



Media Statement

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Rossmoyne Senior High School maths student tops state

Department of Education and Training Director General Paul Albert has congratulated a Rossmoyne Senior High School student after he placed in the country's top 32 in mathematics.

Mr Albert said Year 11 student Morgan Wang outscored competing Year 12s to achieve the highest mark in Western Australia in this year's prestigious Australian Mathematical Olympiad.

Morgan was one of two Rossmoyne Senior High School students invited to compete in this year's competition and received a Bronze Certificate.

Mr Albert said only two other WA students achieved high scores, both from Scotch College.

"I am writing to Morgan to congratulate him for this outstanding result," Mr Albert said.

"To be placed in the top 32 of all Australian maths students is quite exceptional and he and the school should be extremely proud of this achievement."

Approximately 100 students from public and private schools throughout Australia are invited to compete in the Olympiad each year.

The testing program consists of two four-hour examinations in high-level, "pure" mathematics over two days.

"With only a select group of students across Australia chosen to participate, the invitation alone is a tremendous honour," Mr Albert said.

Morgan's placement in the top 32 students nationally has qualified him for entry to the next stage of the Olympiad Program, the 2005 Asia Pacific Mathematics Olympiad. The event is a prelude to the International Mathematical Olympiad, which will be held in Mexico.

"Morgan's success is testament to the high quality and dedicated teachers at Rossmoyne Senior High School," Mr Albert said.

"My thanks and praise go to Principal Mitchell Mackay and school staff for their continued hard work and commitment to helping their students excel."

Mathematics extension coordinator Tim Birrell said Morgan's involvement in Rossmoyne's mathematics extension program for gifted maths students had helped prepare him for the sophisticated mathematics contest.

“Our school’s mathematics extension programs are specifically designed to enhance students’ problem-solving and lateral thinking skills and these are some of the elements tested in the Olympiad Program,” Mr Birrell said.

Mr Birrell said Rossmoyne Senior High students were consistent leaders in mathematics.

They have been regularly successful in the Australian Mathematics Competition. They won 17 prizes in the competition in 2002 and 17 again in 2004 - the most ever awarded to any Western Australian school.

“There is a real culture of success at Rossmoyne and our maths students take great pride in their work and their reputation as some of the best students in the State,” Mr Birrell said.

“It’s a very important part of the success of our mathematics programs that students look up to our high achievers and try to emulate their successes.”

Further information about the Australian Mathematical Olympiad is available at:

<http://www.amt.edu.au/amo2005.html>

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