2014 Academic Highlights

The Year 12 class of 2014 continued Meriden’s tradition of excellent academic performance by a non-selective school.

2014 HSC HIGHLIGHTS FOR MERIDEN STUDENTS
— 49% of students received an ATAR of 90 or more
— 9% of students received All-Round Achievers Awards
— 203 Distinguished Achievement (Band 6) results
— Placings within the top 8 in the State in 9 courses
— ARTEXPRESS, ENCORE, DesignTECH, Young Writers’ Showcase nominations and selections
— Meriden ranked 32nd in the state in the 2014 HSC Top 100 Schools Ranking (Sydney Morning Herald 18.12.2014)

Best in Subject
Meriden students achieved the following top placings in a course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>COURSE</th>
<th>POSITION IN STATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monique Piggott</td>
<td>Community and Family Studies</td>
<td>2nd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annalise Pahos</td>
<td>Modern History</td>
<td>3rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April Saleeba</td>
<td>Modern History</td>
<td>4th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Davin Hong</td>
<td>Chinese Continuers</td>
<td>4th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eirene Sidiropoulos</td>
<td>Community and Family Studies</td>
<td>5th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katya Shliapnikoff</td>
<td>Geography</td>
<td>7th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emily Flanagan</td>
<td>History Extension</td>
<td>7th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lilian Ma</td>
<td>Visual Arts</td>
<td>7th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April Saleeba</td>
<td>History Extension</td>
<td>8th</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ALL-ROUND ACHIEVERS
The exceptional achievements of Kathy Chen, Emily Flanagan, Anna Fletcher, Anna Geason, Lilian Ma, Jewel Qi, Katya Shliapnikoff, Celeste Woo, Jenny Xu and Anastasia Yule earned them a place on the HSC All-Round Achievers List. Only students who achieve 90 or above in at least ten units qualify for inclusion on this list.

2014 Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ATAR</th>
<th>% OF MERIDEN STUDENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>95+</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90+</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80+</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Median ATAR – 89.40
Some of Meriden’s high flyers…

Lilian Ma
ATAR 99.80
HSC All Round Achievers List
7th in State Visual Arts
ARTEXPRESS Selection
At Meriden since Year 7
Prefect 2014

SUBJECTS STUDIED
Chemistry
English Advanced
English Extension 1
English Extension 2
Intensive Studio Practice
Mathematics
Mathematics Extension 1
Visual Arts

Jenny Xu
ATAR 99.75
HSC All Round Achievers List
3rd in State Mathematics (2013)
At Meriden since Year 7
Dux of the School 2014

SUBJECTS STUDIED
Chemistry
English Advanced
Latin Continuers
Latin Extension
Mathematics
Mathematics Extension 1
Physics

Jewel Qi
ATAR 99.45
HSC All-Round Achievers List
At Meriden since Year 7

SUBJECTS STUDIED
Chemistry
English Advanced
English Extension 1
Mathematics Extension 1
Mathematics Extension 2
Physics

Kathy Chen
ATAR 99.45
HSC All-Round Achievers List
At Meriden since Year 7

SUBJECTS STUDIED
Chemistry
Economics
English Advanced
English Extension 1
Legal Studies
Mathematics Extension 1
Mathematics Extension 2

April Saleeba
ATAR 99.40
4th in State Modern History
8th in State History Extension
At Meriden since Kindergarten
Prefect 2014

SUBJECTS STUDIED
English Advanced
English Extension 1
English Extension 2
French Continuers
French Extension
History Extension
Mathematics
Modern History

Excellence abounds…

EXCELLENCE IN MUSIC
Two of Meriden’s HSC Music students, Amanda Chen and Clare Lo, received ENCORE nominations. ENCORE showcases exemplary performances and compositions by the finest HSC Music students from across the state.

Clare had two compositions nominated for ENCORE selection: one for her Core Composition (Music of the last 25 years) entitled “Aftermath”, and a nomination for her Music 2 Elective Composition (Music 1900-1945) entitled “Ephemere”.

An accomplished violinist, Amanda Chen has been selected to perform in the ENCORE Concert at the Sydney Opera House. Amanda achieved full marks in HSC Music Extension in Performance. She gained an ATAR of 97.9 and plans to study Violin Performance at the Conservatorium of Music.

EXCELLENCE IN VISUAL ARTS
Lilian Ma’s Major Work, The Inconsolable Longing, has received selection for ARTEXPRESS, an exhibition of exemplary artworks by HSC Visual Arts students. While the exhibition’s principal venue is the Art Gallery of NSW, ARTEXPRESS is a major touring exhibition which has acquired national and international recognition for its high-achieving student artwork.

Lilian’s outstanding achievements in all her HSC subjects earned her an All-Round Achievers Award. She gained at ATAR of 99.8 and plans to study Psychology at the University of Sydney.

EXCELLENCE IN CREATIVE WRITING
In addition to her selection for ARTEXPRESS, Lilian Ma’s English Extension 2 Critical Response has been nominated for inclusion in the 2014 Young Writers’ Showcase. Young Writers’ Showcase is an anthology of some of the extraordinary Major Works in print, sound and visual media submitted for the HSC English Extension 2 course.
EXCELLENCE IN DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY
Annelise Ralevska’s Major Design Project has been selected for DesignTECH, an exhibition of the outstanding Major Design Projects from HSC Design and Technology students. The exhibition is held at the Powerhouse Museum and tours regional New South Wales. Annelise developed a cookbook with a difference for her Design project. The electronic and print-based publication featured recipes together with user-friendly tips to increase sustainability in the kitchen.

Anna Geason’s Design Project received a DesignTECH nomination. Anna developed an educational road safety resource for children with disabilities which included an interactive and multi-sensory book and flash cards for children who are hearing impaired. Anna was the recipient of an All-Round Achievers Award for her outstanding performance in all her HSC subjects. She gained an ATAR of 98.8.

1 Head of Music, Mrs Jodie Spooner Ryan, with Amanda Chen (left) and Clare Lo
2 Annelise Ralevska’s Major Design Project on exhibit
3-4 Paintings from Lilian Ma’s Visual Arts Body of Work
5 An exhibition of Anna Geason’s Major Design Project
6 Lilian Ma at work on her Visual Arts Major Work
7 Amanda Chen in performance
8 Anna Geason
9 Annelise Ralevska
Over the past decade, Meriden students have received top placings in the state in the following subjects:

- First in History Extension
- First in Classical Greek Continuers
- First in Classical Greek Extension
- First in Community and Family Studies
- First in Heritage Chinese (Mandarin)
- First in Korean Background Speakers
- Second in Latin Continuers
- Second in Chinese Beginners
- Second in Community and Family Studies
- Second in Polish Continuers
- Third in Mathematics
- Third in Modern History
- Third in Japanese Beginners
- Fourth in Chinese Continuers
- Fourth in History Extension
- Fourth in Latin Extension
- Fourth in Mathematics Extension 2 and the top female student in this subject
- Fourth in Modern History
- Fourth in Music Extension
- Fifth in Community and Family Studies
- Fifth in Hindi Continuers
- Fifth in Modern Greek Beginners
- Fifth in German Continuers
- Sixth in Community and Family Studies
- Seventh in Design and Technology
- Seventh in Geography
- Seventh in History Extension
- Seventh in Visual Arts
- Eighth in Legal Studies
- Eighth in History Extension
- Ninth in Biology
- Ninth in 2 Unit Mathematics
- Tenth in Modern History

Tertiary study

Tertiary Courses
The most popular tertiary courses chosen by Meriden students over recent years

- Medicine, Dentistry
- Science, Psychology
- Commerce, Business, Finance
- Economics, Accounting
- Law, International Studies
- Arts, Communications, Marketing
- Education, Social Work
- Human Movement, Exercise Science
- Design, Architecture
- Liberal Studies, Political Science
- Information Technology
- Visual Arts, Performing Arts

University Offers
Preferred university destinations for Meriden’s HSC students over recent years
Performance in HSC Subjects

The performance of each girl in each of her HSC subjects is indicated in levels, called Bands, from 1 to 6. Bands 5 and 6 are the highest levels. The table below shows a selection of 2014 courses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE</th>
<th>% IN BANDS 5 &amp; 6 AT MERIDEN</th>
<th>% IN BANDS 5 &amp; 6 IN STATE</th>
<th>MERIDEN'S TOP MARK IN EACH COURSE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>48.64</td>
<td>28.23</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Studies</td>
<td>95.23</td>
<td>36.95</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>65.70</td>
<td>46.09</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community &amp; Family</td>
<td>92.85</td>
<td>36.68</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design and Technology</td>
<td>92.30</td>
<td>37.22</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>57.13</td>
<td>44.53</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Advanced</td>
<td>81.60</td>
<td>59.30</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Est 2</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>77.44</td>
<td>48*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Technology</td>
<td>69.22</td>
<td>28.45</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geography</td>
<td>88.88</td>
<td>43.65</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal Studies</td>
<td>68.00</td>
<td>39.65</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics General 2</td>
<td>71.42</td>
<td>25.00</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>83.92</td>
<td>53.74</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modern History</td>
<td>83.32</td>
<td>42.28</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History Extension 1</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>77.70</td>
<td>49*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music 1</td>
<td>87.50</td>
<td>59.58</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music 2</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>87.31</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Science</td>
<td>71.42</td>
<td>36.45</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual Arts</td>
<td>90.90</td>
<td>48.60</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese Continuers</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>67.46</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japanese Beginners</td>
<td>83.33</td>
<td>41.09</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin Extension</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>97.13</td>
<td>48*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Mark out of 50

2014 NAPLAN Results

Meriden’s results in the 2014 Federal Government’s National Assessment Program were, once again, exceptional.

Conducted by the Ministerial Council for Education, Early Childhood, Training and Youth Affairs, NAPLAN provides a measure of how Australian students are performing in numeracy, reading, writing, spelling and grammar.

All students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 in schools across Australia undertake the same tests on the same days. Following is a snapshot of Meriden’s results in comparison to the State-wide results.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOP BAND</th>
<th>% OF MERIDEN STUDENTS PLACED IN THE TOP BAND</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(The figure in brackets is the % of students placed in the top band state-wide)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>READING</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YEAR 3</td>
<td>62 (30)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YEAR 5</td>
<td>38 (17)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YEAR 7</td>
<td>39 (13)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YEAR 9</td>
<td>24 (9)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOP BAND</th>
<th>% OF MERIDEN STUDENTS PLACED IN THE TOP BAND</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NUMERACY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YEAR 3</td>
<td>56 (18)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YEAR 5</td>
<td>51 (14)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YEAR 7</td>
<td>45 (15)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YEAR 9</td>
<td>43 (14)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2014 Academic Highlights

MATHEMATICS
Approximately 400,000 students from schools across Australia participate in the Australian Mathematics Competition (AMC) each year. Only those students in the top 0.3% of students who sit the examination are awarded the AMC Prize. Meriden's Aileen Wang, Year 7, earned a place in this elite category of high achievers.

Meriden students who qualified for the category of High Distinction in the AMC were Clare Chen and Alana Zhang (Year 7); Phoebe Au, Caroline Huang, Helena Huang and Georgina Vimalaratnam (Year 8); Melinda Yang (Year 9). Melinda Yang also received a Prudence Award which is presented to the student who has the highest number of consecutive questions correct from each participating school.

SCIENCE
Rachael Whitford (Year 11) won selection to participate in the National Youth Forum in Canberra in January 2015. The forum is designed for students who have an interest in Science, Engineering and/or Technology. They learn how to make informed decisions about courses and careers in the sciences and gain a professional approach to help them realise their potential.

A team of Year 10 Science students from Meriden won the 2014 Great Engineering Challenge. Team members Nina Wang, Tasfia Hossain, Madeline Lam and Maddison King competed against fifty other teams from schools across New South Wales to win the Challenge which was held at the University of New South Wales.

The UNSW Women in Engineering Camp works with students who want their careers to be at the forefront of positive change for society. Camp participants use lateral thinking, creativity and design to solve scientific and mathematical problems, both individually and in teams. Year 10 students Emily Halloran and Maddison King won selection to participate in this important event which will be held in January 2015.

High Distinction recipients in the ICAS Science Competition, Alana Zhang (Year 7) and Monique Li (Year 8), were among the top 1% of students who sat the competition. The Big Science Competition saw twenty-one Meriden students achieve the category of High Distinction.

ENGLISH
Clare Chen, Aileen Wang, Jenny Wu and Lily Yang (Year 7); Helena Huang, Madeleine Kim, Monique Li, Priscilla Li, Georgina Vimalaratnam, Jessica Wei, Esther Wong and Daphne Zhuang (Year 8); Ciara O’Farrell and Angela Wu (Year 9); Zoe Whelan-Young, Deepthi Mathew and Joy Chang (Year 10) were the recipients of High Distinction awards in the ICAS English competition.

ICAS is administered by the University of New South Wales and conducted throughout Australia and the Asia-Pacific region. The competition is pitched at a high level, well beyond the usual expectations for the respective year levels. The English component of ICAS assesses reading and language skills in a range of contexts including reading for meaning in literary texts and factual texts, textual devices, syntax and vocabulary.

Throughout the year, Meriden students produced a vast collection of outstanding creative writing. Examples of the talent and diversity of these works are published in the 2014 edition of Equilibrium. Two exceptional young writers whose work is included in this publication are Naomie Nguyen (Year 10), recipient of the Nola Burrows-Small Poetry Award, and April Saleeba (Year 12), recipient of the 2014 Jeannie Monckton Prize for Creative Writing.

LANGUAGES
To achieve a High Distinction in both the reading and listening sections of the ACER Assessment of Language Competence test is the hallmark of an outstanding Language student.

Alexandra Gonzalez and Josette Mouawad (Year 9) and Naomie Nguyen (Year 10) achieved this honour in the ACER French test. In addition to reading and listening skills, the tasks in the ACER test draw on students’ sociocultural knowledge, their cognitive skills, and their knowledge of the structure and purpose of language.

HISTORY
The Australian History Competition is a nationwide competition which tests critical and evaluative thinking, source analysis and historical knowledge and understanding.

Meriden students from Years 8 and 10 participated in this year’s competition with exceptional results. More than a third of students received High Distinctions or Distinctions. Eleven Year 8 students and sixteen Year 10 students were awarded High Distinctions in the competition.

In November, Samantha Chiu (Year 11) represented Meriden at the NSW Schools State Constitutional Convention held at Parliament House, Sydney. The issue under consideration was Constitutional Recognition of Indigenous Australians. Samantha was one of the only sixty students selected from schools across the state to participate in this event.

MUSIC
The Meriden Senior Singers was one of only six choirs selected to compete in the prestigious Australian Choral Grand Prix at The Concourse Concert Hall. This event showcased the winning choirs from the 2014 Sydney Eisteddfod Australasian Choral Championship in which the Senior Singers placed second.

Meriden’s musicians amassed an array of prizes and recognitions throughout the year including top placings in the NSW Band Championships and Sydney Eisteddfod, selections to the Australian Youth Orchestra National Music Camp, as well as numerous individual achievements in AMEB and Trinity examinations.
PARNASSUS AWARDS

Students who complete an original and evaluative research-based composition or creative work in any discipline are eligible for a Parnassus Award. A Gold Parnassus Award is granted when the work demonstrates outstanding rigour and merit.

The 2014 Parnassus Gold Medallion was awarded to Ammellia Fu for excellence in History.

Silver Medallions were awarded to Maddison King (Science), Emily Halloran (Science) and Tara Graetz (History). Rebecca Maher was the recipient of the Bronze Medallion (Science).

DEBATING

Testament to the skill and dedication of Meriden debaters, four of the School’s seven Debating teams progressed to the final rounds of the Archdale Debating competition in 2014. For the third consecutive year, the team of Elle Belekas, Sara Galasso, Paige Katay, Naomie Nguyen and Zoe Whelan-Young (Year 10) successfully debated their way to the Grand Final.

At the University of Sydney Junior Debating Tournament, Year 8 debater Margot McKeown, was named Runner Up – Best Individual Speaker from a field of 150 competitors.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

The Youth Forum is an annual event which enables motivated and talented students to identify, research and present an issue of importance to today’s youth.

The 2014 winning team of Amy Notarangelo, Matilda Cheng, Elise Bergan and Zoe Whelan-Young (Year 10) powerfully addressed the issue of the USA and Australian justice systems, and the racist patterns found in conviction, arrest and treatment of racial minorities witnessed within them.

Meriden students participated in all events at this year’s Festival of Speech and received glowing feedback from the judges. The Current Affairs team of Hannah Cui, Rachel Wong and Hayley Lukabyo placed second in a highly competitive division.

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

Adrianna Kostic and Rose Braga were the recipients of major prizes for their Year 11 Design and Technology portfolios in the University of Wollongong NSW Senior STEM Competition. Entries are judged on how well the project demonstrates the engineering principles and processes in the solution of the problem being studied.

Rose received the 2014 Year 11 Design and Technology Overall Runner-Up Award and the KJS Publications Student Award.

In recognition of Adrianna’s outstanding submission, the University of Wollongong awarded her placement at the Honeywell Engineering Summer School at the University of Sydney. During this one-week residential workshop, Adrianna will meet with professional engineers from a wide range of engineering backgrounds and visit a number of top engineering companies. Adrianna also received the Portfolio Runner-Up award.