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School leaders of Sydney's inner west: Marrickville High, Newtown High Performing Arts

Meet our future prime ministers, captains of industry and world changers. The inner west student leaders of 2022 share their vision for their schools – and beyond.



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It's been two years of upheaval for schools and students with Covid, work-from-home measures and all sorts of restrictions. But the future looks bright with an incredible group of student leaders from Sydney's inner west revealing their hopes and visions.

From their determination to emerge stronger than ever after the pandemic to championing social justice initiatives, it's clear our country is in good hands with these inspiring young leaders of tomorrow.

Meet the school leaders of 2022:

Marrickville High School

Ena Debnath (Year 12 – School Captain)



Ena Debnath, the school captain at Marrickville High.

As school captain, Ena leads the student body at Marrickville High School and she's aware of the responsibility the role brings.

“Being a leader means handling the responsibility of both being a good role model and guiding others into the responsibilities that align with their roles,” Ena said.

When her time at school ends, she's keen to try her hand across different areas, but at the same time immersing herself in these too.

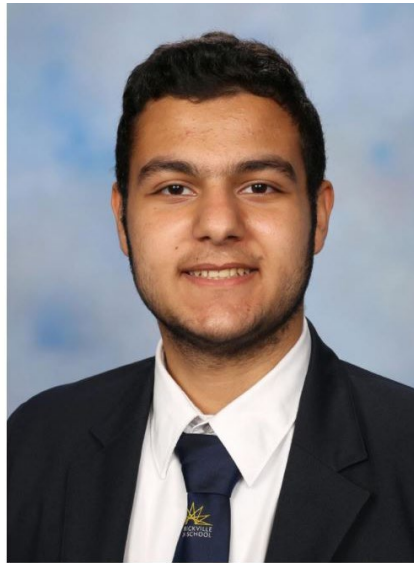
“My aspiration, at its core, is to improve my skills set and values of chasing stimulus from new environments and cultures to its highest degree,” Ena said.

“I aspire to study Law, or alternatively, I want to pursue being an educator, possibly specialising in the study of English.”

Ena's both creative and objective in her problem solving, something the *Inner West Courier* is sure to stand her in good stead.

“I aim to be non-biased in all facets of life and to deliver creative solutions,” she said.

Ahmet Tekin (Year 12 – Vice-captain)



Ahmet Tekin, the vice-captain at Marrickville High.

Ahmet is vice-captain at Marrickville High and is aware of the importance and facets of school leadership.

“For me, being a leader means being a good communicator, being able to think creatively and critically, resolve issues and to be trustworthy,” he said.

“With these skills, I want to help my classmates, teachers and school staff make Marrickville High School an even better place for everyone to enjoy and learn together.”

He is always keen to marry the skills of communication with critical thinking, attempting to use these in each area of life.

“Something interesting about me is being able to communicate with everyone, I can just go up to a person and start chatting about anything,” Ahmet said.

“Also, being able to critically think and solve problems and I love to use technology to create things such as video games and artwork.”

His focus currently is to continue to make the school a great place to learn.

“My aspirations are to do things in school that will make school a better place,” Ahmet said.

“These can be running events in school such as movie night, Jeans for Genes Day and Wear it Purple Day. From the money collected from these events we try improve a part of the school and use it in a productive way.

“My personal aspirations are to enter university and pursue my passion for STEM, with these skills I want help to improve my neighbourhood and community.”

Benjamin Tomkins – (Year 12 – Vice-captain)



Benjamin Tomkins, vice-captain at Marrickville High.

Benjamin is another vice-captain at Marrickville High, and leadership has always been important to him.

“Being a leader is something that has been important to me throughout my school career, leading by example is probably one of the most important aspects of leading,” Benjamin said.

While not having a specific one thing in mind, he’d be eager to pursue a career in law enforcement.

“I’ve never really had a clear idea of what I wanted to do after school but law enforcement agencies such as federal police or the sheriff’s office,” Ben said.

Even today, he’s volunteering to improve the community space.

“Something interesting about me is that I volunteer with the NSW SES (State Emergency Service) and I am currently the administration officer, responsible for the running of day to day administration functions and tasks,” Ben said.