



**MERIDEN**  
AN ANGLICAN SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

# Academic Highlights 2022



Class of 2022

## HSC Highlights for Meriden Students

**14 top-10 placings, including 1st in state in 6 courses**

3 students awarded **highest possible ATAR** (99.95)

**52% of students** received an ATAR of 90 or more

22 students named as **All-Round Achievers**

**Mark of 100%** achieved in 3 courses

**360 Distinguished Achievers** (Band 6 results)

**ENCORE, Shape and OnSTAGE** nominations and selections

**Meriden ranked 17th** in the 2022 HSC Schools Ranking\*

\* Sydney Morning Herald 15.12.2022

## 2022

Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank

ATAR	% OF MERIDEN STUDENTS
99+	12%
95+	31%
90+	52%
85+	65%

Median ATAR 90.5



# HSC highlights cont...

Meriden's HSC Results Celebration



## All-Round Achievers

All-Round Achievers are those students who have achieved results in the highest band possible in at least ten units of HSC courses. Twenty-two Meriden students were named on the 2022 All-Round Achievers List.

Skye Blair	Annie Le
Trisha Chari	Anna Lucas
Cheng Cheng	Fiona Luo
Stephanie Cui	Jacinta Shihata
Eduarda Da Costa	Rebecca Starling
Adele Dang	Annabelle Strachan
Emma Feng	Juna Suh
Bianca Hales	Tina Tang
Sandra He	Eunice Thi
Rachel Hui	Shirley Wang
Lilian Jenkins	
Chloe Lay	

## Top Achievers in a Course

NAME	COURSE	POSITION IN THE STATE
Lilian Jenkins	Food Technology	Equal 1st
Jacinta Shihata	Spanish Beginners	1st
Eunice Thi	Music 2	Equal 1st
Eunice Thi	Music Extension	1st
Shirley Wang	Science Extension	1st
Maggie Yu	Japanese Beginners	1st
Bonnie Pan	Japanese Beginners	2nd
Amelia Schreuder	Spanish Beginners	2nd
Abbey Wong	Japanese Beginners	3rd
Sunny Qin	Chinese in Context	4th
Annabelle Strachan	Science Extension	5th
Ariana Tong	Hospitality Examination (Kitchen Operations and Cookery)	5th
Elicia Katanasho	Community and Family Studies	9th
Fiona Luo	English EAL/D	10th

## Top ATAR

Dr Julie Greenhalgh, Principal, and Mrs Christine Kenny, Head of Teaching and Learning, with Shirley Wang, Eunice Thi and Adele Dang who achieved the highest possible ATAR of 99.95



## Excellence in Languages

Meriden's Languages students achieved outstanding results across all courses with six students achieving top-four placings in the state. Jacinta Shihata placed first in Spanish Beginners, Maggie Yu placed first in Japanese Beginners, Bonnie Pan placed second in Japanese Beginners, Amelia Schreuder placed second in Spanish Beginners, Abbey Wong placed third in Japanese Beginners and Sunny Qin placed fourth in Chinese in Context.

One hundred per cent of Chinese Continuers and Chinese in Context students achieved a Band 6 and seventy-five per cent of Chinese and Literature students also received results in the top band.

Students of French Continuers performed strongly, with seventy-one per cent obtaining a Band 6.

In Latin Extension, Adele Dang received a mark of 49 out of 50 and the entire Latin Continuers cohort placed in the top two bands.



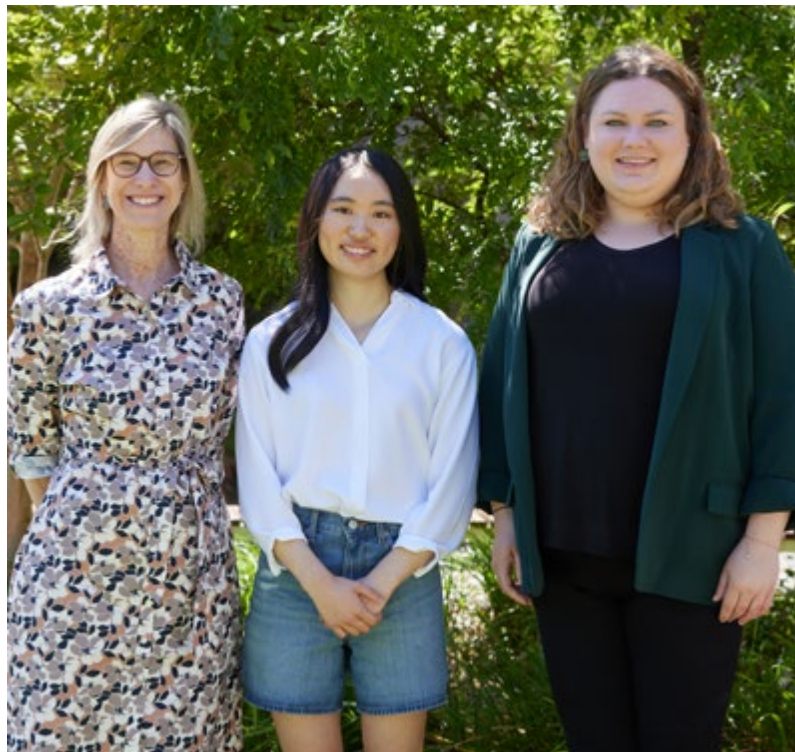
HSC Languages students with Mr Ken Caoyang Lu, Chinese teacher

### Excellence in Music

Meriden's Music students continued the School's tradition of exceptional performance in HSC Music courses. This year saw the School's largest cohorts to-date for Music 2, comprising sixteen students, and Music Extension, comprising thirteen students.

Pianist, Eunice Thi, led the way by placing first in NSW in both the Music 2 and Music Extension courses and receiving full marks in both subjects. Georgia Alexakis, Heather Kim, Fiona Luo and Chaewon Park were also awarded full marks for Music Extension. The Music 2 cohort received an outstanding eleven Band 6 results and Music 1 students gained exceptional results with seven students placing in the high range of Band 6.

The varied repertoire of Meriden's musicians resonated with the HSC examiners resulting in a remarkable seven nominations for inclusion in the annual ENCORE concert, a showcase of the most outstanding HSC Music performances and compositions from across the state. Nominations were received by Georgia Alexakis, Melanie Cheung, Kirsten Chu, Heather Kim, Fiona Luo, Chaewon Park and Eunice Thi.



Eunice Thi with Director of Music (P-12), Ms Jodie Spooner-Ryan, and Assistant Head of Music, Ms Bridget Hann



Annabelle Strachan, Eduarda Da Costa, Chloe Lay and Cheng Cheng with Head of English, Mr Tim Archer

### Excellence in English

In English Extension 2, 100 per cent of Meriden students achieved a result in the top band. English Extension 1 students also performed well with 100 per cent achieving in the top two bands.

Fiona Luo placed tenth in NSW in English EAL/D.



Elicia Katanasho with Head of Applied Science, Mrs Rikki McMillan

### Excellence in Applied Science

Elicia Katanasho placed ninth in the state in Community and Family Studies. This outstanding result was reflected in the performance of her cohort with ninety-seven per cent of students awarded marks in the top two bands. In the Society and Culture course, 100 per cent of students placed in the top two bands.



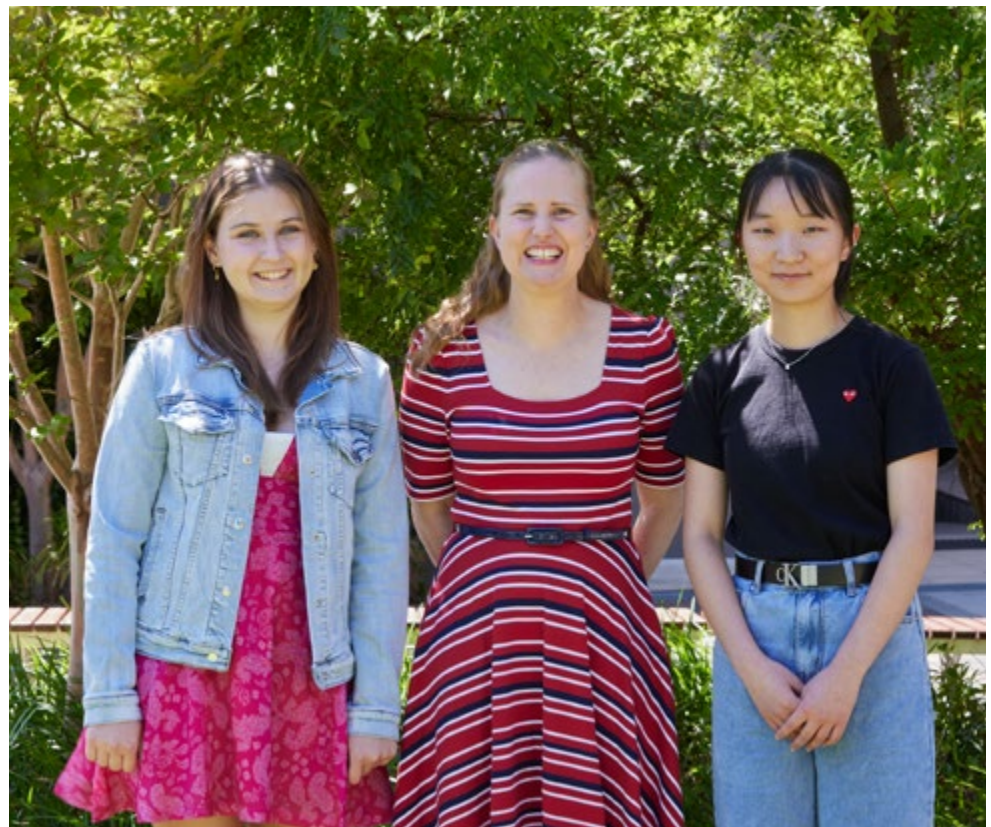
HSC Maths students celebrate their results with Head of Mathematics, Miss Svetlana Onisczenko

### Excellence in Mathematics

Meriden students gained excellent results in Mathematics, particularly the challenging Mathematics Extension 2 course in which 100 per cent of students placed in the top two bands.

### Excellence in Science

Shirley Wang and Annabelle Strachan shone in the Science Extension course with Shirley placing first in NSW and Annabelle placing fifth.



Annabelle Strachan and Shirley Wang with Science teacher, Dr Jocelyn Laurence



HSC Drama students with Head of Student Wellbeing and Drama teacher, Mrs Jessica Chilton

### Excellence in Drama

Emma Holland’s Major Work was selected to appear at the HSC Drama Showcase, OnSTAGE. Emma undertook a promotion and program design for *Antigone*, an Athenian tragedy. Her work examined the universal experiences depicted in the Greek classic with a contemporary perspective.

Eloise Colgan’s Major Work, which was costume designs for Deborah Oswald’s play, *Stories in the Dark*, received a nomination for OnSTAGE. Eloise’s designs drew inspiration from traditional Ukrainian folk embroidery designs that symbolised key themes of hope, love, family and faith.



HSC Social Science students with Mrs Sharna Kershaw, Social Science teacher

### Excellence in Social Science

Rachel Hui topped her Business Studies cohort with an impressive mark of 97. Bianca Hales, Jennifer Pilarinos and Esther Michail all achieved marks of 95 in Geography, while Adele Dang and Stephanie Cui both scored 96 in Economics.



Michaela Vavladellis, Emma Wayling and Rebecca Starling with Head of History, Mrs Cheryl O’Loan

### Excellence in History

Meriden’s History Extension students excelled in the subject with the entire cohort achieving the top band.

### Excellence in academic and sporting performance

After successfully completing their HSC, three of Meriden’s star tennis players will take up their tertiary studies at American universities, enabling them to continue to pursue their tennis careers in the highly-competitive world of collegiate sport.

Piper Freeman has secured a place at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. Indiya McLeod will be attending the University of the Pacific in Stockton, and Sarah Mazaraki has secured a place at Midwestern State University in Texas.

Piper Freeman, Indiya McLeod and Sarah Mazaraki have accepted offers from US universities



### Excellence in Digital and Creative Arts

In Food Technology, Lillian Jenkins was awarded equal first in NSW and in Hospitality, Ariana Tong placed fifth in NSW. In the Design and Technology course, ninety-four per cent of students achieved results in the top two bands.

Shape is an annual exhibition of exemplary Major Works developed by HSC Design and Technology students. Three Meriden students were nominated for inclusion in Shape 2022: Cheng Cheng, Molly Flanagan and Bonnie Pan.

Molly produced a flat-pack tree house to help protect brushtail possums, a native Australian species. Bonnie created a stop-motion animation for younger children that explores the risks of social media and phone usage, while Cheng redesigned Meriden’s Design and Creative Arts Building to suit its contemporary teaching needs.



1



2

1 Lillian Jenkins who placed first in the state in Food Technology, with Head of DaCA, Mr Ian Randall  
 2 DaCA students, Maisie Buckle, Lillian Havansky, Lara Kim and Alyssa Herro with Ms Sascha Bass, Dean of Academic Care

# Some of Meriden's high flyers...



**Adele Dang**

ATAR 99.95  
*HSC All-Round Achiever*  
 Dux of the School  
 Head Prefect 2022  
 At Meriden since Year 6

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



**Eunice Thi**

ATAR 99.95  
*HSC All-Round Achiever*  
 1st in state in Music 2  
 1st in state in Music Extension  
 At Meriden since Year 7

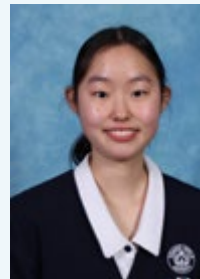
**SUBJECTS STUDIED**  
 English Advanced  
 English Extension 1  
 Mathematics Advanced  
 Mathematics Extension 1  
 Music 2  
 Music Extension



**Shirley Wang**

ATAR 99.95  
*HSC All-Round Achiever*  
 1st in state in Science Extension  
 At Meriden since Year 7

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



**Stephanie Cui**

ATAR 99.90  
*HSC All-Round Achiever*  
 At Meriden since Year 7

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



**Sandra He**

ATAR 99.80  
*HSC All-Round Achiever*  
 At Meriden since Year 7

**SUBJECTS STUDIED**  
 Chemistry  
 English Advanced  
 Mathematics Extension 1  
 Mathematics Extension 2  
 Latin Continuers



**Juna Suh**

ATAR 99.80  
*HSC All-Round Achiever*  
 Prefect 2022  
 At Meriden since Year 7

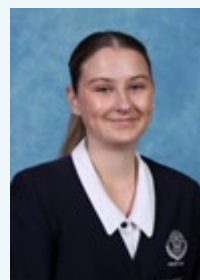
**SUBJECTS STUDIED**  
 Biology  
 Chemistry  
 English Advanced  
 Mathematics Extension 1  
 Mathematics Extension 2  
 Latin Continuers



**Emma Feng**

ATAR 99.70  
*HSC All-Round Achiever*  
 At Meriden since Year 7

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



**Annabelle Strachan**

ATAR 99.70  
*HSC All-Round Achiever*  
 5th in state in Science Extension  
 Prefect 2022  
 At Meriden since Year 9

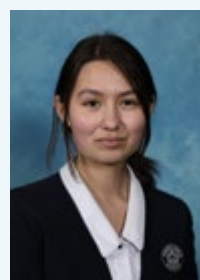
**SUBJECTS STUDIED**  
 Biology  
 Chemistry  
 English Advanced  
 English Extension 1  
 Geography  
 Mathematics Advanced  
 Science Extension



**Trisha Chari**

ATAR 99.65  
*HSC All-Round Achiever*  
 At Meriden since Year 7

**SUBJECTS STUDIED**  
 Engineering Studies  
 English Advanced  
 French Continuers  
 Mathematics Advanced  
 Mathematics Extension 1  
 Physics



**Skye Blair**

ATAR 99.60  
*HSC All-Round Achiever*  
 At Meriden since Year 7

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

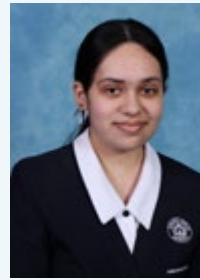




**Rachel Hui**

ATAR 99.60  
*HSC All-Round Achiever*  
 At Meriden since  
 Pre-Kindergarten

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



**Jacinta Shihata**

ATAR 99.55  
*HSC All-Round Achiever*  
 1st in state in Spanish  
 Beginners  
 At Meriden since Year 10

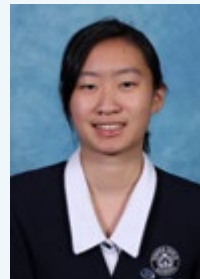
**SUBJECTS STUDIED**  
 Chemistry  
 English Advanced  
 Mathematics Extension 1  
 Mathematics Extension 2  
 Spanish Beginners



**Joanna Li**

ATAR 99.45  
 Prefect 2022  
 At Meriden since Year 7

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



**Sunny Qin**

ATAR 99.30  
 4th in state in Chinese in  
 Context  
 At Meriden since Year 7

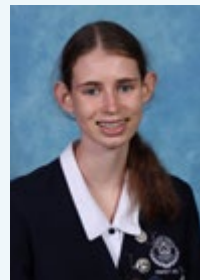
**SUBJECTS STUDIED**  
 Chemistry  
 Chinese in Context  
 English Advanced  
 Mathematics Advanced  
 Mathematics Extension 1  
 Physics



**Chloe Lay**

ATAR 99.25  
*HSC All-Round Achiever*  
 At Meriden since  
 Pre-Kindergarten

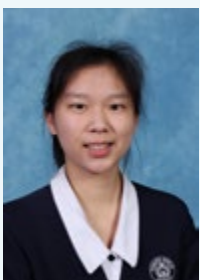
**SUBJECTS STUDIED**  
 Biology  
 English Advanced  
 English Extension 1  
 English Extension 2  
 Mathematics Advanced  
 Mathematics Extension 1



**Anna Lucas**

ATAR 99.25  
*HSC All-Round Achiever*  
 Prefect 2022  
 At Meriden since Year 7

**SUBJECTS STUDIED**  
 Biology  
 Economics  
 English Advanced  
 Legal Studies  
 Mathematics Advanced  
 Modern History



**Sarah Xie**

ATAR 99.20  
 At Meriden since Year 10

**SUBJECTS STUDIED**  
 Chemistry  
 Chinese and Literature  
 English EAL/D  
 Mathematics Extension 1  
 Mathematics Extension 2



**Sarah Feng**

ATAR 99.10  
 At Meriden since Year 10

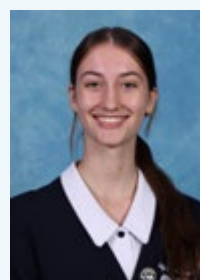
**SUBJECTS STUDIED**  
 Chemistry  
 English Advanced  
 Mathematics Extension 1  
 Mathematics Extension 2  
 Physics



**Elaine Zhang**

ATAR 99.05  
 At Meriden since Year 7

**SUBJECTS STUDIED**  
 Chemistry  
 Economics  
 English Advanced  
 Mathematics Extension 1  
 Mathematics Extension 2



**Bianca Hales**

ATAR 99.00  
*HSC All-Round Achiever*  
 Prefect 2022  
 At Meriden since Year 7

**SUBJECTS STUDIED**  
 Biology  
 Design and Technology  
 English Advanced  
 English Extension 1  
 French Continuers  
 French Extension  
 Geography

# 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 2022, 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	COURSE	% IN BANDS 5 & 6 AT MERIDEN	% IN BANDS 5 & 6 IN STATE	MERIDEN'S TOP MARKS IN EACH COURSE
Ancient History	87.50	33.35	94	History Extension	100	25.34	48*
Biology	67.79	26.65	95	Hospitality	100	39.88	96
Business Studies	76.18	34.50	97	Japanese Beginners	70.00	31.66	97
Chemistry	62.05	33.03	96	Latin Continuers	100	74.46	97
Chinese and Literature	100	70.44	93	Latin Extension	100	78.31	49*
Chinese Continuers	100	75.35	95	Legal Studies	76.46	40.55	96
Chinese in Context	100	88.80	97	Mathematics Advanced	79.47	48.88	99
Chinese Extension	100	59.01	46*	Mathematics Extension 1	58.18	34.67	97
Community and Family Studies	96.87	32.31	98	Mathematics Extension 2	63.63	39.51	96
Design and Technology	94.21	47.02	95	Mathematics Standard 2	70.36	28.82	98
Drama	92.30	58.44	96	Modern History	85.71	34.17	94
Economics	68.75	49.23	96	Music 1	100	69.06	97
Engineering Studies	50.00	29.82	94	Music 2	100	86.10	100
English Advanced	81.93	67.09	97	Music Extension	90.90	76.20	50*
English Extension 1	58.33	39.51	48*	Personal Development, Health and Physical Education	58.82	25.81	94
English Extension 2	100	29.42	49*	Physics	70.00	41.30	97
English EALD	54.54	18.57	94	Science Extension	100	8.2	50*
English Standard	50.00	15.36	84	Society and Culture	100	43.37	93
Food Technology	92.85	29.52	98	Spanish Beginners	58.33	50.2	99
French Continuers	85.70	57.78	97	Visual Arts	100	65.62	91
Geography	85.00	41.94	95				

\* MARK OUT OF 50

# HSC highlights from previous years

ATAR	2021 % OF MERIDEN STUDENTS	2020 % OF MERIDEN STUDENTS	2019 % OF MERIDEN STUDENTS	2018 % OF MERIDEN STUDENTS	2017 % OF MERIDEN STUDENTS
95+	36%	38%	35%	31%	24%
90+	56%	58%	53%	51%	51%

## 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
- Food Technology
- Heritage Chinese
- History Extension
- Hospitality
- Japanese Beginners
- Music 2
- Music Extension
- Senior Science
- Science Extension
- 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
- Chinese in Context
- 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
- Hospitality
- Japanese Beginners
- Modern History
- Music 2
- Physics
- Science Extension

### 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
- Community and Family Studies
- Economics
- Engineering Studies
- History Extension
- Mathematics Advanced
- 2 Unit Mathematics
- Studies of Religion II

### 10th Place

- English EAL/D
- Food Technology
- Geography
- Mathematics Extension 2
- Modern History

## Tertiary study

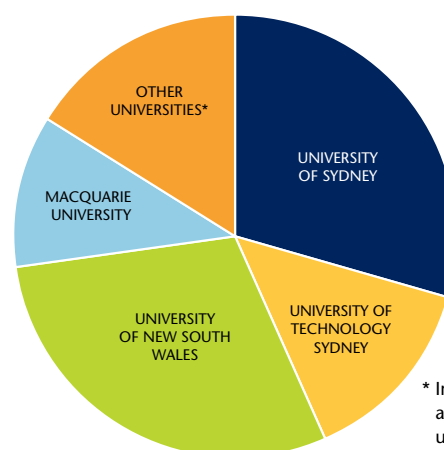
### Tertiary Courses

The most popular tertiary courses chosen by Meriden students over recent years (in alphabetical order)

- |   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| – Architecture  | – Law, International Studies |
| – Arts, Communications, Media                               | – Liberal Studies            |
| – Commerce, Business, Finance                               | – Medicine                   |
| – Design, Architecture                                      | – Midwifery, Nursing         |
| – Economics, Accounting                                     | – Music, Performing Arts     |
| – Education   | – Science, Psychology        |
| – Engineering – biomedical, civil and mechanical            | – Speech Pathology           |
| – Human Movement, Exercise Science, Nutrition and Dietetics | – Sport Science              |
|   | – Visual Arts and Fine Arts  |

### University Offers

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



\* Includes local, interstate and international universities

# Excellence abounds...

## 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 11 team of Helen Liu, Jacinta Rees, Linda Wang, Vanessa Wu, Sophia Yang, Jasmine Ye, Talia Yin and Audrey Zou came second in the Engineering category of the 2022 Decathlon and placed fourth overall in their age group.

- 1 Sophia Yang, Linda Wang, Jasmine Ye, Helen Liu, Talia Yin, Jacinta Rees, Audrey Zou and Vanessa Wu
- 2 Ashley Shu, Keira Taganesia, Rita Yeung, Heidi Bartlett, Elaine Huang, Sydney Nguyen and Cindy Shen



### Tournament of Minds

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

The Meriden team of Heidi Bartlett, Elaine Huang, Sydney Nguyen, Cindy Shen, Ashley Shu, Keira Taganesia and Rita Yeung were awarded first place in the Regional Final of the competition in the STEM category.

This year marks the fourth consecutive year of success for Meriden in the Tournament of Minds.



## History

### Australian History Competition

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

High Distinctions were awarded to: Ila Bains, Nerissa Du, Elissa Freney, Mia Gu, Sofianna Han, Alina Lin, Connie Liu, Michelle Lu, Sunae Park, Mia Pertsinidis, Keira Taganesia, Kristy Thapa, Ava Watson, Jean Xu and Clara Yam, Year 8; Zara Chan, Vasiliki Cominos, Imogen Jones, Eleanor Kenyon, Cassandra Seeto, Elisabeth Starling and Rita Yeung, Year 10.

### National History Challenge

Anjali Popuri was named the Year 8 New South Wales State Winner of the 2022 National History Challenge. The competition required participants to explore various topics in history and undertake deep research as part of a historical inquiry. Students were asked to use critical thinking skills and evaluate the usefulness of three sources utilised in their research.



Back Row: Keira Taganesia, Alina Lin, Elissa Freney, Kristy Thapa, Connie Liu, Sunae Park and Jean Xu. Front Row: Nerissa Du, Michelle Lu, Ava Watson, Mia Pertsinidis, Sofianna Han, Ila Bains and Mia Gu

## English

### ICAS English Awards

Yiru Li, Year 7, was presented with a University of NSW Medal for her achievement in the ICAS English examination. These prestigious Medals are awarded to students who receive the top score in their age group globally.

ICAS English is conducted in over twenty countries around the world and tests students' reading and language skills in a range of contexts.

Seventeen Meriden students received High Distinctions in ICAS English: Katherine Fanning, Iris Gai, Sophie Lau, Veronica Xie, Miriam Shin, Anusha Viswanathan, Jasmine Yang and Chloe Zhou, Year 7; Angelin Chen, QuanLing Hong, Diya Maninathan and Sunae Park, Year 8; Rudia Chung, Esther Hsu, Katrina Ling, Victoria Yenson and Lena Zhu, Year 9.



**1** Iris Gai, Sophie Lau, Anusha Viswanathan, Jasmine Yang, Veronica Xie, Chloe Zhou and Miriam Shin

**2** Esther Hsu, Victoria Yenson, Rudia Chung, Lena Zhu, Katrina Ling, QuanLing Hong, Sunae Park, Diya Maninathan and Angelin Chen



Rita Yeung, Zara Chan, Vasiliki Cominos, Imogen Jones, Elisabeth Starling, Eleanor Kenyon and Cassandra Seeto



Anjali Popuri



## Languages

### ACER Assessment

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 2022 are Ila Bains, Anna Cocks, Sofianna Han, Nila Kanthan, Georgia Massey, Juliette Owen, Mia Pertsinidis, Ananya Philip, Anjali Popuri and Keira Waked for French; Chelsea Chen, Sheiszen Ling and Sophie Yang for Chinese; and Chloe He and Clara Yam for Japanese.

The Year 9 students who achieved High Distinction in both the reading and listening sections are Anjana Kailasanathan, Sophia Sidhom, Cheelyn Wang, Selina Wang, Cordelia Xie, Emma Xu and Emily Yang for French; Ivy Chen, Niki Gong, Connie Lu, Claire Sun, Theresa Wu and Aimee Xue for Chinese; and Zehn Lim for Japanese.

Year 10 student, Miranda Xu, was awarded two High Distinctions for Chinese.

Amy Liu, Year 9, received two High Distinctions for the Chinese Language Certificate 3 usually reserved for Year 10 students.

### International Poésiae Poetry Recitation Competition

The Poésiae Poetry Recitation Competition aims to foster a love of learning and speaking foreign languages. Participating students choose a foreign language poem to record themselves reciting aloud.

Meriden girls performed outstandingly well, with Emily Yang, Year 9, Jodhi Kanthan, Year 10, Arianna Li, Year 11 and Ailinna Zhang, Year 12, all receiving First Prizes within their respective age divisions.

1 Arianna Li, Emily Yang and Jodhi Kanthan  
2 Amy Liu



## Mathematics

### Maths Olympiad

Naomi Riaz, Year 8, achieved a perfect score in the Australasian Problem-Solving Mathematical Olympiads, placing her in the top 0.32% of all participants in the competition. In addition, Yiru Li, Year 7, achieved the highest score in her age group, placing her in the top 10% of all participants in the competition.

### Australian Mathematics Competition

In the Australian Mathematics Competition, High Distinctions were awarded to: Lisa Chen, Katherine Fanning, Vivian Liao, Lillian Shen, Ashley Shu, Amelia Von, Louisa Yenson and Chloe Zhou, Year 7; Angelin Chen, QuanLing Hong, Diya Maninathan and Qianqi Zhou, Year 8; Sabrina Cao and Youya Wei, Year 9; Michelle Cho, Year 10; Amy Lee, Arianna Li and Jacinta Rees, Year 11.

Yiru Li, Year 7, was awarded a Prize Certificate and Cindy Shen, Year 7, was awarded the prize for Best in School.

### Maths Challenge

The Maths Challenge requires students to solve six difficult mathematical problems over four weeks. High Distinctions were awarded to: Kitty Gai, Eva Gao, Olivia Kim, Sienna Lee, Anna Satchithanathan, Cindy Shen, Ashley Shu, Amelia Von and Chloe Zhou, Year 7; Olivia Choi, Leah Har and Victoria Yenson in Year 9; Zoe Chan, Coco Chen, Erica Ng and Abisha Thevarajah, Year 10.

### Computational and Algorithmic Thinking

The Computational and Algorithmic Thinking (CAT) competition is a one-hour problem-solving competition designed to encourage student curiosity and promote multiple modes of thinking. Year 7 students, Yiru Li and Amelia Von, achieved High Distinctions in the Junior Division of the competition.

- 1** Naomi Riaz
- 2** Sabrina Cao, Youya Wei, Arianna Li and Amy Lee
- 3** Lillian Shen, Lisa Chen, Yiru Li, Ashley Shu, Cindy Shen, Amelia Von, Vivian Liao, Chloe Zhou and Katherine Fanning



## Performing Arts

### Australian Music Board Examinations

The Australian Music Examinations Board's qualifications are recognised as a national benchmark in musical education across Australia. Five students achieved their AMEB Licentiate Diploma in Performance (LMusA) in 2022: Erin Du, Year 10 – cello (Distinction); Nerissa Du, Year 8 – viola; Stella Hong, Year 11 – piano and violin; Alice Zhang, Year 11 – piano; and Sharon Zhao, Year 8 – violin. This Diploma is awarded to just ten per cent of candidates who attempt the qualification.

Fifteen students earned their Associate in Music, Australia (AMusA) diploma: Cynthia Bui, Year 7 – organ (Distinction); Annabelle Desmond, Year 9 – viola; Ellie Dong, Year 9 – flute; Tina Dong, Year 7 – viola; Eva Gao, Year 7 – cello; Sienna Kang, Year 11 – viola; Isabella Koo, Year 8 – viola; Connie Liu, Year 8 – piano; Helen Liu, Year 11 – clarinet (Distinction); Amayah Ryan, Year 12 – viola; Monica Teng, Year 11 – piano; Chanelle Tiranatvitayakul, Year 7 – piano; Selina Wang, Year 9 – piano; Kerrie Yu, Year 11 – violin; and Audrey Zou, Year 11 – piano.



1 Alice Zhang, Stella Hong, Nerissa Du, Erin Du and Sharon Zhao

2 Teresa Yang, Amy Lee, Helen Liu, Molly Grogan and Anastasia Ibrahim

### Music competitions and programs

Teresa Yang, Year 10, won first prize at Melbourne Recital Centre's Bach Competition after placing second in 2021. Teresa was also a finalist in the National Youth Concerto Competition.

Year 8 students, Nerissa Du and Sharon Zhao, were selected to participate in the Australian Chamber Orchestra (ACO) Academy. The girls were members of a group of just thirty-five high school string players from across Australia to be selected for this coveted program.

Molly Grogan, Year 9, was accepted into the Australian Youth Orchestra's Young Symphonists Program held in Ballarat.

Anastasia Ibrahim, Year 9, and Helen Liu, Year 11, were accepted into the Australian Romantic and Classical Orchestra's Young Mannheim Symphonists program.

Heather Kim, Year 12, Amy Lee, Year 11, and Teresa Yang, Year 10, were selected to participate in the Australian Youth Orchestra National Music Camp.

### Sydney Eisteddfod

Meriden's musicians claimed seven top-two placings at the prestigious Sydney Eisteddfod. Meriden's Symphony Orchestra, Intermediate Chamber Strings, Junior Chamber Strings and Senior Singers placed first in their respective events, whilst the Senior Chamber Strings, Sinfonia and Wind Symphony earned second place.

### IMEB-Speech and Drama

Five Year 11 students earned their Diploma in Speech and Drama Performance: Edie Arkell, Demi Arronis, Zara Chami, Mahek Jain and Sneha Shygale.



## Research and Critical Thinking

### Philosothon

The Australasian Philosothon is a competition that draws together the top schools in Philosophy across Australia and New Zealand. Meriden once again qualified for this event after placing third in the NSW Philosothon.

The competition involves students being presented with stimulus material from which they must propose a philosophical question and then discuss it with their peers in Community-of-Inquiry discussions.

The Meriden team of Jenna Aylett, Year 9, Ila Bains, Year 8, Anjali Kailasanathan, Year 10, Jacinta Rees and Jasmine Ye, Year 11, placed sixth overall in the competition, achieving fourth place in Critical Thinking and equal fifth place in Collaborative Thinking. Anjali achieved an individual award of second place in the Year 10 Division, while Ila placed third in the Year 8 Division.

### Philosophy in Schools Essay Competition

Jasmine Ye, Year 11, placed first in the Philosophy in Schools Essay Competition, while Isabella Yaw, Year 11, was awarded third place. The competition asks students to consider a philosophical issue in great depth and conduct their own independent research to construct their written argument. The girls' achievements mark the fourth consecutive year Meriden girls have earned top-three placings in this rigorous academic challenge.

### 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 2022 were Mikayla Rodger, Year 9; Erika Lee, Year 10; Sienna Kim, Harini Luckshman, Linda Wang, Vanessa Wu, Sophia Yang and Talia Yin, Year 11.



**1** Jasmine Ye, Jenna Aylett, Anjali Kailasanathan, Jacinta Rees and Ila Bains  
**2** Isabella Yaw and Jasmine Ye  
**3** Back Row: Vanessa Wu, Linda Wang, Erika Lee and Talia Yin. Front Row: Mikayla Rodger, Harini Luckshman, Sienna Kim and Sophia Yang

## Science

### International Earth Science Olympiad

Jacinta Rees, Year 11, won a silver medal for Australia at the 2022 International Earth Science Olympiad. This is a prestigious international competition that tests participants' knowledge and skills in all major areas of Earth Sciences, including geology, geophysics, meteorology, oceanography, terrestrial astronomy and environmental science.

Jacinta was one of eight members selected for the team following a rigorous year-long selection process that saw over a thousand students from across the country participate.

### Australian Science Olympiads

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

High Distinctions were awarded to Jacinta Rees, Year 11, in Biology, Chemistry, Earth and Environmental Sciences and Physics; Harmoni Kwok, Year 11, in Chemistry; and Sunny Lee, Year 11, in Physics.

- 1 Amelia Von and Yiru Li
- 2 Jacinta Rees
- 3 Sunny Lee
- 4 Cindy Shen

### Science Olympiad Schools

Jacinta Rees and Sunny Lee were selected 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.

### ICAS Science Awards

The ICAS Science competition tests students' scientific skills as they are required to identify patterns and relationships in data, interpret and draw conclusions from a range of data and analyse and evaluate data from secondary sources. The achievement of a High Distinction in this competition places the student in the top one per cent of the state. High Distinctions were achieved by Jenna Aylett, Year 9, Yiru Li, Year 7, and Cindy Shen, Year 7.

### CREST Awards

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

Year 10 students, Seeya Naik Panvelkar and Anjali Kailasanathan, were awarded a Gold CREST Award for their group project. This is a significant achievement involving over one hundred hours' work, substantial background research and creativity in both the design of an experiment and its real-world application.



### STA Young Scientist Awards

Four Meriden students were awarded prizes at the 2022 Young Scientist Awards ceremony organised by the Science Teachers' Association of NSW.

Esther Yum, Year 10, won the Innovations and Engineering Design Years 9 – 10 category and Mikayla Rodger, Year 9, achieved second place. Year 8 student, Keira Waked, was awarded second place in the Young Scientist Investigation – Biology Years 7 to 8 category, and Year 11 student, Harmoni Kwok, earned a Bronze award in the Rowe Scientific Depth Study Award category.

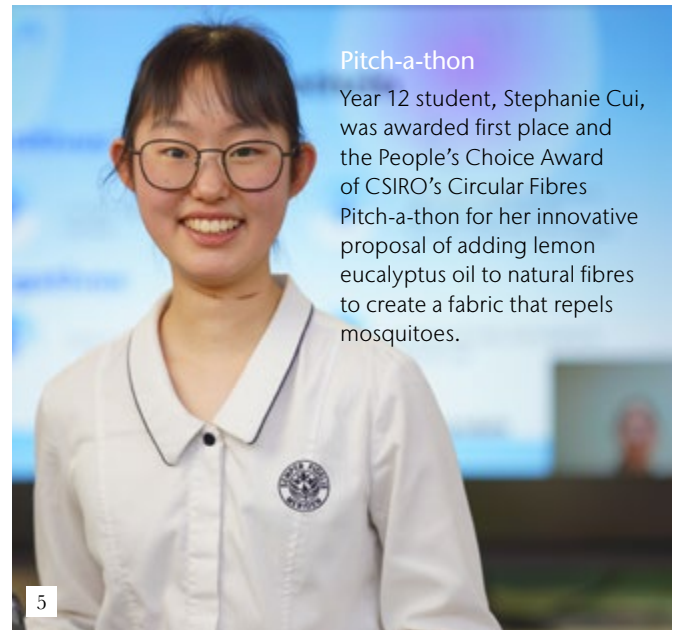
### Big Science Competition

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

Twenty-two 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: Luna Duan, Evaline Earnshaw, Olivia Kim, Lillian Shen, Anusha Viswanathan, Jenny Zhang and Sylvia Zhao, Year 7; Indiana Cheung, Anna Cocks, Mia Gu, QuanLing Hong, Diya Maninathan, Sunae Park, Keira Taganesia and Jean Xu, Year 8; Jenna Aylett, Emily Chen, Ivy Chen, Melody Chia, Leah Har and Meredith Xu, Year 9; Eleanor Kenyon, Year 10.

- 5 Stephanie Cui
- 6 Anjali Kailasanathan and Seeya Naik Panvelkar
- 7 Harmoni Kwok, Keira Waked, Mikayla Rodger and Esther Yum
- 8 Luna Duan, Sylvia Zhao, Olivia Kim, Anusha Viswanathan, Jenny Zhang, Evaline Earnshaw and Lillian Shen
- 9 Emily Chen, Ivy Chen, Melody Chia, Leah Har, Meredith Xu and Jenna Aylett



#### Pitch-a-thon

Year 12 student, Stephanie Cui, was awarded first place and the People's Choice Award of CSIRO's Circular Fibres Pitch-a-thon for her innovative proposal of adding lemon eucalyptus oil to natural fibres to create a fabric that repels mosquitoes.

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## Speech

### Festival of Speech

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

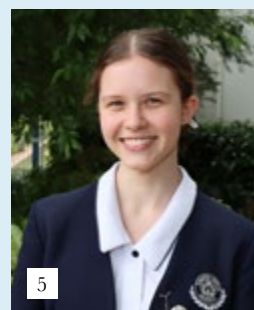
In the Religious and Ethical Questions section, team members Isabella Yaw and Jasmine Ye, Year 11, and Anjali Kailasanathan, Year 10, placed second overall.

The Junior Debating team comprising Olivia Lee, Emma Xu, Sophie Yi and Maggie Zhang, Year 9, reached the Quarter Finals in the competition.

In the Open Improvisation section, Shivani Arora and Elissa Freney, Year 8, and Prachi Samantara and Youya Wei, Year 9, placed third overall.

In the individual sections, Lael Sakalauskas, Year 11, placed fourth in Senior Poetry, Reshmi Ramana, Year 8, placed fifth in Junior Poetry, and Naomi Riaz, Year 8, achieved a Highly Commended award in Soapbox.

Meriden placed seventh overall in the Festival in a field of twenty-seven schools.



- 1 Sophie Yi, Olivia Lee, Maggie Zhang and Emma Xu
- 2 Isabella Yaw, Anjali Kailasanathan and Jasmine Ye
- 3 Prachi Samantara, Elissa Freney and Youya Wei
- 4 Reshmi Ramana
- 5 Lael Sakalauskas

### Captivate the Future Competition

Shravya Garg, Year 10, won the prestigious Pride Foundation Award at the Captivate the Future Competition. The public-speaking competition, developed by TEDx Speakers, aims to emphasise the importance of young people using their voices to inspire real change.

- 1 Shravya Garg
- 2 Ashley Shu, Yiru Li, Isabella Jiang and Annie Li



### Archdale Debating

Meriden's Year 7B Debating team won their Archdale Debating Grand Final. Team members Isabella Jiang, Annie Li, Yiru Li and Ashley Shu demonstrated rhetorical flair, providing sound arguments about complex topics whilst speaking confidently and convincingly.

Meriden's Year 7A and 8A teams advanced through to the Semi-Finals of this notoriously challenging competition.

### Social Sciences

#### Australian Geography Competition

The Australian Geography Competition assesses students' geographical knowledge and skills.

Thirty-one students earned High Distinctions in the competition and Melody Chia, Vanessa Wu, Meredith Xu and Jasmine Ye achieved scores that placed them in the top one per cent of students in Australia who entered the competition.

High Distinctions were awarded to: Ada Rand, Vanessa Wu, Jasmine Ye and Talia Yin, Year 11; Alannah Alam, Andrea Cheng, Elaine Huang, Eleanor Kenyon, Zoe Leeson, Reiaura Ling, Annaliese Reid, Lily Sarginson, Cassandra Seeto, Sydney Tjonadi, Alicia Wang, Shiloh Xing, Rita Yeung and Esther Yum, Year 10; Sabrina Cao, Jeannette Chen, Melody Chia, Olivia Choi, Annabelle Desmond, Leah Har, Sophia Sidhom, Selina Wang, Aiyang Wu, Meredith Xu, Victoria Yenson, Sophie Yi and Lena Zhu, Year 9.

Jasmine was selected to represent Australia at the 2023 International Geography Olympiad to be held in Indonesia. Jasmine will join an Australian team whose four members topped both the Australian Geography Competition national exam and Geography's Big Week Out.



Melody Chia, Jasmine Ye, Vanessa Wu and Meredith Xu

# NAPLAN 2022

The following table shows the percentage of Meriden students in the top two bands compared to the state.

## % IN TOP TWO BANDS

<b>Year 9</b>	<b>MERIDEN</b>	<b>STATE</b>
Numeracy	66.32%	25.39%
Reading	60.00%	25.51%
Writing	48.42%	19.04%
Spelling	53.68%	22.21%
Grammar and Punctuation	61.05%	26.73%

<b>Year 7</b>	<b>MERIDEN</b>	<b>STATE</b>
Numeracy	77.66%	37.11%
Reading	64.02%	30.90%
Writing	65.08%	29.81%
Spelling	77.01%	39.87%
Grammar and Punctuation	59.36%	29.11%

<b>Year 5</b>	<b>MERIDEN</b>	<b>STATE</b>
Numeracy	74.42%	31.21%
Reading	74.42%	43.79%
Writing	77.91%	29.77%
Spelling	89.56%	43.12%
Grammar and Punctuation	73.26%	36.58%

<b>Year 3</b>	<b>MERIDEN</b>	<b>STATE</b>
Numeracy	75.36%	39.83%
Reading	95.65%	57.93%
Writing	92.65%	59.69%
Spelling	98.59%	54.40%
Grammar and Punctuation	95.59%	56.27%



Meriden girls  
make their *marks.*



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