

Past Student Spotlight

Isabel Anderson (2017)



I graduated from St George State High School in 2017 as one of the School Vice-Captains. Prior to this, I had completed my primary schooling at St George State School.

During my time at St George State High School, I was provided with many wonderful opportunities, both in and out of the classroom. Whether that be camps, tertiary tours, musicals or a trip to Sydney for the Archibull Prize.

From a young age I always thought I knew exactly what I wanted to be. That was until, one day, I was prompted by one of my teachers to think further afield. So, when I began taking Legal Studies in Year 11 and developed a very keen interest in Law, I thought perhaps that would be the career for me. I enrolled in USQ's Head Start program which allowed me to study a university subject while still at school, and at the

beginning of Year 12 began working at our local law firm, Inland Legal. Whilst I loved this experience and found the work very interesting, I soon worked out that it was not for me.

Throughout the remainder of Year 12, I often felt pressured or stumped when the question "what are you going to do next year?" was asked – and it was asked frequently. Until one day, I thought about teaching – a thought that was always there, in the back of my mind. I thought about it for a while and as time went on it just felt right. By the end of 2017 I had been accepted into USQ's Bachelor of Education (Primary) though decided to defer for a year to work and save some money.

In 2019 I moved to Toowoomba to begin my studies and I quickly realised teaching was exactly what I was meant to be doing. I completed the first half of my degree on campus and the second half online while accessing CUC Balonne as a place to study and complete assignments. In 2022 during my final semester of university, I accepted my first teaching position at St Patrick's Primary School on a Permission to Teach. This meant that not only was I teaching full time but I was also studying full time – no easy feat. Following graduation, in 2023 I took on the role of Year 5 Classroom Teacher at St George State School and it truly felt like coming home. I am now teaching a Year 5/6 class and am one of our school's Reading Leaders. I love teaching at St George SS. Being part of such a supportive and inclusive team that is so passionate about our kids and community, and committed to growth is, as an early career teacher, a wonderful thing.

I will always be grateful for the education I received at St George State High School and the opportunities I have been afforded since. If it wasn't for the teachers that challenged me,

offered their time and provided valuable learning experiences, I wouldn't be the teacher I am today.

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