



Science students Kim Zheng, Wayne Wong, Richard Huang, Raymond Li and Phillip Liang. Picture: Angelo Velardo

Our Olympians of the science world

Maryanne Taouk

ONLY the best and brightest in high school science make it onto the Australian Science Olympiad team.

Remarkably, five students from James Ruse Agricultural High School have made it onto the 17-person squad.

Raymond Li, 17, Phillip Liang, 17, Wayne Wong, 17, Kim Zheng, 16, and Richard

Huang, 15, were chosen from a pool of more than 6000 high school students around the country to take part in a worldwide competition that pits the smartest biology, chemistry and physics students against each other.

Richard, Raymond and Phillip have just completed the chemistry leg of the Olympiad in Bratislava, Slovakia, and Prague,

Czech Republic, where they won two silver medals and a bronze medal.

"Everything they have achieved is an absolute feat," head science teacher Sheilia Pooviah said.

"They are extremely motivated, very competitive and, more than anything, they are great human beings."

The next challenge will be the International Earth

Science Olympiad. Wayne and Kim will travel to Kanchanaburi in Thailand next week for the competition.

The five students make up the highest number of Olympians from any one school in Australia.

Australia's chief scientist Alan Finkel said the program "unlocked Australia's next generation of brilliant minds".