

Past Student Spotlight

Jesse Wilkinson (2017)



In 2013, I stepped through the gates of St George High School as a nervous yet eager 13-year-old, ready to follow in the footsteps of my older brothers. I was excited to become familiar with the teachers, places, and routines I had heard so much about. As my older brothers (and now my younger siblings) will also attest, most of the teachers at St George High go above and beyond.

For some, this extra mile was quite literal and it would involve countless hours outside of school, training us for x-country, athletics, soccer, netball, touch, and so on. While I always appreciated their generosity of time, I value it even more in retrospect since becoming a high school teacher myself.

In 2017, I graduated from St George State High School as Senior Dux and one of the school captains. But ultimately, it was not these achievements that enabled me to take the next step to university, but rather, it was the support from the school staff and my family.

With this guidance, I moved to Brisbane to study at the University of Queensland, where I graduated in 2021 as an English and Legal Studies teacher. During my time at Uni, I lived at one of the residential colleges, Duchesne. Here, I met so many wonderful like-minded people and made countless cherished memories. My time at UQ and college truly did exceed my expectations.

After graduating Uni, I was hired by Kenmore State High School as a full-time English teacher. Fulfilling my lifelong dream of becoming a teacher felt euphoric. Since joining this school team, I have been fortunate enough to be appointed Year 9 English coordinator and, more recently, an English mastery skills coordinator. I am thoroughly enjoying my time here, and I know that my experiences at St George State High School have undoubtedly influenced and shaped my values and attitudes as a teacher.

In particular, it has shaped my teaching philosophy to create supportive and inclusive classroom environments where every student feels seen and valued. At St George State High, you never felt like data or a number; you always mattered.

I look back fondly at my childhood in St George. I cherish these memories and feel blessed to have encountered such influential people that encouraged me to follow my dreams. I now hope to create these same positive memories for my students when they look back at their childhoods and time at school.

Jesse Wilkinson