

# New leadership team strategises for year ahead

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*At the end of last term, our newly formed 2023-24 student leadership team embarked on a camp to the picturesque Southern Highlands to strategise for the upcoming year. Over two days, the girls stepped outside their comfort zones, tackled challenges together and reflected on their own personal values before commencing their new roles. Elaine Huang, Year 11, and Sydney Ngyuen, Year 10, share their experience with the school community in the following report.*

The 2023-24 student leadership team recently spent two days at Attunga Youth Ministries, located in the Southern Highlands. It was a unique opportunity offering experiences that pushed us out of our comfort zones, allowing us to strengthen our connection as a cohesive team.

As this was Meriden's first-ever leadership camp, we approached it with a mix of excitement and anticipation. We participated in a range of activities that encouraged us to challenge ourselves, from role-playing as monkeys and the Statue of Liberty and disco dancing during Mrs Chilton's icebreaker sessions, to zip-lining through a canyon.

We heard insights from the camp leader, Chris, and several teachers, about their personal leadership experiences, which inspired us to reflect on our goals as student leaders. Additionally, the camp provided us with an opportunity to brainstorm possible initiatives, all aimed at creating a positive and inclusive atmosphere that strengthens connections among students across different year groups.

This amazing experience allowed the leadership team to become a more coherent group and gain invaluable insights into our roles and potential influence as leaders.

On the bittersweet bus ride back, we reflected on the bonds we forged and, most importantly, we mulled over the lessons experienced about the empowering nature of using our voices and actions to elevate the people around us. It was a wonderful and eye-opening experience for us all. Thank you to the teachers and camp leaders who provided us with this opportunity. We are looking forward to a bright year ahead!

