



# Academic Highlights 2021



## HSC Highlights for Meriden Students

**56% of students** received an ATAR of 90 or more

Student awarded **highest possible ATAR (99.95)**

**20% of students** named as All-Round Achievers

**16 top-10 placings**, including **1st in state in 4 courses**

**Mark of 100%** achieved in 4 courses

Only all-girls school in the **top-10 placings in Mathematics**

**396 Distinguished Achievements** (Band 6 results)

**ARTEXPRESS, ENCORE, Shape and OnSTAGE nominations**

**Meriden ranked 12th** in the 2021 HSC Schools Ranking\*

\* *Sydney Morning Herald* 20.01.2022

Meriden's HSC students celebrate their fantastic results with their teachers and Principal, Dr Julie Greenhalgh

## Congratulations to the Class of 2021

Throughout the past two years of COVID-19 upheaval, Meriden girls have proven their resilience. The release of HSC results for the Class of 2021 was a celebration of the students' tenacity, hard work and optimism.

The future is bright for Meriden's Year 12 cohort and the School community congratulates the students on their exceptional achievements. We look forward to hearing of their next steps as they make their mark on the world.

# HSC highlights cont...

## All-Round Achievers

All-Round Achievers are those students who have achieved results in the highest band possible in at least 10 units of HSC courses. Thirty Meriden students were named on the 2021 All-Round Achievers List.

Lilian Chen	Eva Scoufis
Vivian Chen	Emily Seeto
Bianca Chong	Clare Spicer
Eden Crain	Liliane Spratt
Natalie Hui	Subeksha Suren Raj
Ruth Huynh	Annabelle Tan
Nicole Jiang	Rena Tang
Chelsea Jin	Daiety Veza
Cindy Le	Jade Yang
Linda Liao	Emily Yenson
Vernica Mehta	Ashleigh Yoong
Michelle Oh	Metilda You
Jacinta Pham	Crystal Zhao
Chi Pham	Emily Zheng
Emily Pich	Anna Zhou

## 2021

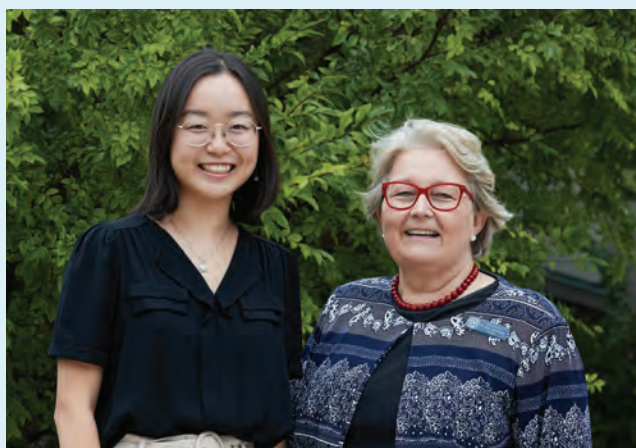
### Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank

ATAR	% OF MERIDEN STUDENTS
<b>99+</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>95+</b>	<b>36%</b>
<b>90+</b>	<b>56%</b>
<b>85+</b>	<b>69%</b>

Median ATAR – 92.05 (state 70.4)

### Top ATAR

Top ATAR recipient, Michelle Oh, with Dr Julie Greenhalgh. Michelle attained the highest possible ATAR of 99.95



## Top Achievers in a Course

NAME	COURSE	POSITION IN THE STATE
Sophie Lin	Hospitality	1st
Rena Tang	Music 2	Equal 1st
Emily Zheng	EAL/D	1st
Emily Zheng	Japanese Beginners	1st
Vivian Chen	Chinese in Context	Equal 2nd
Ruth Huynh	Japanese Beginners	2nd
Patrice Aravanis	Mathematics Standard 2	4th
Metilda You	English Extension 1	4th
Chelsea Jin	Chemistry	5th
Helena Stefani	Food Technology	6th
Jesse Nguyen	Food Technology	7th
Michelle Oh	Mathematics Extension 1	8th
Eden Crain	Studies of Religion II	Equal 9th
Vernica Mehta	History Extension	Equal 9th
Michelle Oh	Mathematics Extension 2	10th
Evelyn Papageorgiou	Food Technology	10th
Chelsea Jin	Mathematics Advanced	17th

### Top in State

First in Course recipients, Sophie Lin and Rena Tang, with Dr Julie Greenhalgh







HSC Maths students celebrate their results with Miss Svetlana Onisczenko, Head of Mathematics

### Excellence in Mathematics

Michelle Oh achieved 100 per cent in Mathematics Extension 1 and placed 8th in the state in the subject. This outstanding result was reflected in the performance of her cohort with sixty-seven per cent achieving a Band 6 result.

Michelle also excelled in Mathematics Extension 2, placing 10th in the state. Sixty per cent of the Mathematics Extension 2 cohort achieved Band 6 and sixty-three per cent of students in Mathematics Advanced gained a Band 6 result.

Patrice Aravanis placed 4th in the state in Mathematics Standard 2.



Vernica Mehta with Head of History, Mrs Cheryl O'Loan

### Excellence in History

Meriden's Modern History students excelled in the subject with sixty per cent achieving a Band 6 result. Vernica Mehta's result in History Extension placed her equal 9th in the state.

### Excellence in academic and sporting performance

After successfully completing her HSC, Jasmine Higgs has been awarded a scholarship to the Indiana University Bloomington where she will study and represent the university in the competitive world of NCAA Water Polo. Alongside her academic study for the HSC, Jasmine maintained her Water Polo training schedule of up to fourteen hours per week. Jasmine is one of the youngest players to have been invited by the Australian Institute of Sport selectors to train with the Pathway to Paris Squad, a development line-up from which players can be chosen for the Olympic team.



### Excellence in English

Metilda You shone in English, placing 4th in the state in English Extension 1. Metilda received full marks in the subject.

The challenging English Advanced course saw forty per cent of Meriden students achieve in the top band.





Mrs Alexandra Phillips, Acting Head of Science, with Physics students Ruth Huynh, Michelle Oh, Lauren Gupta, Crystal Zhao and Angela Lei

### Excellence in Science

The performance of Meriden girls in HSC Physics was superb. Sixty per cent achieved in the top band. In Chemistry, Chelsea Jin placed 5th in the state and over thirty-eight per cent of students achieved in the top band.

### Excellence in Music

Once again, Meriden's Music students achieved stunning results in the HSC, led by cellist, Rena Tang, who placed equal 1st in the state in Music 2. Top band results were gained by ninety-two per cent of Music Extension students, seventy per cent of Music 1 students and seventy-five per cent of Music 2 students.

Alison Chang, Rena Tang and Natalia Ghisso received nominations for ENCORE, a program of outstanding performances and compositions from the HSC Music examinations. Alison will perform her Music 2 Core Performance work, *Daybreak*, at the ENCORE showcase event at the City Recital Hall.



Alison Chang and Rena Tang

### Excellence in Drama

Drama students, Liliane Spratt and Olivia Fahim, received nominations to perform in the HSC Drama Showcase, OnSTAGE. Lilian was nominated for her piece titled *Roulette* in which she used French dialect, physicality and directorial choices to deliver a compelling and nuanced perspective of young Marie Antoinette.

Olivia Fahim was nominated for her powerful performance of Queen Boudicca in which she challenged audiences to consider both her strength and vulnerability as a wife, mother and warrior queen.



## Excellence in Languages

Languages continue to flourish at Meriden with Emily Zheng and Ruth Huynh placing 1st and 2nd in the state respectively in Japanese Beginners. Both students received a mark of 100 per cent.

Top band results were awarded to all Latin Extension students and seventy per cent of the Latin Continuers cohort.

Vivian Chen led the fantastic results in Chinese in Context, placing equal 2nd in the state. Eighty per cent of Vivian's cohort achieved Band 6 for Chinese in Context. In Chinese and Literature, seventy-one per cent of Meriden girls received results in the top band.

Students of Spanish Beginners also put in an impressive performance with seventy-eight per cent obtaining Band 6.

Ruth Huynh with Head of Languages, Mrs Françoise Reeves-Smith, and Dr Julie Greenhalgh



## Excellence in Design and Technology and Visual Arts

Hospitality student, Sophie Lin, topped the state in her subject. Eighty-two per cent of Sophie's cohort achieved a Band 6 result.

Results in Food Technology were equally as impressive with Helena Stefani, Jesse Nguyen and Evelyn Papageorgiou placing 6th, 7th and 10th in the state respectively. Sixty-seven per cent of Food Technology students achieved Band 6.

In Visual Arts, Liliane Spratt's HSC Major Work was selected for exhibition in ARTEXPRESS, which showcases the best artworks created by Year 12 Visual Arts students. Liliane's series of works, titled *The Re: imagined*, emphasises the ever-changing nature of the cyanotype as it continues to develop and transform over time – a parallel with our ever-changing climate.

In Design and Technology, Madeline Ayres' Major Design Project was nominated for inclusion in the Shape exhibition of exemplary HSC works. For her project, Madeline used inclusive design solutions to design housing for people with Multiple Sclerosis which would allow them to live independently, including those who are restricted to a wheelchair.

- 1 Ms Sascha Bass, Dean of Academic Care and Hospitality teacher, with Sophie Lin
- 2 Ms Gillian Legge, Head of Design and Creative Arts, with Liliane Spratt
- 3 Ms Vicki Sheehan, Dean of Staff and Food Technology teacher, with her students, Jessica Trinh, Vanessa Hamilton-Kane and Madeline Ayres



# Some of Meriden's high flyers...



## Michelle Oh

ATAR 99.95

*HSC All-Round Achiever*  
8th in state in Mathematics Extension 1  
10th in state in Mathematics Extension 2  
Dux of the School  
Special Events Prefect 2021  
At Meriden since Kindergarten

### SUBJECTS STUDIED

Chemistry  
Economics  
English Advanced  
Mathematics Extension 1  
Mathematics Extension 2  
Physics



## Chelsea Jin

ATAR 99.9

*HSC All-Round Achiever*  
5th in state in Chemistry  
At Meriden since Year 7

### SUBJECTS STUDIED

Chemistry  
English Advanced  
Latin Continuers  
Mathematics Advanced  
Mathematics Extension 1  
Physics



## Rena Tang

ATAR 99.85

*HSC All-Round Achiever*  
Head Prefect 2021  
Equal 1st in state in Music 2  
ENCORE nomination  
At Meriden since Year 4

### SUBJECTS STUDIED

English Advanced  
English Extension 1  
French Continuers  
French Extension  
Mathematics Advanced  
Music 2  
Music Extension



## Ruth Huynh

ATAR 99.8

*HSC All-Round Achiever*  
2nd in state in Japanese Beginners  
At Meriden since Year 7

### SUBJECTS STUDIED

Chemistry  
English Advanced  
Japanese Beginners  
Mathematics Extension 1  
Mathematics Extension 2  
Physics



## Vivian Chen

ATAR 99.75

*HSC All-Round Achiever*  
Equal 2nd in state in Chinese in Context  
At Meriden since Year 7

### SUBJECTS STUDIED

Chemistry  
Chinese in Context  
English Advanced  
English Extension 1  
Mathematics Extension 1  
Mathematics Extension 2



## Natalie Hui

ATAR 99.75

*HSC All-Round Achiever*  
At Meriden since Pre-Kindergarten

### SUBJECTS STUDIED

Business Studies  
Chemistry  
English Advanced  
Mathematics Extension 1  
Mathematics Extension 2



## Lilian Chen

ATAR 99.65

*HSC All-Round Achiever*  
At Meriden since Year 7

### SUBJECTS STUDIED

Chemistry  
English Advanced  
Latin Continuers  
Latin Extension  
Mathematics Extension 1  
Mathematics Extension 2



## Emily Seeto

ATAR 99.65

*HSC All-Round Achiever*  
Prefect 2021  
At Meriden since Year 7

### SUBJECTS STUDIED

Chemistry  
English Advanced  
English Extension 1  
Latin Continuers  
Latin Extension  
Mathematics Advanced  
Mathematics Extension 1



## Metilda You

ATAR 99.65

*HSC All-Round Achiever*  
4th in state in English Extension 1  
At Meriden since Year 7

### SUBJECTS STUDIED

Chemistry  
English Advanced  
English Extension 1  
Latin Continuers  
Mathematics Advanced  
Mathematics Extension 1



## Crystal Zhao

ATAR 99.65

*HSC All-Round Achiever*  
Prefect 2021  
At Meriden since Year 7

### SUBJECTS STUDIED

Chemistry  
English Advanced  
Latin Continuers  
Mathematics Extension 1  
Mathematics Extension 2  
Physics

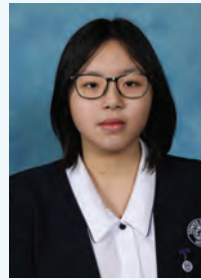




**Eva Scoufis**

ATAR 99.6  
HSC All-Round Achiever  
At Meriden since Year 7

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



**Minxi (Emily) Zheng**

ATAR 99.6  
HSC All-Round Achiever  
1st in state in English  
EAL/D and Japanese  
Beginners  
At Meriden since Year 10

**SUBJECTS STUDIED**  
Chinese and Literature  
English EAL/D  
Japanese Beginners  
Mathematics Advanced  
Mathematics Extension 1  
Visual Arts



**Liyang Yu**

ATAR 99.45  
At Meriden since Year 7

**SUBJECTS STUDIED**  
English Advanced  
Latin Continuers  
Latin Extension  
Mathematics Extension 1  
Mathematics Extension 2  
Modern History



**Nicole Jiang**

ATAR 99.35  
HSC All-Round Achiever  
At Meriden since Year 7

**SUBJECTS STUDIED**  
Biology  
Chemistry  
English Advanced  
Latin Continuers  
Latin Extension  
Mathematics Advanced  
Mathematics Extension 1



**Emily Yenson**

ATAR 99.35  
HSC All-Round Achiever  
At Meriden since  
Pre-Kindergarten

**SUBJECTS STUDIED**  
Biology  
Chemistry  
English Advanced  
Mathematics Advanced  
Mathematics Extension 1  
Music 2  
Music Extension



**Vernica Mehta**

ATAR 99.3  
HSC All-Round Achiever  
Prefect 2021  
At Meriden since Year 7

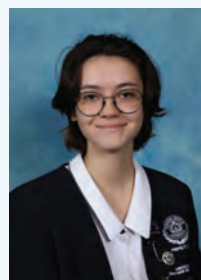
**SUBJECTS STUDIED**  
English Advanced  
Mathematics Advanced  
Mathematics Extension 1  
Modern History  
History Extension  
Science Extension  
Physics



**Anna Zhou**

ATAR 99.1  
HSC All-Round Achiever  
At Meriden since Year 7

**SUBJECTS STUDIED**  
English Advanced  
French Continuers  
Latin Extension  
Mathematics Advanced  
Mathematics Extension 1  
Physics



**Clare Spicer**

ATAR 99.05  
HSC All-Round Achiever  
Prefect 2021  
At Meriden since Year 5

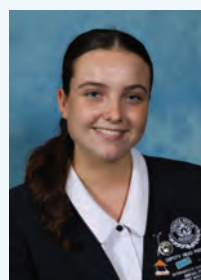
**SUBJECTS STUDIED**  
Ancient History  
Biology  
Chemistry  
English Advanced  
English Extension 1  
Mathematics Advanced  
Mathematics Extension 1



**Emily Pich**

ATAR 99  
HSC All-Round Achiever  
At Meriden since Year 9

**SUBJECTS STUDIED**  
Biology  
Chemistry  
English Advanced  
English Extension 1  
Legal Studies  
Mathematics Advanced



**Liliane Spratt**

ATAR 99  
HSC All-Round Achiever  
OnSTAGE nomination  
Selected for ARTEXPRESS  
Deputy Head Prefect  
2021  
At Meriden since Year 6

**SUBJECTS STUDIED**  
Drama  
English Advanced  
English Extension 1  
French Continuers  
Modern History  
Visual Arts

## Some of Meriden's high flyers...



### Ashleigh Yoong

ATAR 99

HSC All-Round Achiever  
At Meriden since Year 6

#### SUBJECTS STUDIED

Biology  
Chemistry  
Economics  
English Advanced  
Mathematics Advanced  
Mathematics Extension 1

# 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 the HSC subjects studied at Meriden in 2021, and achievement levels of the girls in these subjects.

COURSE	% IN BANDS 5 & 6 AT MERIDEN	% IN BANDS 5 & 6 IN STATE	MERIDEN'S TOP MARKS IN EACH COURSE
Ancient History	88.88	33.75	93
Biology	67.64	31.07	95
Business Studies	80.54	35.63	96
Chemistry	78.71	40.2	99
Chinese and Literature	100	69.14	93
Chinese Continuers	100	71.28	86
Chinese in Context	100	84.6	98
Community and Family Studies	74.06	31.53	95
Design and Technology	78.94	54.47	93
Drama	84.61	45.47	98
Economics	90	50.12	94
Engineering Studies	75	35.89	90
English Advanced	85.48	68.65	96
English EAL/D	75	23.15	100
English Extension 1	100	93.63	50*
English Extension 2	100	83.96	45*
English Standard	41.66	16.52	82
Food Technology	83.32	35.7	99
French Continuers	87.5	63.04	96
French Extension	100	79.54	46*
Geography	72.72	41.5	91
History Extension	100	77.17	49*
Hospitality Examination (Kitchen Operations)	81.81	29.09	97

COURSE	% IN BANDS 5 & 6 AT MERIDEN	% IN BANDS 5 & 6 IN STATE	MERIDEN'S TOP MARKS IN EACH COURSE
Japanese Beginners	87.5	34.72	100
Latin Continuers	100	77.27	95
Latin Extension	100	95.04	49*
Legal Studies	86.35	41.86	95
Mathematics Advanced	88.33	50.1	99
Mathematics Extension 1	93.74	74.11	49* and 100
Mathematics Extension 2	100	86.48	98
Mathematics Standard 2	69.35	24.5	99
Modern History	94.73	37.59	96
Music 1	100	64.24	97
Music 2	100	88.19	99
Music Extension	100	95.27	50*
Personal Development, Health and Physical Education	69.55	30.64	93
Physics	100	40.42	97
Science Extension	100	71.96	46*
Society and Culture	100	45.38	91
Spanish Beginners	88.88	53.81	96
Studies of Religion 1U	100	41.78	40*
Studies of Religion 2U	54.54	46.08	97
Visual Arts	80	63.07	95

\* MARK OUT OF 50



# HSC highlights from previous years

ATAR	2020 % OF MERIDEN STUDENTS	2019 % OF MERIDEN STUDENTS	2018 % OF MERIDEN STUDENTS	2017 % OF MERIDEN STUDENTS	2016 % OF MERIDEN STUDENTS
95+	38%	35%	31%	24%	30%
90+	58%	53%	51%	51%	57%

## Over the past decade, Meriden students have received top placings in the state in the following subjects:

### 1st Place

- Biology
- Chinese in Context
- Community and Family Studies
- English EAL/D
- Heritage Chinese
- History Extension
- Japanese Beginners
- Music 2
- Senior Science
- Spanish Beginners

### 2nd Place

- Chinese Context
- Community and Family Studies
- English Extension 1
- Japanese Beginners
- Latin Continuers
- Latin Extension
- Mathematics
- Music Extension
- Science Extension
- Spanish Beginners

### 3rd Place

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Community and Family Studies
- English Extension 1
- History Extension
- Japanese Beginners
- Mathematics
- Modern History

### 4th Place

- Business Studies
- Chinese Continuers
- Chinese and Literature
- Community and Family Studies
- English EAL/D
- English Extension 1
- History Extension
- Latin Extension
- Mathematics Extension 2 and the top female student in this subject
- Mathematics Standard 2

- Modern History
- Music Extension

### 5th Place

- Chemistry
- Community and Family Studies
- Japanese Beginners
- Modern History
- Music 2
- Physics

### 6th Place

- Ancient History
- Biology
- Community and Family Studies
- English as a Second Language
- Food Technology
- Senior Science

### 7th Place

- Design and Technology
- Drama
- Food Technology
- Geography

- History Extension
- Visual Arts

### 8th Place

- History Extension
- Legal Studies
- Mathematics Extension 1
- PD/Health/PE

### 9th Place

- Biology
- Economics
- Engineering Studies
- History Extension
- Mathematics Advanced
- 2 Unit Mathematics
- Studies of Religion II

### 10th Place

- Food Technology
- Geography
- Mathematics Extension 2
- Modern History

## Tertiary study

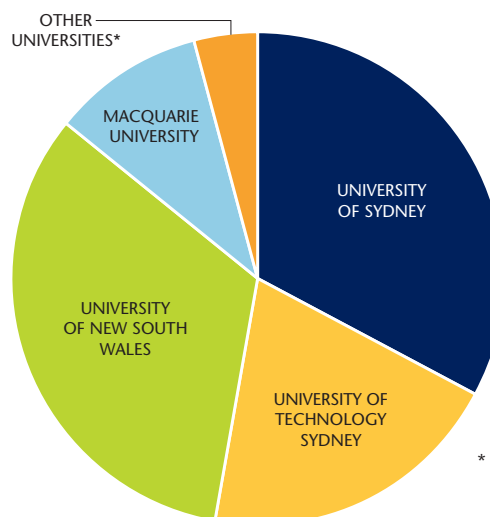
### Tertiary Courses

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

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

### University Offers

Preferred university destinations for Meriden's HSC students over recent years



\* Includes local, interstate and international universities

# Excellence abounds...

## Business Studies

Hope Pham, Year 11, was awarded second place in the New South Wales State Final of the 2021 Plan Your Own Enterprise (POYE) competition. The competition challenges students to devise a creative business idea and explain how it could be a profitable business in the form of a business plan.

Hope Pham



## Gifted and Talented

### Da Vinci Decathlon

The Da Vinci Decathlon is designed to extend students' higher order thinking skills, problem solving abilities and creativity.

The Year 7 team of Heidi Bartlett, Kaitlyn Blair, Diya Maninathan, Reshmi Ramana, Naomi Riaz, Vinudhi Silva, Keira Waked and Corrine Xu topped the Engineering category of the 2021 Decathlon, and placed sixth overall in their age group.



Vinudhi Silva, Keira Waked, Corrine Xu, Kaitlyn Blair, Naomi Riaz, Heidi Bartlett, Reshmi Ramana and Diya Maninathan

## Digital Technologies

Heidi Bartlett, Alina Lin and Diya Maninathan, Year 7, and Hannah Lui, Leah Har and Selina Wang, Year 8, achieved phenomenal results in the REACH Digital Technologies examination. The six students each achieved a mark of ninety-nine per cent in the examination which assesses skills and knowledge in the areas of word processing; spreadsheets and databases; internet and email use; graphics and multimedia; digital systems and computer software; and programming and scripting.

Hannah Lui, Heidi Bartlett, Alina Lin, Leah Har, Selina Wang and Diya Maninathan



### Tournament of Minds

Tournament of Minds is one of the school year's most rigorous intellectual and creative challenges.

After winning the Regional Final of the competition, the Meriden team of Heidi Bartlett, Chantelle Ma, Alicia Wang, Vanessa Wu, Emily Yang, Talia Yin and Christina Zhou went on to win Honours at the State Final in the Literature and Language section.

A second Meriden team, comprising Kaitlyn Blair, Elaine Huang, Sienna Kim, Connie Liu, Jacinda Tjiantoro, Cordelia Xie and Audrey Zou, were awarded Honours in the Social Sciences Challenge of the Regional Final.



Vanessa Wu, Alicia Wang, Emily Yang, Christina Zhou, Heidi Bartlett, Chantelle Ma and Talia Yin



## History

The Australian History Competition tests students' interpretation and source analysis skills and knowledge of history.

Katrina Ling, Year 8, achieved full marks in the competition and was named the joint New South Wales State Champion.

High Distinctions were awarded to: Year 8 students Jenna Aylett, Sabrina Cao, Ivy Chen, Jeannette Chen, Melody Chia, Olivia Choi, Laura Croxon, Katrina Ling, Ella Miller, Tarini Sathiakumar, Selina Wang, Youya Wei, Elena Whitfield, Ai-Yang Wu, Meredith Xu, Emily Yang, Sophie Yi and Samantha Zhou; and Year 10 students Sarah Abiassaf, Jasrin Bhatta, Amanda Chen, Mahek Jain, Paige Kalipcayan, Angeline Lau, Helen Liu, Adelaide Loane, Sissi Peng, Jacinta Rees, Sneha Shygale, Zoe Wang, Mikaela Wong, Vanessa Wu, Jasmine Ye, Nikki Yi, Gracelyn Yu, Kerrie Yu and Audrey Zou.



Katrina Ling

## Languages

The ACER Assessment of Language Competence test draws on students' sociocultural knowledge, cognitive skills and knowledge of the structure and purpose of language. To achieve a High Distinction in both the reading and listening sections of the test is the hallmark of an outstanding student.

The Year 8 students who achieved this honour in 2021 are: Jeannette Chen, Parneet Sandhu, Sophia Sidhom, Priyanka Thanigasalam and Emma Xu for French; Cindy Huang, Claire Li, Amy Liu, Connie Lu, Susana Sun, Vanessa Wang, Theresa Wu, Aimee Xue and Alina Yuan for Chinese; and Olivia Choi for Japanese.

The Year 9 students who achieved High Distinction in both the reading and listening sections are: Seeya Naik Panvelkar and Elsie Starling for French; Reiaura Ling, Jasmine Luo, Monica Luong, Sydney Tjonadi, Miranda Xu and Rachel Xie for Chinese.



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9



10

**1** Seeya Naik Panvelkar, Elsie Starling, Parneet Sandhu, Emma Xu and Jeannette Chen **2** Back row: Claire Li, Reiaura Ling, Miranda Xu, Monica Luong, Alina Yuan and Theresa Wu. Front row: Susana Sun, Sydney Tjonadi, Jasmine Luo and Rachel Xie **3** Sophia Sidhom **4** Priyanka Thanigasalam **5** Aimee Xue **6** Vanessa Wang **7** Connie Lu **8** Amy Liu **9** Cindy Huang **10** Olivia Choi

## Mathematics

### Maths Olympiad

Perfect scores in the Australasian Problem-Solving Mathematical Olympiads were achieved by Naomi Riaz, Year 7, and Jeannette Chen, Olivia Choi and Leah Har, Year 8. In addition, Angelin Chen, Year 7, and Melody Chia, Angel Long, Vanessa Wang, Victoria Wu, Emily Yang and Sophie Yi, Year 8, achieved scores in the top two per cent of all participants in the competition.

### Tournament of the Towns

Jacinta Rees, Year 10, won selection to participate in the internationally-renowned Tournament of the Towns. This

competition is designed for the highest-achieving Mathematics students from around the world and involves students sitting a rigorous five-hour examination. Participation in the competition is by invitation.

### Australian Mathematics Competition

In the Australian Mathematics Competition, High Distinctions were awarded to Angelin Chen, Amy Chen, Naomi Riaz and Christina Zhou in Year 7; Olivia Choi and Sophie Yi in Year 8; Crystal Fu Chen, Kylie Lin, Grace Shen and Emma Wen in Year 9; Jacinta Rees and Audrey Zou in Year 10; Skye Blair, Emily Chong and Shirley Wang in Year 11.

## Music

### Australian Music Board Examinations

The Associate in Music, Australia (AMuSA) is awarded by examination to outstanding candidates in the fields of musical performance and music theory by the Australian Music Examinations Board. The following musicians were awarded an AMuSA in 2021: Nerissa Du, Year 7 – viola; Erin Du, Year 9 – piano; Livia Lin, Year 12 – piano; Connie Liu, Year 7 – violin; Catherine Shin, Year 12 – cello; and Sharon Zhao, Year 7 – violin.

### National Violin Competition

The Kendall National Violin Competition has been won by some of Australia's foremost professional violinists and, this year, first prize was awarded to Teresa Yang, Year 9.

Teresa also placed equal second in the Melbourne Recital Centre's Bach Competition. Teresa was selected to attend the finals from a large pool of talented applicants from across the country.

### Australian Chamber Orchestra Academy

Heather Kim, Year 11, Teresa Yang, Year 9, and Sharon Zhao, Year 7, won selection to participate in the Australian Chamber Orchestra Academy. The girls were members of a group of just thirty high school string players from across Australia to be selected for this coveted program.

### Sydney Eisteddfod

Meriden ensembles were awarded seven top-three placings in the Sydney Eisteddfod. The Year 2 Choir was awarded first place in its section; Symphony Orchestra, Fidelis Piano Trio and Years 3 and 4 Choir placed second in their sections; and Percussion Ensemble, Chamber Strings and Senior Singers placed third in their sections.

Meriden's musicians were also awarded top-three placings in several solo instrumental sections of the Sydney Eisteddfod.



**1** Sharon Zhao, Connie Liu, Livia Lin, Catherine Shin, Nerissa Du and Erin Du  
**2** Heather Kim  
**3** Teresa Yang  
**4** Sharon Zhao



## Research and Critical Thinking

### Philosothon

The NSW Philosothon involves students being presented with stimulus material from which they must propose a philosophical question and then discuss with their peers in Community-of-Inquiry discussions. Students are judged on the quality of their contributions, their ability to actively listen to others and build an argument, and their ability to agree and disagree in a respectful manner.

The Meriden team of Vernica Mehta, Year 12, Sophie Massey, Year 11, Sneha Shygale and Isabella Yaw, Year 10, Anjali Kailasanathan and Erika Lee, Year 9, Jenna Aylett, Year 8, and Naomi Riaz and Keira Taganesia, Year 7, placed third overall in the competition.

The team was one of three NSW teams that qualified to compete in the Australasian Philosothon. They placed fifth overall in the competition, achieving fourth place in both Critical and Collaborative Thinking.

### Philosophy in Schools Essay Competition

Sneha Shygale, Year 10, was awarded first place in the Philosophy in Schools Essay Competition. Her achievement marks the third consecutive year Meriden girls have earned top-three placings in this rigorous academic challenge. The competition asks students to consider a philosophical issue in great depth and conduct their own independent research to construct their written argument.

### Gold Parnassus Awards

Meriden students who have demonstrated deep learning through an original and evaluative critical analysis, report, creative work or invention that is based on extensive research are eligible for a Parnassus Award.

A Gold Parnassus Award is given to a student whose work displays outstanding rigour and merit, in both the finished product and the research process behind it. The quality of the work exceeds normal expectations for outstanding work at the student's present level of enrolment. The recipients of Gold Parnassus Awards in 2021 were Esther Yum, Year 9, and Cheng Cheng, Adele Dang, Joanna Li, Jennifer Pilarinos, Rebecca Starling and Juna Suh, Year 11.



- 1** Keira Taganesia, Jenna Aylett, Sneha Shygale, Isabella Yaw, Naomi Riaz and Anjali Kailasanathan
- 2** Cheng Cheng, Juna Suh, Esther Yum, Adele Dang, Joanna Li and Rebecca Starling
- 3** Vernica Mehta
- 4** Sophie Massey
- 5** Erika Lee
- 6** Jennifer Pilarinos



## Science

### University of Wollongong Community PPE Mask Challenge

Members of Meriden's Science Clubs excelled in the University of Wollongong Community PPE Mask Challenge. Christine McKenzie, Mei Ling Chung, Jessica Tan and Gina Wang, Year 10, won first prize in their category for their investigation into face mask construction. Jessica Trinh, Sophie Lin and Nicole Jiang, Year 12, also took out first prize in their category.

### Australian Stockholm Junior Water Prize

Annabelle Strachan, Year 11, was awarded the Australian Stockholm Junior Water Prize for her research into a natural alternative to aluminium sulfate to reduce turbidity in our waterways. Annabelle went on to compete in the prestigious Stockholm Junior Water Prize.

### Australian Science Olympiads

The Australian Science Olympiads national program is for top performing Science students and culminates in the International Science Olympiads.

Meriden girls demonstrated that they are highly engaged in a range of scientific disciplines with a record number of students taking part in the Biology, Chemistry and Physics exams in 2021.

High Distinctions were awarded to Shirley Wang, Year 11, in Chemistry, Physics and Earth Environmental Sciences; Eunice Thi, Year 11, in Biology and Earth and Environmental Sciences; Trisha Chari, Year 11, in Physics; Sandra He, Year 11, in Biology; and Jacinta Rees, Year 10, in Earth and Environmental Sciences.

In the Junior Science Olympiads High Distinctions were awarded to Rita Yeung, Year 9, and Sunny Lee, Jacinta Rees and Sophia Yang, Year 10.

### Science Olympiad Schools

Sandra He, Jacinta Rees, Eunice Thi and Shirley Wang were acknowledged as four of the country's top performing Science students with their selection to attend the Australian Science Olympiad Summer School. The event is an enrichment program for students who perform at the top of their national cohorts in the Australian Science Olympiad examinations. The work schedule covers the equivalent of first-year university studies in Biology, Chemistry, Earth and Environmental Sciences or Physics.



1 Christine McKenzie, Gina Wang, Jessica Tan and Mei Ling Chung  
2 Annabelle Strachan



### International Junior Science Olympiad

Jacinta Rees brought home the silver medal after representing her country in the UNESCO-sanctioned International Junior Science Olympiad.

To gain selection to the team, Jacinta outperformed thousands of other competitors in the initial qualifying examination and was invited as one of twenty-four science enthusiasts to attend a specialist week-long program during which she studied Biology, Chemistry and Physics up to an advanced Year 12 level. Her exceptional performance in the program secured her a spot on the inaugural Australian team.

### ICAS Science Awards

The ICAS Science competition tests students' scientific skills where they are required to identify patterns and relationships in data, interpret and draw from a range of data and analyse and evaluate data from secondary sources. The achievement of High Distinction in this competition places the student in the top one per cent of the state. High Distinctions were achieved by Clara Yam and Naomi Riaz, Year 7, Rita Yeung, Year 9, and Jacinta Rees, Year 10. Jacinta received the top score in her age group and was presented with the ICAS Science Medal.

### CREST Awards

The CSIRO's Creativity in Science and Technology (CREST) Awards are a nationally-accredited awards program which aims to support students to extend their skills in scientific inquiry through the development of individual projects.

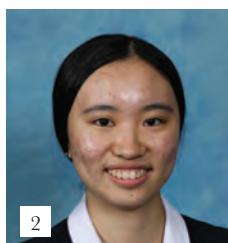
Year 10 student, Mahek Jain, was awarded a Gold CREST Award. This is a significant achievement involving over one hundred hours' work, substantial background research and creativity in both design of an experiment and in its real-world application.

### Big Science Competition

The Big Science Competition assesses students' critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

Thirty-nine students achieved High Distinctions in the competition, placing them in the top five per cent of students in NSW who sat the exam.

High Distinctions were awarded to: Loveisha Bal, Heidi Bartlett, Amy Chen, Mia Gu, Sofianna Han, Chloe He, You You Hong, Sienna Howard, Alina Lin, Jazara Navaratnam, Sunae Park, Misha Sengupta, Hannah Xiao, Corrine Xu and Jolin Zhang, Year 7; Jenna Aylett, Emily Chen, Jeannette Chen, Melody Chia, Leah Har, Anjana Kailasanathan, Alexandra Katanasho, Katrina Ling, Tarini Sathiakumar and Selina Wang, Year 8; Alannah Alam, Zara Chan, Ella Coady, Anjali Kailasanathan, Eleanor Kenyon, Zoe Leeson, Danielle Lynch, Abisha Thevarajah, Alicia Wang, Rachel Xie and Teresa Yang, Year 9; Sunny Lee, Ada Rand and Jacinta Rees, Year 10.



1 Sandra He 2 Eunice Thi 3 Shirley Wang 4 Jacinta Rees 5 Mahek Jain

## Speech

### Festival of Speech

The 2021 Festival of Speech is a celebration of communication skills and girls using their voices to speak up on issues they are passionate about.

The Drama team of Edie Arkell, Zara Chami, Milania Di Maria, Anneke Dykgraaff and Sienna Kang, Year 10, placed fifth in their section.

The Junior Debating team comprising Olivia Lee, Cheelyn Wang, Emma Xu and Maggie Zhang, Year 8, reached the Quarter Finals in the competition.

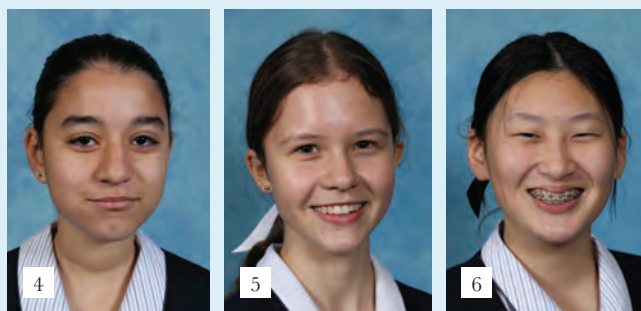
In the Religious and Ethical Questions section, team members Bianca Hales and Esther Michail, Year 11, and Jasmine Ye, Year 10, placed fourth overall

In the individual sections, Meriden students qualified for the Finals in four categories: Isabella Morkos, Year 8, in Junior Public Speaking; Lael Sakalauskas, Year 10, in Senior Poetry; Sneha Shyngle, Year 10, in Senior Readings; and Angelina Ji, Year 8, in Junior Readings.

Meriden placed eighth overall in the Festival in a field of twenty-eight schools.

### Plain English Speaking Award

Year 10 student Jasmine Ye's compelling speeches in the Local Final of the Plain English Speaking Award won her selection to compete in the Regional Final. The competition, which encourages the use of clear and effective spoken English, requires participants to present a prepared speech as well as a three-minute impromptu speech on a specified topic.



1 Milania Di Maria, Edie Arkell, Sienna Kang, Anneke Dykgraaff and Zara Chami  
2 Jasmine Ye, Bianca Hales and Esther Michail  
3 Cheelyn Wang, Olivia Lee, Maggie Zhang and Emma Xu  
4 Isabella Morkos 5 Lael Sakalauskas 6 Angelina Ji



### Chinese Debating Championship

The Meriden team of Arianna Li, Elsa Lyu, Meiyong Tian and Audrey Zou, Year 10, was named the winner of the NSW Schools Chinese Debating Championship. Arianna Li was named the most outstanding debater in the finals event.

Organised by the NSW Chinese Debating Association, the championship encourages fluency in Chinese language skills through intensive reading, writing, speaking and listening in a competitive setting.

### Archdale Debating

Meriden's Year 7B Debating team was named the Runner-up in its section in the 2021 Archdale Debating competition. This competition is challenging and team members Michelle Lu, Ila Bains, Vienna Korkos and Kaitlyn Blair proved themselves to be skilled debaters on a range of issues.

Meriden's Year 8B team advanced through to the Quarter Finals of this rigorous competition.



1 Arianna Li, Meiyong Tian, Elsa Lyu and Audrey Zou  
2 Michelle Lu, Ila Bains, Vienna Korkis and Kaitlyn Blair

### Social Sciences

Eighteen students earned High Distinctions in the Australian Geography Competition competition: Poppy Benn and Katherine Layson, Year 12; Bianca Hales, Madeleine Low, Annabelle Strachan and Shirley Wang, Year 11; and Grace Allen, Edie Arkell, Lareina Ji, Adelaide Loane, Jemima Loane, Harini Luckshman, Ada Rand, Jacinta Rees, Zoe Wang, Jasmine Ye, Kerrie Yu and Annela Yuan, Year 10.

Jacinta Rees achieved ninety-nine per cent in the competition, placing her in the top one per cent of students in Australia who entered the competition.

# NAPLAN 2021

## Year 3 Results

Table 1: Percentage of Meriden students in Year 3 in the top band compared to the state.

	READING	WRITING	SPELLING	GRAMMAR AND PUNCTUATION	NUMERACY
Band 6 State	36	25	32	35	19
<b>Band 6 Meriden</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>49</b>

## Year 5 Results

Table 2: Percentage of Meriden students in Year 5 in the top band compared to the state.

	READING	WRITING	SPELLING	GRAMMAR AND PUNCTUATION	NUMERACY
Band 8 State	19	9	18	18	13
<b>Band 8 Meriden</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>29</b>

## Year 7 Results

Table 3: Percentage of Meriden students in Year 7 in the top band compared to the state.

	READING	WRITING	SPELLING	GRAMMAR AND PUNCTUATION	NUMERACY
Band 9 State	11	7	13	14	18
<b>Band 9 Meriden</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>54</b>

## Year 9 Results

Table 4: Percentage of Meriden students in Year 9 in the top band compared to the state.

	READING	WRITING	SPELLING	GRAMMAR AND PUNCTUATION	NUMERACY
Band 10 State	7	5	7	9	11
<b>Band 10 Meriden</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>44</b>





Meriden girls  
make their *marks.*



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