

# Hear about your daughter's Lateral Learning skills

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Parents of Years 7 to 9 students will soon be able to see Lateral Learning outcomes in their daughters' Lateral Learning e-reports.

At Meriden, we're preparing our students for a future where certain skills are becoming more and more important: including critical and creative thinking, communication, and problem solving. These are highly valued by employers and universities alike, and learning these skills forms an essential part of a modern education.

All Year 7 students have now completed workshops in Research and Critical Thinking, including bibliography writing and avoiding plagiarism through effective summarising and paraphrasing techniques. These skills are currently being practised in their classrooms with their teachers as they prepare for research tasks. From Term 2 onwards, students will be assessed on these skills as they undertake research tasks in Science, Geography and Visual Arts.



Additionally, throughout Semester 1, in their Science, Maths and Technology Mandatory classes, students develop core skills in STEM. Assessments completed in these subject areas allow students to develop their spatial skills through learning the fundamentals of drawing construction, understanding 2D and 3D shapes and using Computer-Aided Design (CAD) programs to create their own designs.

Year 8 students continue their Lateral Learning e-report journey in Communication and Literary Engagement. Students develop skills in public speaking, including correct manner and matter, and learn how to use digital forms to present in an engaging manner. They also reflect on how literature has helped them develop empathy and gain inspiration for their own creative writing. Students will be assessed in these areas through tasks in English, History and PDHPE.

In Year 9, a broader range of Lateral Learning skills are assessed through the Year 9 Global Citizens program. This course allows students to consider the roles and responsibilities that come with being a global citizen, with a particular focus on the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Throughout the year students are encouraged to "Think Global, Act Local". Girls will identify a global issue of interest to them that has relevance in a local setting, empathising with those most affected by the issue, and then conduct research using a wide range of sources. Finally, they work collaboratively to develop an innovative response to a problem. Students will also select appropriate visual and digital tools to present their findings.

If you have a daughter in Year 7, 8 or 9, you will be able to see some outcomes start to appear on her Lateral Learning e-report over the course of Semester 1. These will continue to appear as the year progresses and relevant tasks are completed. If you have any questions about the Lateral Learning program at Meriden, [please feel free to contact me](#).

**Ms Priscilla Curran**  
Dean of Lateral Learning