

Literary inspiration at Sydney Writers' Festival 2024

Meriden Year 9 Junior Writing Group members were "taken away" to the 2024 Sydney Writers' Festival on Thursday 23 May – appropriately, given the theme of the day was *Take Me Away!*

Our young writers enjoyed a day of creative and technical inspiration. The students heard presentations and panel discussions from well-known authors Jack Heath, Graham Akhurst, C.S. Pacat and Elizabeth Acevedo. They also had the opportunity to ask questions to successful literary talents and creative thinkers.

There was a focus on the importance of representation in literature and popular culture, and storytelling as a way of sharing authentic human experiences. The authors shared tips and tricks regarding editing, critiquing, and the importance of collaboration in creation.



The Year 9 Junior Writing Group with authors Jack Heath and Elizabeth Acevedo

C.S. Pacat revealed specialist insight on technical choices in developing original ideas, worldbuilding, and the reasons for having (or not having) a message behind one's story.

The Junior Writers found this particularly helpful in honing their own skills in the craft of writing and came away with clear strategies to find inspiration and joy along the way. It was a valuable and enriching day in which the students returned to school better equipped to use language purposefully.

We look forward to reading the stories composed by our Year 9 writers in the coming year at Writing Group.

Miss Katherine Bull
English Teacher

