

Senior School Aquatics Report Term 1

Diving

In Term 1, we saw an impressive turnout of thirty enthusiastic students signing up for Diving.

At the Meriden Diving Competition held at Sydney Olympic Park Aquatics Centre, students battled it out for the prestigious Allen Bull Champion Diver Trophy. Following the carnival, ten students were selected in the Meriden Diving team, and the students competed at the IGSA Diving Carnival in March. Competing in Division 1 for the first time in many years, the team put up a very commendable performance, finishing in 5th place out of twelve schools.

An outstanding performance from Zella Modena, Year 8, saw her finish in 3rd place in the 15 years springboard event and 5th place in the platform event. Zella has been selected to represent IGSA at the CIS Championships in May.

Swimming

The Meriden Swimming Carnival was a fantastic day, featuring fast races and lots of fun for everyone involved. Four records were broken across the day, and impressively, Year 7 student Noeleen Pontoh reached the 'Fastest Ten' swim-off at the end of the day.

Congratulations to Senior Champion Sofia Bisello, Intermediate Champion Audrey Mak, and Junior Champion Noeleen Pontoh. The Inter-House Swimming Cup went to Warwick, with Kent finishing in 2nd, and Cumberland in 3rd.

Following the Meriden Swimming Carnival, a team of twenty-three swimmers and five reserves were selected for the Meriden team to race at the IGSA Swimming Championships. The team performed exceptionally well, qualifying for thirty-eight out of forty-four finals on the day. A number of students achieved personal best times during the finals. On top of that, the team spirit and camaraderie were exceptional.

Outstanding individual results came from Ella Clayton (Year 7), winning all of her individual events (50m Backstroke, 50m Butterfly and 50m Freestyle). Ella was crowned joint winner of the Junior Champion Trophy, for the highest total point score in the 14 and Under age groups. In the last event of the day, the All-Age Freestyle Relay team won the gold medal and improved their time from the heats by over three seconds, a huge effort from the swimmers.

The Meriden swimming team finished in third place at the IGSA Swimming Championships, this is the highest place Meriden has ever achieved at the Championships. A massive congratulations to all the swimmers, the reserves, and the coaches for their hard work.

Congratulations to the following students for their selection to represent IGSA at the CIS Swimming Championships:

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|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| • Sofia Bisello | • Ella Clayton | • Sophie Pethers |
| • Claudia Brown | • Freya Cleary | • Noeleen Pontoh |
| • Scarlett Brown | • Audrey Mak | • Stephanie Thanos |
| • Lucinda Buckley | • Jade Mayne | • Qiannie Yang |
| • Yuxi Chen | • Abigail Oates | |

Water Polo

Meriden had nine Water Polo teams enter the IGSA Term 1 invitational competition with over 100 girls giving their best at every match. All our teams showed a fantastic commitment to training and their games.

Over the course of seven rounds, three Meriden teams secured a place in the finals round. All our players have displayed exceptional skills, camaraderie, and sportsmanship. This season has been particularly remarkable with the Meriden 3 team taking home the Senior Second Grade competition despite the significant majority of players being in Year 9. Their dedication and teamwork have been truly impressive – congratulations to the team on their well-deserved victory!

Another memorable moment from this season was the hard-fought battle for the Senior First Grade, which saw Meriden 1 win the prestigious S01 title. The dominant performance saw the team finish the grand final with a 13-6 victory. The Term 1 head-to-head game against St Catherine's School is played for the Greenhalgh and Townsend Trophy.

Congratulations to all Meriden girls who participated in the competition. We look forward to seeing you continue to thrive in the pool in Term 4.

Ms Chloe Wilcox

Head Coach – Aquatics

