

## **Francesca Paterson, Medical Student and Professional Athlete**

Hi my name is Fran Paterson and I graduated from Stuartholme in 2006. Since I left school I have been studying at the University of Queensland doing a Science and Medicine dual degree as well as competing in rowing. I have had a couple of years off to represent Australia in rowing and travel doing that which has been very exciting and an amazing experience.

When I was at Stuartholme there were a lot of things that impacted on me in a positive way. I had a number of really amazing teachers during my time here. I do not think I could single out one who influenced me the most. But the attitude of the teachers at Stuartholme in general was always incredibly positive and supportive. One of the best features is that the staff and the community at Stuartholme really value each girls based on their work ethic, attitude and their positivity, rather than just their results on paper or their particular talents. The relationship that you can have with the teachers and community when you are being valued based on who you are as a person, instead of what your achieving is something that really impacted on me and taught me about how to manage in my future career and endeavours since school.

During my time at Stuartholme, academically I was very involved in the maths and science side of learning at school. I think the skills that I developed during that time where to be strongly independent in my study which I think really helped when I transitioned to uni with the different pressures involved in studying at university. I think I coped pretty well and a lot of that is to do with what I learnt at Stuartholme.