WHAT THE RESEARCH EVIDENCE SAYS

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS &

STUDENT ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Research studies demonstrate four key academic strengths of Australian independent schools

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Australian independent school students rank #2 in reading and scientific literacy and #6 in mathematical literacy in international tests of 15-year-olds.

ACADEMIC GAIN

On average, students in independent schools gain a 'value add' of 8 points on their tertiary entrance score, even after allowing for SES and student ability.

ACADEMIC EQUITY

Students of middle and lower ability demonstrate greater gain in independent schools.

ACADEMIC ETHOS

Academic environment is the most significant factor explaining the 'value adding' of independent schools.

PASTORAL CARE

Good relationships between students and their teachers, and students' social and emotional competencies, facilitate greater wellbeing and better school performance.

TEACHING QUALITY

Teaching excellence is the single most powerful influence on student academic achievement after student ability.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR PROGRAMS

Structured extracurricular programs supervised by adults are linked to higher academic performance and increased student engagement and motivation.

PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT

Parents' attitudes to education and their child's school positively affect student academic achievement.

Four distinctive features of independent schools support their strong academic performance

All of these factors contribute to greater academic opportunity for students in independent schools and a lasting learning legacy

ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITY

- On average, independent school students are up to 4 times more likely to complete Year 12.
- They receive more university offers and are more likely to enrol in university or post-school training.
- They are 2.8 times more likely to complete their university degree and 1.4 times more likely to complete post-graduate courses.

Research sources are listed on AHISA's website at http://www.ahisa.edu.au/resources/ahisa-infographics/ahisa-infographic-1/

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