

# A young Einstein joins London elite



**SCIENCE WHIZ:** Year 12 student Nathan Dignam, 17, in the science lab at St Ignatius College. Picture: DAVID CRONIN

**KURTIS EICHLER**

NATHAN Dignam grew up listening to stories of his family's medical triumphs. The son of a psychiatrist and a physiotherapist, the ambitious St Ignatius College student is one step closer to following in his parents' footsteps and forging his own career in medicine. The 17-year-old Year 12 student will fly to London this week for the two-week International Youth Science For-

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um. He is one of only 10 Australian students attending the event. Nathan said he wanted to pursue a career in medicine or neuroscience. "It's sort of a cliché answer but I just really like helping people and helping make their

lives better and medicine is a great way to do that," he said. "You can see the effect your work can have on people." The Hampstead Gardens student, who achieved A grades in physics, chemistry and biology last term, will visit laboratories in London and listen to lectures from world-renowned scientists. He will also have a chance to do some sightseeing. Nathan was hand-picked by his school to attend the forum after achieving stellar results in

national chemistry quizzes as well as international science competitions. "I'm very excited about going," he said. "It's going to be a great experience because it's an opportunity to meet people with a passion for science from across the world." More than 350 people from around the globe will attend the event. Nathan hopes to be accepted into medicine at Adelaide University next year.

