



**MERIDEN**  
AN ANGLICAN SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

# Academic Highlights 2023



Class of 2023

## HSC Highlights for Meriden Students

**11 top-10 placings**, including 1st in state in 2 courses

**63% of students** received an ATAR of 90 or more

**11% of students** received an ATAR of 99 or more, including an ATAR of 99.9

23 students (14%) named as **All-Round Achievers**

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

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

**Meriden ranked 12th** in the 2023 HSC Schools Ranking  
*Sydney Morning Herald 14.12.2023*

Multiple offers for places at **leading Australian, UK and USA universities**

## 2023

Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank

ATAR	% OF MERIDEN STUDENTS
<b>99+</b>	<b>11%</b>
<b>95+</b>	<b>38%</b>
<b>90+</b>	<b>63%</b>
<b>85+</b>	<b>71%</b>

Median ATAR 93.1  
(State median 71.05)

# 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-three Meriden students were named on the 2023 All-Round Achievers List.

Karina Cheung	Meiying Tian
Nicole Feng	Linda Wang
Lareina Ji	Emma Woosnam
Sienna Kang	Vanessa Wu
Sienna Kim	Sophia Yang
Harmoni Kwok	Coco Yang
Sunny Lee	Jasmine Ye
Arianna Li	Nikki Yi
Helen Liu	Talia Yin
Elsa Lyu	Anneka Yuan
Chloe Nair	Audrey Zou
Monica Teng	

## Top Achievers in a Course

NAME	COURSE	POSITION IN THE STATE
Chiara Freeman	Spanish Beginners	1st
Arianna Li	Chinese and Literature	1st
Lareina Ji	Chinese and Literature	2nd
Harmoni Kwok	Physics	2nd
Jessica Tan	Chinese Continuers	3rd
Alannah Yenson	Spanish Beginners	3rd
Jacinta Rees	Physics	5th
Laurena Fadel	English Advanced	8th
Meiying Tian	English EAL/D	8th
Charlotte Costello	Community and Family Studies	9th
Arianna Li	English EAL/D	10th

## Celebrating Excellence

### Excellence in Languages

Languages at Meriden continue to flourish with several outstanding HSC results. In Spanish Beginners, Chiara Freeman placed first in the state and Alannah Yenson placed third. Sixty percent of students in this course achieved a Band 6 result, far exceeding the state average.

Arianna Li earned first in course for Chinese and Literature and was closely followed by Lareina Ji who placed second in the state. The entire cohort performed exceptionally well, with sixty-four percent of the students achieving Band 6 results for this course.

An excellent result was also achieved in Chinese Continuers, with Jessica Tan placing third in the state.

In Latin Extension, all students achieved the highest band and in Japanese Beginners thirty-eight percent of students achieved Band 6 results.

### Excellence in Music

Meriden's excellence in music continues with several outstanding achievements in the HSC. Gracelyn Yu's Music 2 Core Composition, *Psalm 6:2-4*, has been selected for inclusion in ENCORE, the annual showcase of exemplary HSC performances and compositions held at the Sydney Opera House. Grace Allen, Jolene Lee and Monica Teng's compositions were also nominated for inclusion in ENCORE. Stella Hong, Sienna Kang, Amy Lee, Monica Teng and Alice Zhang received nominations for performance in ENCORE.

This cohort was strong in Music Theory, and every student in Music 2 achieved Band 6 for this subject.



Principal, Mrs Lisa Brown, congratulates Chiara Freeman who placed first in the state in Spanish Beginners

### Excellence in Drama

Results in Drama were outstanding, with several performances nominated for OnSTAGE. Edie Arkell's individual performance, *Always Something Left Undone*, was shortlisted for OnSTAGE, as was the group performance, *A Pressing Issue*, featuring Shreya Achar, Edie Arkell, Anneke Dykgraaff, Tamara Van Ede and Zoe Wang. The girls also excelled in the written components of the course, with eighty percent of students achieving Band 6 results for Drama.

### Excellence in STEM

While many lament the lack of women in the sciences, Meriden girls have excelled in various STEM courses. Harmoni Kwok placed second in the state in Physics, closely followed by Jacinta Rees who placed fifth in the state. The results for all the students in

Physics were excellent, with forty-one percent of the cohort achieving Band 6 in the course. Similar results were achieved in Biology (thirty-nine percent) and Chemistry (thirty-seven percent).

Outstanding results in Mathematics bode well for the future of women in STEM. Over sixty percent of students in Extension 1 Mathematics achieved the highest band, far exceeding the state average. Results in the other courses were similarly impressive, with Meriden achieving a high number of Band 6 results in Mathematics Advanced (forty-nine percent) and Mathematics Standard (forty-four percent). Meriden's results in Mathematics Standard were remarkable, with forty-four percent of Meriden students achieving Band 6 results compared to only nine percent in the state.

### Excellence in History and Legal Studies

Results in History continue to be impressive. Over thirty-five percent of students in Modern History achieved Band 6 results, and in Ancient History thirty-six percent of students achieved the top band. Despite a challenging final paper, the students in History Extension demonstrated their mastery of historiographical analysis, with seventy-five percent of the cohort achieving the top band.

The results in Legal Studies were also strong with forty-three percent of students achieving Band 6 results, compared to fourteen percent in the rest of the state.

### Excellence in English

English is the only compulsory subject in the HSC, and it was pleasing to see Meriden girls excel in this subject. Two students placed in the top ten in the state in English EAL/D: Meiying Tian placed eighth and Arianna Li placed tenth. Laurena Fadel achieved outstanding results in English Advanced and placed eighth in the state. Results across the cohort were strong, with thirty-seven percent of English Advanced students attaining Band 6 results and sixty-seven percent of students in English Extension 1 achieving the highest band.

### Excellence in Social Science

Social Science is flourishing at Meriden, with outstanding results being achieved in a range of subjects. Seventy-five percent of Economics students performed in the top two bands, considerably higher than the state average. Similar results were achieved in Business Studies, with over seventy-one percent of students achieving in the top two bands, more than double the state average. Geography was similar, with over seventy percent of students achieving in the top two bands.

### Excellence in Applied Science

Meriden matched its prowess on the sporting field with excellent results in Applied Science. Charlotte Costello placed ninth in the state in Community and Family Studies. Charlotte was part of a particularly strong cohort, with forty-six percent of her peers achieving Band 6 in Community and Family Studies compared to six percent statewide. Results in PD/H/PE were also strong.

### Excellence in Design and Creative Arts

Design and Creative Arts students continue to produce exciting work. Anna Liu produced an outstanding work in Visual Arts and was selected for the prestigious ARTEXPRESS exhibition. The Design and Technology works by Ella Bowden, Imogen Leon, Anna Liu and Suki Mak were nominated for inclusion in the Shape exhibition. Final results for these subjects were strong, with 100 percent of students in Design and Technology achieving marks in the top two bands. The same excellent results were achieved in Visual Arts.

1 Head of History, Mrs Cheryl O’Loan, with Lael Sakalauskas who achieved a mark of 48 out of 50 in History Extension  
2 Head of Languages, Ms Teresa Alonso-Lasheras, with Spanish language students Jasmine Kalantar, Grace Allen, Lael Sakalauskas, Sienna Kim, Chiara Freeman, Alannah Yenson and Chloe Nair





3



4



5



6



7

- 3** Nominees for OnSTAGE Tamara Van Ede, Edie Arkell and Zoe Wang with Drama teacher Ms Tara Graetz
- 4** Head of Performing Arts, Ms Jodie Spooner-Ryan, with Music students Grace Allen, Sienna Kang, Gracelyn Yu and Chloe Nair
- 5** Imogen Leon whose Design and Technology major project was nominated for inclusion in Shape, together with works by her peers, Ella Bowden, Anna Liu and Suki Mak
- 6** Physics students Jacinta Rees and Harmoni Kwok with Mrs Laura Wright, Science teacher, and Mrs Tara Richards, Head of Science
- 7** English students Paige Kalipccian, Khushi Jain, Sienna Kim, Isabella Yaw and Sneha Shyngle with Mr Tim Archer, Head of English

# Some of Meriden's high flyers...



**Sunny Lee**

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

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



**Coco Yang**

ATAR 99.90  
*HSC All-Round Achiever*  
 At Meriden since Year 8

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



**Arianna Li**

ATAR 99.85  
*HSC All-Round Achiever*  
 1st in state in Chinese and Literature  
 10th in state in English EAL/D  
 At Meriden since Year 9

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



**Harmoni Kwok**

ATAR 99.80  
*HSC All-Round Achiever*  
 2nd in state in Physics  
 At Meriden since Year 11

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



**Sophia Yang**

ATAR 99.80  
*HSC All-Round Achiever*  
 Dux of the School  
 At Meriden since Year 7

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



**Nikki Yi**

ATAR 99.75  
*HSC All-Round Achiever*  
 At Meriden since Year 7

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



**Sienna Kang**

ATAR 99.70  
*HSC All-Round Achiever*  
 At Meriden since Year 5

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



**Helen Liu**

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

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



**Audrey Zou**

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

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



**Linda Wang**

ATAR 99.55  
*HSC All-Round Achiever*  
 At Meriden since Year 7

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



### Jasmine Ye

ATAR 99.45  
*HSC All-Round Achiever*  
Special Events Prefect  
At Meriden since Year 7

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



### Lareina Ji

ATAR 99.35  
*HSC All-Round Achiever*  
2nd in state in Chinese  
and Literature  
At Meriden since Year 9

**SUBJECTS STUDIED**  
Chemistry  
Chinese and Literature  
Economics  
English Advanced  
Mathematics Advanced  
Mathematics Extension 1



### Sarah Abiassaf

ATAR 99.25  
At Meriden since Year 5

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



### Elsa Lyu

ATAR 99.20  
*HSC All-Round Achiever*  
At Meriden since Year 5

**SUBJECTS STUDIED**  
Biology  
Chemistry  
Chinese and Literature  
English Advanced  
Mathematics Extension 1  
Mathematics Extension 2



### Vanessa Wu

ATAR 99.20  
*HSC All-Round Achiever*  
At Meriden since Year 7

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



### Jacinta Rees

ATAR 99.15  
5th in state in Physics  
At Meriden since Year 7

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



### Talia Yin

ATAR 99.05  
*HSC All-Round Achiever*  
At Meriden since Year 7

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



### Laurena Fadel

ATAR 99.00  
8th in state in English  
Advanced  
At Meriden since  
Pre-Kindergarten

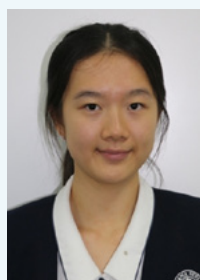
**SUBJECTS STUDIED**  
Biology  
Chemistry  
Community and Family  
Studies  
English Advanced  
Mathematics Advanced  
Mathematics Extension 1



### Anneka Yuan

ATAR 98.90  
*HSC All-Round Achiever*  
At Meriden since Year 10

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



### Monica Teng

ATAR 98.85  
*HSC All-Round Achiever*  
At Meriden since Year 11

**SUBJECTS STUDIED**  
Economics  
English Advanced  
Mathematics Advanced  
Mathematics Extension 1  
Modern History  
Music 2  
Music Extension

# 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 2023, 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	72.72	32.37	95	Hospitality	93.32	34.82	95
Biology	77.21	31.82	96	Japanese Beginners	75.00	37.25	95
Business Studies	71.05	35.75	97	Latin Continuers	100	83.74	95
Chemistry	70.58	38.20	96	Latin Extension	100	81.52	47*
Chinese and Literature	100	71.09	97	Legal Studies	91.29	42.18	95
Chinese Continuers	100	70.09	99	Mathematics Advanced	81.25	49.72	99
Chinese Extension	100	69.23	48*	Mathematics Extension 1	86.78	71.80	98
Chinese in Context	100	93.01	97	Mathematics Extension 2	85.00	85.67	98
Community and Family Studies	95.83	35.31	97	Mathematics Standard 2	74.00	31.42	98
Design and Technology	100	47.21	94	Modern History	78.56	34.86	94
Drama	100	60.29	95	Music 1	100	68.70	91
Economics	75.00	48.34	94	Music 2	100	85.28	98
Engineering Studies	60.00	29.18	84	Music Extension	100	70.46	49*
English Advanced	85.51	67.12	98	Personal Development, Health and Physical Education	58.61	30.70	94
English EAL/D	90.00	21.59	96	Physics	64.69	38.80	98
English Extension 1	96.96	94.23	49*	Science Extension	33.33	7.17	45*
English Extension 2	99.99	85.52	46*	Society and Culture	100	44.76	93
English Standard	33.33	13.12	81	Spanish Beginners	100	56.24	98
Food Technology	100	29.67	94	Studies of Religion 1 unit	88.88	48.56	48*
French Continuers	100	58.90	92	Studies of Religion 2 unit	71.42	45.98	89
Geography	71.42	41.63	94	Visual Arts	100	65.44	93
History Extension	75.00	26.32	48*				

\* MARK OUT OF 50

# HSC highlights from previous years

ATAR	2022 % OF MERIDEN STUDENTS	2021 % OF MERIDEN STUDENTS	2020 % OF MERIDEN STUDENTS	2019 % OF MERIDEN STUDENTS	2018 % OF MERIDEN STUDENTS
95+	31%	36%	38%	35%	31%
90+	52%	56%	58%	53%	51%

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

### 1st Place

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

### 3rd Place

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

### 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

- English Advanced
- English EAL/D
- 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

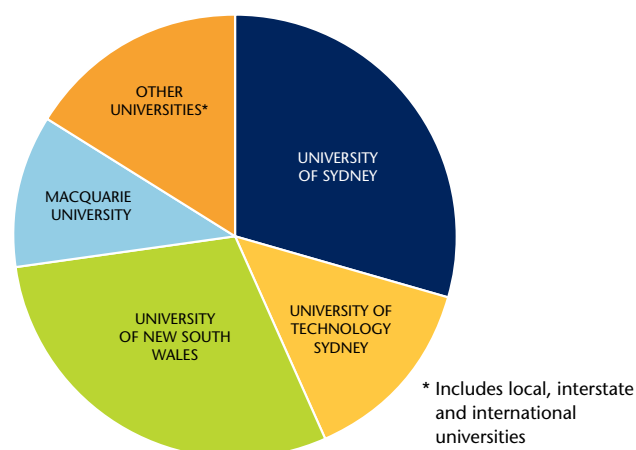
### Tertiary Courses

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



# Excellence abounds...

## Debating

### Archdale Debating

Meriden's Year 8B Debating team won their Archdale Debating Grand Final. Team members Cynthia Bui, Tina Dong, Annie Li and Ashley Shu demonstrated rhetorical flair, providing sound arguments about complex topics whilst speaking confidently and convincingly.

Meriden's Year 7A team advanced through to the semi-finals of this notoriously challenging competition.



Annie Li, Ashley Shu, Cynthia Bui and Tina Dong

## English

### ICAS English Awards

Jean Xu, Year 9, 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.

Sixteen Meriden students received High Distinctions in ICAS English: Elizabeth Deller, Alice Feng, Annabelle Kenyon, Rochelle Tao and Emma Zhang, Year 7; Iris Gai and Yiru Li, Year 8; Anna Cocks, Mia Gu, Alina Lin, Keira Taganesia and Jean Xu, Year 9; and Anjana Kailasanathan, Hannah Lui, Sophie Tan and Elena Whitfield, Year 10.

### John Locke Essay Writing Competition

Year 9 student, Christina Zhou, was shortlisted for the highly competitive John Locke Essay Writing Competition, which attracts submissions from talented students globally and is known for its rigorous judging process, which is overseen by senior academics from the University of Oxford and the University of Cambridge. Christina's essay was enhanced by her study of the novel *Oodgeroo - Bloodline to Country* by Sam Watson during her English classes this year, which grapples with the complex dynamic between forceful protest and peaceful advocacy.



Jean Xu



Christina Zhou

## High Potential Learning

### Da Vinci Decathlon

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

The Year 10 team of Sabrina Cao, Calleigh Chow (reserve), Leah Har, Olivia Lee, Sophie Tan, Selina Wang (reserve), Meredith Xu, Emily Yang, Victoria Yenson and Sophie Yi secured a third-place finish in the 2023 Decathlon. The girls attained first place in English and Cartography, second place in Ideation and sixth place in Legacy.



Back Row: Olivia Lee, Meredith Xu and Leah Har  
 Middle Row: Sophie Tan and Victoria Yenson  
 Front Row: Sabrina Cao, Emily Yang and Sophie Yi

### Tournament of Minds

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

The Meriden team, comprising Noemi Snelling, Year 7; Katherine Fanning, Ashley Shu and Louisa Yenson, Year 8; Zara Naidoo, Year 9; and Calleigh Chow and Maggie Zhang, Year 10, was 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.



Maggie Zhang, Noemi Snelling, Katherine Fanning,  
 Zara Naidoo, Calleigh Chow, Louisa Yenson and Ashley Shu



## History

### Australian History Competition

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

High Distinctions were awarded to Year 8 students, Nicole Cen, Lisa Chen, Katherine Fanning, Nikita Garg, Haylie Lee, Annie Li, Vivian Liao, Emily Seto, Cindy Shen, Ashley Shu, Keira Tan, Amelia Von, Ameeshi Wesumperuma, Veronica Xie, Jasmine Yang, Louisa Yenson, Chloe Zhou; Year 10 students, Adriana Borg, Sabrina Cao, Jeannette Chen, Melody Chia, Olivia Choi, Leah Har, Hannah Harris, Anastasia Ibrahim, Natasha Laggas, Katrina Ling, Eva Moss, Sophie Tan, Selina Wang, Youya Wei, Mia Wills, Aiyang Wu, Sophie Yi, Maggie Zhang and Samantha Zhou.

Emily Seto, Year 8, and Natasha Laggas, Year 10, were named State Champions of the Australian History Competition after achieving the highest scores in New South Wales in their respective divisions. The girls were awarded medallions for their outstanding achievements.

1 Natasha Laggas and Emily Seto  
2 Miriam Shin and Varnikaa Kannan



### National History Challenge

Miriam Shin, Year 8, and Varnikaa Kannan, Year 9, were selected as state-finalists in the National History Challenge, earning the title of "Silver Young Historian". The competition is hosted by the History Teachers' Association of Australia and asks students to undertake research in an area of interest.

## Languages

### ACER Assessment

The ACER Assessment of Language Competence (ACL) draws on students' sociocultural knowledge, cognitive skills, and knowledge of the structure and purpose of language. It comprises two sections: Reading and Listening.

To achieve a High Distinction in both the reading and the listening sections of the test is a hallmark of an outstanding student.

The Year 8 students who achieved this honour in 2023 were: Amelia Von for Chinese; Ashly Chu, Chloe Du, Amanda Lau, Annie Li, Veronica Liu, Hannah Tse, Chloe Zhou and Isabella Zhu for Chinese Heritage; Haylie Lee and Yiru Li for Japanese; and Merridy Bardsley, Kitty Gai, Kaitlyn Hoang, Anna Satchithanathan, Anusha Viswanathan and Hannah Wong for French.

The Year 9 students who achieved High Distinctions in both the reading and listening sections were: Alana Goh, Hilary Lieu, Tracy Nie, Jean Xu and Sophie Yang for Chinese; Chloe He and Sophia Noiret for Japanese; and Ila Bains, Nila Kanthan, Alina Lin, Georgia Massey, Sophia Noiret, Mia Pertsinidis, Anjali Popuri and Keira Waked for French.

In Year 10, Niki Gong, Connie Lu, Selina Wang and Theresa Wu achieved High Distinctions in both the reading and listening sections for Chinese.

### The National Latin Exam

The philosophy of the National Latin Exam is predicated on providing every Latin student the opportunity to experience a sense of personal accomplishment and success in his or her study of the Latin language and culture.

Sharon Zhao, Year 9, received a Perfect Paper certificate and was awarded a gold medal and a summa cum laude certificate for achieving 100 per cent in the examination.

Naomi Riaz, Year 9, was a second-place winner and received a silver medal and maxima cum laude certificate.

### Chinese Debating competition

Meriden's Chinese Debating team, comprising six Year 10 Chinese Heritage students, participated in the NSW High School Chinese Debating League. The team excelled in the debates on topics such as social media's role in democracy and changing views on life when immigrating.

The girls demonstrated commitment, resilience, and teamwork, earning praise from coaches, judges, and teachers. Amy Liu was awarded the title of the most valuable debater in two of the matches in the group stage.

Sharon Zhao and Naomi Riaz



## Mathematics

### Maths Olympiad

Year 8 students, Yiru Li and Isabella Zhu, achieved perfect scores in the Australasian Problem-Solving Mathematical Olympiads, placing them in the top 0.32% of all participants in the competition.

### Australian Mathematics Competition

In the Australian Mathematics Competition, Yiru Li, Year 8, achieved a perfect score and was awarded the prize for Best in School and the Peter O'Halloran Award for a Perfect Score. High Distinctions were awarded to Simrita Baddam, Alice Feng and Mia Wu, Year 7; Kitty Gai, Vivian Liao, Emily Seto, Lillian Shen and Ashley Shu, Year 8; Angelin Chen, Fay Dong, Naomi Riaz and Clara Yam, Year 9; and Sabrina Cao, Olivia Choi, Calleigh Chow, Victoria Wu and Emily Yang, Year 10.

### Maths Challenge

The Maths Challenge requires students to solve six difficult mathematical problems over four weeks. High Distinctions were awarded to: Alice Feng, Yumi Takusaga and Mia Wu, Year 7; Cynthia Bui, Luna Duan, Olivia Kim, Suan Lee, Yiru Li, Vivian Liao, Anna Satchithanathan, Cindy Shen, Ashley Shu, Amelia Von and Louisa Yenson, Year 8; Amy Chen and Connie Liu, Year 9; Olivia Choi, Keira Nguyen, Sophie Tan and Victoria Yenson, Year 10.

### Australian Intermediate Mathematics Olympiad

Australian Intermediate Mathematics Olympiad (AIMO) is a highly challenging mathematics competition designed to identify and stretch talented students. In this year's competition Lillian Shen, Year 8, was awarded High Distinction. Yiru Li and Cindy Shen, Year 8, and Angelin Chen, Year 9, achieved Distinctions.

1 Lillian Shen  
2 Yiru Li and Isabella Zhu



## Performing Arts

### Australian Music Examinations Board

Over 250 students completed examinations across all instruments, voice, and musicianship this year.

Two students achieved their Licentiate in Music: Cynthia Bui, Year 7, with Distinction on organ, Isabella Koo, Year 9, with Distinction on viola and Zoe Chan, Year 11, on violin. Five girls achieved AMusA diplomas: Alina Yuan, Year 10, on violin, Kiara Nguy, Year 10, on cello, Molly Grogan, Year 10, on piano, Kaitlyn Blair, Year 9, on cello and Emma Rose Koeswandy, Year 7, on piano.

Meriden was named one of the Top 10 Most Outstanding Accredited Schools by the AMEB.

### Sydney Eisteddfod

Meriden's music ensembles claimed seven first places at the 2023 Sydney Eisteddfod, along with the Madrigals winning the prestigious John Lamble Foundation Australasian Championships for Youth Choirs. Meriden's two symphony orchestras achieved first place in both the Premium and Intermediate Youth Orchestra sections, and Meriden's outstanding string players achieved first place in both Premium sections of the Primary and Secondary Schools Chamber Strings sections. The Meriden bands were rewarded with second and third places in both the Secondary Schools Premium and Primary Schools Intermediate Concert Bands, testament to the growth of the band program at Meriden.



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### Music competitions and programs

Teresa Yang, Year 11, had a highly successful year winning the 2023 National Youth Concerto Competition in June, after placing as a finalist the year before. Teresa was also the winner of the 2023 Sydney Eisteddfod NSW Doctors Orchestra Instrumental Scholarship, and was named senior runner-up in the NSW Secondary Schools Concerto Competition. In November, Teresa won the 2023 2MBS Fine Music Sydney's Young Virtuoso Award and then competed for the national title in the MBS Network's Young Virtuoso Award's National Finals later that month.

Year 9 student Nerissa Du was awarded third place overall at the 2023 Singapore International Solo and Ensemble Competition. The judging panel for the international classical music eisteddfod – all from renowned music conservatories and professional orchestras worldwide, from the Netherlands, Germany and the United States to China, Singapore and Australia – awarded Nerissa two Gold Awards, one each for her standout performances on violin and viola.

Sharon Zhao, Year 9, was selected from students across NSW and the ACT to compete in the finals of the 2023 NSW Secondary Schools Concerto Competition to perform a concerto movement with the Ku-ring-gai Philharmonic Orchestra as part of the finals concert. She was also accepted for the Australian Chamber Orchestra's Academy program.

Oboist Molly Grogan, Year 10, was selected from student and emerging professional musicians from all over Australia to participate in the Young Mannheim Symphonists National Academy, travelling to Brisbane where she learnt about historically informed performance practices.

Cynthia Bui, Year 7, competed in the Sydney Organ Competition and placed first in the Junior section. This competition attracts organists from all over Sydney. This is the second consecutive year Cynthia has won this competition.

1 Kiara Nguy, Alina Yuan, Cynthia Bui, Emma Rose Koeswandy, Zoe Chan, Kaitlyn Blair and Molly Grogan  
2 Nerissa Du



2

## Research and Critical Thinking

### Australasian Philosothon

The Australasian Philosothon is a competition that draws together the top schools in Philosophy across Australia and New Zealand. 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 Kaitlyn Blair, Anjali Kailasanathan, Sydney Nguyen, Anjali Popuri and Naomi Riaz, placed third overall in the competition, achieving second place in Creative Thinking and Critical Thinking, as well as fifth place in Collaborative Thinking. In addition, Anjali Kailasanathan placed first in the Year 12 Division of the competition.

### Philosophy in Schools Essay Competition

Meriden students achieved a clean sweep in the Philosophy in Schools Essay Competition, with Leah Har, Year 10, topping the competition, while Nidhi Nellore and Anjali Kailasanathan, in Year 11, claimed second and third places respectively. 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 fifth consecutive year Meriden girls have earned top-three placings in this rigorous academic challenge.



Anjali Kailasanathan, Sydney Nguyen, Naomi Riaz, Anjali Popuri and Kaitlyn Blair

### 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 2023 were: Year 11 students Zoe Chan, Anjali Kailasanathan, Suhani Patel, Cassandra Seeto, Mia St George, Alicia Wang and Esther Yum; Year 10 students Mikayla Rodger, Meredith Xu and Sophie Yi; and Year 9 student India Whip.

- 1** Mikayla Rodger, Cassandra Seeto, Alicia Wang, Suhani Patel, Anjali Kailasanathan, Mia St George, India Whip, Zoe Chan and Esther Yum
- 2** Sophie Yi and Meredith Xu
- 3** Anjali Kailasanathan, Leah Har and Nidhi Nellore



## Science

### 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 Melody Chia, Year 10, in Biology; Emily Chen, Year 10, in Earth and Environmental Science; and Maggie Zhang, Year 10, in Earth and Environmental Science.

### Science Olympiad Schools

Emily Chen, Year 10, has been selected to attend the Earth and Environmental 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.

### 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 High Distinction in this competition places the student in the top one percent of the state. High Distinctions were achieved by Alice Feng, Year 7; Vivian Liao, Emily Seto and Chloe Zhou, Year 8; and Melody Chia, Year 10.

### CREST Awards

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

This year, seventy Meriden students in Years 8-10 achieved Bronze Awards requiring at least ten hours of work and a sound understanding of the scientific method of inquiry.

- 1 Emily Chen, Maggie Zhang and Melody Chia
- 2 Emily Seto, Vivian Liao, Alice Feng, Chloe Zhou and Melody Chia
- 3 India Whip
- 4 Mikayla Rodger
- 5 Esther Yum and Seeya Naik Panvelkar



### STA Young Scientist Awards

India Whip, Year 9, was recognised with a prize at the 2023 Young Scientist Awards ceremony organised by the Science Teachers' Association of NSW. India achieved High Distinction and placed third in the Technological Innovations Years 9 and 10 category.

Naomi Riaz, Year 9, also achieved High Distinction. Veronica Xie, Year 8, together with Year 10 students, Rachael Hall, Elissa Cheung and Rudia Chung, were recognised with Distinctions.

### Big Science Competition

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

Thirty 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: Kayla Chiu, Elizabeth Deller, Sophie Green, Angelina Li, Symphony Shi, Luyin Wang, Year 7; Luna Duan, Katherine Fanning, Iris Gai, Eva Hu, Chloe Papageorgiou, Miriam Shin, Anusha Viswanathan, Veronica Xie, Jasmine Yang and Jenny Zhang, Year 8; Sophia Noiret, Sunae Park and Jean Xu, Year 9; Emily Chen, Melody Chia, Hannah Harris, Prudence Lu, Anjana Kailasanathan, Katrina Ling, Hannah Lui, Sophia Sidhom, Selina Wang, Victoria Wu, Maggie Zhang, Year 10.

Year 10 student, Emily Chen, has achieved High Distinction in the competition in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10.

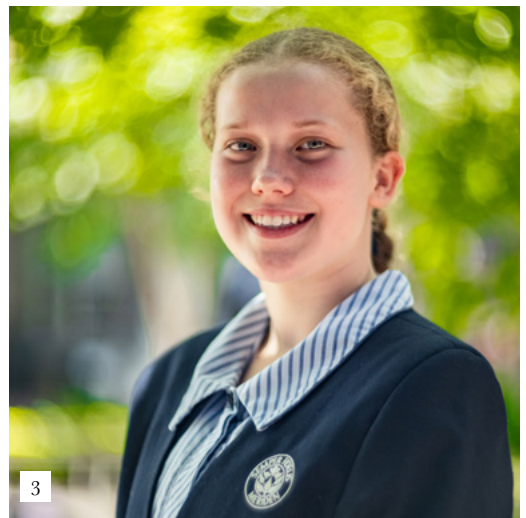
### Victor Chang School Science Awards

Year 11 students, Seeya Naik Panvelkar and Esther Yum, were acknowledged for their hard work, innovation and creativity in STEM at the Victor Chang School Science Awards.

Hosted by The Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute in honour of pioneering cardiac surgeon, Victor Chang, the annual awards recognise the achievements of high-achieving science students with the aim of encouraging young Australians to consider a future career in STEM.

### Australian Stockholm Junior Water Prize

Mikayla Rodger, Year 10, was awarded the 2023 Australian Stockholm Junior Water Prize for her scientific research into cyanobacteria, a microscopic phytoplankton responsible for an irreversible decline in water quality around the world. Her success marks the second year a Meriden student has topped the prestigious competition that challenges students to find solutions to global water problems.



## Social Science

### The Australia Geography Competition

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

Fifteen 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 percent of students in Australia who entered the competition.

**High Distinctions were awarded to:** Misri Kotecha, Ada Rand, Natalie So and Jasmine Ye, Year 12; Jenna Aylett, Abbey Cameron, Natasha Laggas, Katrina Ling and Victoria Wu, Year 10; Anna Cocks, Zoe Leon, Sheiszen Ling, Sunae Park, Abigail Sidhom and Clara Yam, Year 9.

### The International Geography Olympiad

Jasmine Ye, Year 12, won a silver medal for Australia at the 2023 International Geography Olympiad in Bundang, Indonesia.

The International Geography Olympiad serves as an annual arena for the finest geography students from across the globe. Jasmine was selected as a member of the Australian team after topping both the Australian Geography Competition national exam and Geography's Big Week Out.

- 1 Abbey Cameron and Natasha Laggas
- 2 Jenna Aylett, Katrina Ling and Victoria Wu
- 3 Jasmine Ye
- 4 Sunae Park, Clara Yam, Anna Cocks, Abigail Sidhom, Zoe Leon and Sheiszen Ling





## 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 individual sections, Protiti Karmaker, Year 8, placed fourth in Junior Readings, Reshmi Ramana, Year 9, placed fourth in Junior Poetry, and Alana Ikladios, Year 10, achieved fourth place in Senior Soapbox.

Meriden placed fourth overall in the Junior category of the Festival.

### Legacy Junior Public Speaking

The Legacy Junior Public Speaking requires students to deliver prepared and impromptu speeches. Year 10 student, Alana Ikladios, progressed through to the Regional Final of this year's competition.



Reshmi Ramana and Alana Ikladios

## STEM

### Computational and Algorithmic Thinking Competition

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. High Distinctions were earned by Yiru Li, Chanelle Tiranatvitayakul and Amelia Von, Year 8; Angelin Chen, Year 9; Sabrina Cao and Angela Li, Year 10; and Jacinta Rees, Year 12. Jacinta also received the prize for Best in School

- 1 Angela Li and Sabrina Cao
- 2 Angelin Chen, Chanelle Tiranatvitayakul, Amelia Von and Yiru Li





Meriden girls  
make their *marks.*



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