

# Meriden speakers find their voice

Meriden's public speakers have had a busy and successful start to the year, participating in two challenging competitions.

We were proud to host the first round of the inaugural IGSA Dame Enid Lyons Oratory Competition in Week 7. Students from nine schools across Sydney competed in the rigorous competition, which required students to engage in high-level impromptu speaking.

Students were presented with three topics from which to choose. They then had 15 minutes to prepare an eight-minute speech for the audience and adjudicators. Year 11 student Ila Bains represented Meriden at the event. She spoke admirably; citing evidence from the Milgram Experiment in 1961, she argued that "destructive obedience" is still contributing to some of our greatest contemporary political problems.

Finalists will be announced at the beginning of April after three preliminary heats. They will go on to compete in the Grand Final at the Sydney Opera House, hosted by Australian journalist Julia Baird.

Meanwhile, Year 9 students Alice Feng, Rochelle Tao and Mia Wu, Year 10 student Anna Satchithanathan, and Year 11 student Celeste El-Khoury took part in the Rostrum Voice of Youth Competition in Week 7.

The students prepared a six-minute (for Juniors) or eight-minute (for Seniors) speech on a topic of their choice, where they were adjudicated on their public speaking skills and their ability to personally reflect on contemporary social issues. Alice won first place in her heat, with a compelling speech about young people using social media to break the cycle of domestic violence. Anna was awarded runner-up in her heat with her commentary on price gouging by supermarkets taking advantage of vulnerable consumers.

We wish Alice all the best as she prepares to compete in the Regional Final.

In exciting debating news, Year 10 students Annie Li and Jasmine Yang were selected to represent the Speaker's Corner team in the International Final of the Harvard Schools Debating Competition this year. Having two Meriden students selected to compete in the rigorous international event is a very impressive feat, reflecting the strength of Meriden debaters.

## **Mrs Charlotte Yates**

Coordinator of Learning Link – Speech



Alice Feng (Year 9)



Anna Satchithanathan (Year 10)