

Tournament of Minds: Girls receive first place in Regional Final

This year marks the fourth consecutive season of success for Meriden's Senior School Tournament of Minds (ToM) teams. The School has fielded a winning team every year since 2019. In light of COVID-19 restrictions in 2020 and 2021, students filmed a video instead of presenting their solutions before a panel of judges. This year, the girls embraced the return to the face-to-face competition with gusto. In the Sydney West Regional Final, four teams choose to complete the Language and Literature Challenge and another team completed the STEM Challenge.

Congratulations to the STEM team, who did an amazing job engineering a moving platform for the display of a gold nugget (fake, of course) that they had to make precisely the weight of 300 grams. The platform also needed to be programmed to move at two different speeds. The team delivered a slick presentation that included all required elements of the challenge. They were awarded first place in the Regional Final and progressed to the NSW Branch Final, which was held at UNSW on 11 September.

For the Branch Final, the STEM team created a collapsible umbrella device to protect a piece of cutting-edge technology from falling debris in a speculative set of circumstances. While the girls were defeated by worthy winners, their physical model and performance skills were highly commended by judges.

The Language and Literature teams were also commended for their teamwork in advocating for antagonists or villains in classic literature who are given an opportunity to share their version of the story.

Misconceptions of villains from Medusa in classic myth to Lady Macbeth in Shakespeare and Moriarty in Doyle's *Sherlock Holmes* anthology were cleverly teased out in students' performances, demonstrating creative engagement with a range of quality literature and popular texts.

Mr Brodyk's support in the Foundry and Ms Houghton's assistance in supervising the girls' Friday afternoon practice sessions were invaluable to the School's success this year. As we close another season of ToM, I thank students and staff for their dedicated efforts.

Dr Phoebe Poon

Coordinator of Learning Link – Gifted and Talented



Ashley Shu, Keira Taganesia, Rita Yeung, Heidi Bartlett, Elaine Huang, Sydney Nguyen and Cindy Shen

2022 Tournament of Minds Teams

The AU-some DinosOREs (STEM)	Grim Reaper-cussions (Language-Literature)	The Underdogs (Language-Literature)
Heidi Bartlett (8)	Ellie Dong (9)	Abigail Chan (8)
Elaine Huang (10)	Eva Gao (7)	Tina Dong (7)
Sydney Nguyen (9)	Anjali Popuri (8)	Anjali Kailasanathan (10) – Captain
Cindy Shen (7)	Cassandra Seeto (10) – Captain	Reiaura Ling (10) – Captain

Grace Shen (9)	Alicia Wang (10) – Captain	Arshia Nanda (9)
Ashley Shu (7)	Maggie Zhang (9)	Anusha Viswanathan (7)
Keira Taganesia (7)	Chloe Zhou (7)	Cordelia Xie (9)

The Antagoteddies (Language-Literature)	The Upheaval of Evil (Language-Literature)
Zara Chan (10) – Captain	Rudia Chung (9)
Olivia Lee (9) – Captain	Kitty Gai (7)
Emily Seto (7)	Annie Li (7)
Keira Waked (8)	Alina Lin (8)
Isabella Wong (9)	Chantelle Ma (9) – Captain
Corrine Xu (8)	Emily Yang (9) – Captain
Jasmine Yang (7)	Lena Zhu (9)