

Speech in the Senior School

Semester 1 is a busy time for the Speech program in the Senior School. The Public Speaking Competition season commences in Term 1 and continues into Term 2. This year, Meriden girls have impressed the judges across multiple competitions, including the Rostrum Voice of Youth and The Plain English Speaking Award.

Rostrum Voice of Youth

Six Meriden public speakers competed at the Rostrum Voice of Youth, a national speaking competition that provides an excellent opportunity for secondary school students to gain experience and confidence in expressing their views and communicating a message.

In the Senior Division, Meriden's Public Speaking Captain, Shravya Garg, Year 11, and Year 10 students, Isabella Morkos and Elena Whitfield, competed using the stimulus "Voice for the Voiceless". In the Junior Division, Ila Bains, Jasmine Yang and Chloe Zhou competed using the stimuli "A change worth making" and "A gift that keeps giving".

The girls did a wonderful job applying the skills they have been learning as members of Meriden's Speak Up Club and at Communication Workshops. Congratulations to Isabella for winning the Local Final. Isabella went on to compete in the Regional Final, where she presented her speech which was a powerful examination of women's rights in Iran following the death of Mahsa Amini.



Elena Whitfield, Isabella Morkos and Shravya Garg

Additionally, Isabella was required to present a "short notice speech" in which she had fifteen minutes to prepare a three-minute speech on an unseen topic. Isabella was the youngest competitor in the Senior Final and scored an impressive 38/40 points. Although she did not progress to the State Final, we congratulate her for her extraordinary performance.

The Plain English Speaking Award

Shravya and Elena also competed in the Plain English Speaking Award last month. The Plain English Speaking Award is a public-speaking competition that encourages students to present an issue they are passionate about in under eight minutes. The students were also challenged to deliver an impromptu speech on an undisclosed topic, with a mere three minutes of preparation time for the three-minute speech. The Plain English Speaking Award was a rigorous competition, and the girls gave strong performances on the day.

The Legacy Junior Public Speaking Award

Alana Ikladios, Year 10, and Naomi Riaz, Year 9, are preparing to compete in the Legacy Junior Public Speaking Award, a national competition conducted through secondary schools held early in Term 3. We wish them all the best in their preparation and look forward to seeing their performances.

Communication Workshop Program for 2023

Year 8 students participated in a Debating Communication Workshop earlier in the term. Students were treated to a model debate from the Year 9 Archdale Debating Team. Many thanks to Ila Bains, Vienna Korkis, Michelle Lu, Vania Mehta, Anjali Popuri and Stephanie Wu for their assistance with the demonstration.

Year 8 students then applied the skills they had learned about manner, matter and method to debates of their own held in their English classes. Despite having limited time to prepare, the girls did an impressive job of persuasively speaking on different topics. It has been wonderful to see their speaking skills develop since Term 1.

I look forward to working with an ever-expanding group of Meriden girls who are keenly involving themselves in the Speech program and bringing more exciting updates later in the year.

Mrs Charlotte Yates

Coordinator of Learning Link – Speech