

Media Release

Monday 24 June 2024

The nation's newest Olympians were revealed today with high hopes for medals on the international stage

Just a month out from the Paris Olympics, Australia's newest team of Olympians were announced today. Yet they are all Australian high school students, with all team members excelling in maths, informatics and science on the national stage rather than sports.

The nation's 2024 mathematical, informatics and science Olympiad teams comprising Australia's brightest young academic stars were announced today, Monday 24 June 2024, at a ceremony at Australian Parliament House in Canberra.

Australia's Minister for Industry and Science, the Hon Ed Husic MP, was on hand to speak to the 27 high school students from around the country who are training hard to take part in these prestigious academic events over the next few months. The students will compete against their peers from all over the world.

Representing 20 schools from five states – VIC, NSW, WA, QLD and TAS - the high school students will compete in disciplines including biology, chemistry, earth science, informatics, mathematics and physics.

To earn a coveted spot representing Australia on one of these teams, the young competitors took part in a rigorous qualifying process including extension programs and exams run by not-for-profit organisations the [Australian Maths Trust \(AMT\)](#) and [Australian Science Innovations \(ASI\)](#) over the past year.

Nathan Ford, CEO of the AMT expressed pride in the hard work of all students, and particularly the female students in mathematics with four of the six team members being young women this year.

"All of us at the Australian Maths Trust are incredibly proud to be supporting this year's International Maths Olympiad (IMO) and International Olympiad in Informatics (IOI) teams. For the first time in Australian history, we will be fielding an IMO team where four of the six team members are young women," said Mr Ford.

"This is a testament to the success of our European Girls Maths Olympiad (EGMO) program and most of all, this year's IMO female members - Amber, Laura, Cloris and Iris' - hard work and dedication. We are very much looking forward to seeing how the team fares in the UK,

and how the experience of the Australian team continues to build as we work towards hosting the IMO in 2025 on the Sunshine Coast,” Mr Ford continued.

In the IMO team, it’s the second consecutive year of IMO participation for twin sisters Cloris and Iris Xu, Year 12 students from Sydney’s Baulkham Hills High School, In addition to their IMO participation, they have competed at EGMO for three years’ running, and recently appeared on the cover of *Careers with STEM*.

Mr Ford also congratulated IOI team member, Miles Conway, who is returning to the Informatics team for the second consecutive year and thanked the IOI Director of Training, Angus Ritossa, for his ongoing enthusiasm and leadership of the team.

ASI’s Executive Director, Vanessa Kates, echoed Mr Ford’s sentiments showing the organisation’s pride and support for the four science Olympiad teams – biology, chemistry, earth science and physics – along with the maths and informatics Olympiads.

“It’s a great privilege to celebrate the 2024 science, maths and informatics Olympiads. Once again, they are a group of students who have worked hard to be selected for the Australian teams. The International Olympiads are prestigious events where these outstanding students can showcase their own talents and build international networks,” said Ms Kates.

Ms Kates highlighted the success of ASI science extension programs.

“This year we have six Australian Team Members who honed their science skills in our Junior Science Olympiad Program. It is very rewarding to have watched these talented students progress through the pathways and to now be sending them off to an international event.”

She made special mention of Kevin Lin who will compete at the International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO), hoping to build on the Silver medal he earned last year. Joining Kevin at IChO will be Penny Tassicker - also stepping up for a second Olympiad after winning Gold at the International Earth Science Olympiad in 2023.

“Celebrating them reaffirms Australia’s commitment to nurturing and investing in science education. These bright young minds represent the future in innovations, highlighting the crucial role of STEM in shaping Australia’s economic future. I’m excited to follow their journeys, both at the Olympiads and into the future,” continued Ms Kates.

The 2024 Australian Teams announced today comprise the following members:

International Biology Olympiad

Competing in Kazakhstan, 7-14 July 2024

Grace Ng	VIC	Gippsland Grammar
Joel Cheok	VIC	Camberwell Grammar School
Xiaotian Lin	NSW	North Sydney Boys High School
Kathryn Petersen	QLD	Brisbane Girls Grammer School

**International Chemistry Olympiad
Competing in Saudi Arabia, 21-30 July 2024**

Penny Tassicker	TAS	Marist Regional College
Kevin Zhenhuan Lin	NSW	Knox Grammar School
Jerry Jin	VIC	Camberwell Grammar School
Vinny Runlin Liang	VIC	Strathcona Baptist Girls Grammar School

**International Earth Science Olympiad
Competing in China, 8-16 August 2024**

Kevin Hao	NSW	Knox Grammar School
Tanya Qiu Ting Chi	NSW	Ravenswood School for Girls
Joel Tan	VIC	John Monash Science School
Carolyn Wang	NSW	Presbyterian Ladies' College Sydney

**International Olympiad in Informatics
Held in Egypt, 1-8 September 2024**

Miles Conway	VIC	Melbourne Grammar School
Alex Wang	NSW	North Sydney Boys High School
Andy Wu	WA	Christ Church Grammar School
Nathan Zhou	NSW	Knox Grammar School

**International Mathematical Olympiad
Competing in Bath, UK, 10-22 July 2024**

William Cheah	VIC	Scotch College
Amber Li	NSW	Pymble Ladies' College
Xiangyue (Laura) Nan	VIC	Fintona Girls' School
Alex Qiu	NSW	James Ruse Agricultural High School

Cloris Xu	NSW	Baulkham Hills High School
Iris Xu	NSW	Baulkham Hills High School

**International Physics Olympiad
Held in Iran, 21-29 July 2024**

Ian Lai	QLD	Queensland Academy for Science, Mathematics & Technology
Joel Lee	NSW	James Ruse Agricultural High School
Eason Yichen Yang	VIC	Trinity Grammar School
Houlai Zhou	NSW	Sydney Grammar School
David Xiaoli Zhu	NSW	North Sydney Boys High School

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Media backgrounder

About Australian Maths Trust (AMT)

AMT's vision is to develop a nation of creative problem solvers, and they believe maths is the most effective way to get students there. The AMT's competitions and programs provide an opportunity for young Australians to challenge and extend their creative problem-solving skills and prepare them for a future of real-world problems.

Olympiad programs are supported by the Australian Government Department of Industry, Science and Resources, and the Trust's National Sponsor, Optiver.

About Australian Science Innovations (ASI)

ASI provides the pathways for Australian students to enter the International Earth Science Olympiad, the International Physics Olympiad, the International Chemistry Olympiad, the International Junior Science Olympiad and the International Biology Olympiad.

Olympiad programs are funded through the Australian Government's National Innovation and Science Agenda, with additional support from the Australian National University.