



Students from Scoresby Secondary celebrate being one of the most improved schools in the state for VCE results. Picture: ALEX COPPEL

STUDENTS PUT THE SCORE IN SCORESBY SCORESBY

SCORESBY Secondary's class of 2018 was falling behind the national standard in NAPLAN results just three years ago.

But the public school in Melbourne's south east is today celebrating a huge turnaround, named among the most improved schools in the state for VCE results. It's median study score climbed

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four points in a year, while it also claimed scores of 40+ when last year it had none.

When principal Gail Major arrived at the school in 2015 — the same year as the class's low NAPLAN results — she knew she had to lift the students' confidence. "The kids had no belief in

what they could do, so we would tell them, 'Don't say you can't', she said.

It became a mantra of sorts for the 2018 class, and one that motivated student Ben Dowler, 18, through his senior studies. He lost his father, uncle and pop in the past two years. "I tried to do them proud as much as I could," he said.

"I'm hoping to go to uni next year and get into health sciences, maybe social work to help others through what I went through."

Students gave feedback to teachers on how they could better run classes. And all 35 Year 12 students stayed overnight at Melbourne University to experience what it would be like to attend a top

tertiary institution. "I think it's amazing," Mrs Major said. "The growth is not just in the students but in the teachers — they've gone the journey with them."

Other schools with an improved median score of four points for the year were Numarkah Secondary, St Thomas Aquinas in Tyngong and Apollo Bay P-12.