

Lateral Learning workshops

Over the course of the year, a variety of programs, workshops and cocurricular activities will take place within the Lateral Learning Department. These workshops impart the skills of research, critical thinking, digital literacy and communication to students across the school.

Below are the workshops that have taken place so far this term and we look forward to the upcoming Year 9 Media Literacy workshop, which will be run by Research Fellow, Dr Ann Goeth. More information will be provided on this workshop in the next newsletter.



Year 7 Technology and Research and Critical Thinking workshops

In Weeks 2 and 3 of this term, Year 7 students participated in two Lateral Learning workshops that introduced them to a range of skills that they will develop over their time at Meriden.

The Technology workshop, led by Miss Nicola Casaceli, COLL – Technology, covered topics including the School's IT policies, email etiquette, accessing textbooks through Campion, how to organise files on their laptops and back them up safely using Google Drive or Foldr.

The Research and Critical Thinking workshops, run by Dr Jocelyn Laurence, COLL – Research and Critical Thinking, provided Year 7 students with an introduction to the attributes and dispositions of a successful Meriden learner. In this workshop, students learned about the *Fidelis Model* and its relevance to their learning.

Students explored the Meriden Graduate Goals and the skills required to be an organised and resilient learner, including developing a greater appreciation of the word 'yet'. That is, "I have not mastered this yet, but with effort and practice, I can and I will!"

Students also learned how to access resources they will need for their studies this year using the Hudson Library eVe page. A follow up workshop will be held in Week 5, introducing students to the skills needed to avoid plagiarism and complete a bibliography.

Year 8 Communication workshop

A key focus area for Year 8 is the development of effective communication skills. In Week 4, Year 8 students participated in their first workshop of the year, which outlined the fundamentals of effective communication and public speaking. This session, led by Miss Tara Graetz, Acting COLL – Speech, aimed to equip students with essential skills to confidently present in front of large audiences. The workshop focused on practical steps for managing nerves, including the importance of posture and breathing.

Students watched excerpts from the speeches of Malala Yousef and Michelle Obama and identified what makes these women engaging and confident public speakers. Students then rehearsed an excerpt of a prepared speech, poem, announcement or Bible reading to present to their class for feedback. It was wonderful to hear the considered and articulate responses of this cohort, as they worked to refine their public speaking skills.

Students in Years 7 and 8 will have further opportunities to refine their skills in these areas over the year. They will also have a chance to demonstrate their skills through assessment tasks in a variety of subject areas and through the Lateral Learning e-reports.

Ms Priscilla Curran
Dean of Lateral Learning