Meriden girls find their voices

Term 2 has been a busy period for Speech at Meriden. Year 8 students participated in their second Communication Workshop in Week 3 with a focus on persuasive speaking. Students learned about Aristotle's Rhetorical Triangle: how to implement reason, emotion, and credibility into speeches. This reiterates the importance of all students having their voices heard, improving their skills in the process. It has also been encouraging to see Year 8 students taking the opportunity to use their voices in the wider school community by volunteering to read the Bible in Chapel services, joining Speak Up Club, and participating in external public speaking opportunities.

Public Speaking Competition season is in full swing, with students across Years 8 to 11 preparing for the Plain English Speaking and Legacy competitions. Congratulations to our Speech Captain Elena Whitfield, and Year 10 student Ila Bains, for their excellent performances at the Plain English Speaking Competition in Week 4. The girls presented prepared speeches and were challenged with an impromptu section, where they were given a stimulus and only three minutes to prepare a speech in response. We wish Year 8 student Mia Wu and Year 9 student Chloe Zhou all the best as they prepare for the Legacy Junior Competition, taking place early next term.

Students who took part in the TED-Ed Program during 2023 were presented with their certificates this term. Congratulations to Year 11 student Emily Leong, Year 10 students Ila Bains, Celeste El-Khoury, Anjali Popuri and Danielle Wan, and Year 9 student Chloe Zhou for completing the program. The girls presented on a wide and fascinating range of topics, from the ethics of gene-editing tools to lowering the voting age.

The TED-Ed program is available to complete as part of Speak Up Club, our Speech cocurricular group. It has been gratifying to see an increase in students attending Speak Up Club and I look forward to bringing you news of their endeavours over the rest of the year.

Mrs Charlotte Yates
Coordinator of Learning Link - Speech