

RENEE BARBAKAS – 12 RED

What are your aspirations?

First and foremost, I aspire to have a happy and successful final year of my high school education. I want to make the most of every opportunity I am given and complete the year feeling proud of my efforts and achievements. On completion of my studies at Santa Maria College, I aspire to further my education at University. After a rewarding and inspiring work experience placement at a child's speech pathology clinic in Year 10, I now hope to go on and study speech pathology and eventually work in the field. I have always had an interest for working in child development, and look forward to a career fulfilling this passion.

What co-curricular activities do you do?

Outside of the Santa community, I dance with both a cultural and Australian dance group. This is complemented by the Santa Maria House Dance competition which I have been a part of ever since Year 7. I have always loved dance, and have especially looked forward to coming together with my House members from all year levels to put on an incredible performance each year. This year, as a Year 12 student, I hope to help choreograph and run the House Dance routine for my House. In previous years I have also been a part of the school choir and debating team, as well as the Year 11 Street Retreat program, which have all allowed me to broaden my connections with the school community and develop as an individual.

What do you like most about being a Santa girl?

Above all else, what I love most about being a Santa girl, is the community you are part of. Upon entering the school as a new Year 7, I was overwhelmed by how supportive and connected the school community feels. Now as a Year 12 student, I can still say the feelings of comfort and encouragement throughout the school, both from the staff and the students, are a prominent part of why I love being a Santa girl. Furthermore, the opportunities we are given here at Santa community are endless. Whether it be in performing arts, debating, sport, academia or anything in between, as Santa girls we are always given the opportunity to express ourselves and reach our fullest potential.