newington has expanded and enriched my world view. I know I shall have the fondest memories of the College.

As a Newington College bursary recipient, what message do you have for others about the importance of supporting the Endowment Fund and its individual bursaries?

Without the help of the bursary I would never have had such a well-rounded education. My parents would not have been able to support my higher school education overseas in addition to my tertiary education. I am grateful for the gift and, in turn, feel compelled to contribute back to society when I have the chance.

The bursaries enable people of vastly different backgrounds to interact and learn from each other in the school community. A bursary also perpetuates more success: each recipient contributes his talent to the College while learning lifelong values and friendships. Like me, once they become Old Boys, they will strive to contribute, to the best of their capabilities, back to the place which has so graciously taken them in and given them an excellent foundation for their future.