Girls come to terms with time and motion

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Just call her the whiz kid.

Aged just 17, Kathryn Zealand is soon to complete a science degree at the University of Queensland – and she hasn’t yet finished school.

The Brisbane Girls Grammar School student said she was planning a career in quantum physics.

Sally Stephens, head of the school science department, said Kathryn was an incredibly bright girl with a big future.

“She loves trying to solve problems and is always trying get that little bit more knowledge,” Dr Stephens said.

The school’s science faculty has an established track record in encouraging girls in science.

More than 87 per cent of the school’s senior students are studying a science subject.

Earlier this year Kathryn and fellow students Samantha Luck and Sarah Thang gained international recognition after beating the top US boys’ team in the US Invitational Young Physicists Tournament.

The school also recently opened its Centre for Science Research, which seeks to bring together Australia’s best science students and teachers to advance the future of science education.

CSR head Alan Allinson said the centre was for all students, not only Grammar girls.

“We hope that by providing a collaborative environment and opportunities for authentic scientific research we can deliver a positive contribution to science and scientist levels,” he said.