

Meriden girls participate in Meeting of Minds

Year 8 students, Angel Chen, Mila Ke and Cynthia Yu, share their experiences attending Meeting of Minds.

Earlier in the term, nine Year 8 students attended Meeting of Minds, an annual philosophy event which provides students with an opportunity to engage with one another in philosophical inquiry and discussion.

The theme of the first session was *Embodied Knowledge*. We were tasked with brainstorming ideas and discussing philosophical questions based on prompts such as “Is muscle memory retained in the muscle or the brain?”. This encouraged thought-provoking discussions, allowing us to reflect and compare knowledge about our respective perspectives and views. Additionally, we participated in an experiment with upside-down glasses that allowed us to experience first-hand how the world could be perceived through a different view.



Top row: Tracy Hu, Mila Ke, Cynthia Yu and Angel Chen. Bottom row: Rebecca Bal, Jessie Xu, Elvia Lin, Ella Zhang and Vicky Qian



The view shown through goggles that turned things upside down, which were used in the first session of *Embodied Knowledge*

The theme of the second session, *Mind and Body*, was introduced through an interactive thought experiment that used hypothetical situations to promote deeper thinking from different viewpoints. In this experiment, the thoughts of two students were ‘swapped’ into each other’s bodies. We were then challenged with a series of scenarios to consider how these students would now function in different situations. A range of questions were raised, sparking discussions about the connections between the mind, brain and body and their impact on our consciousness and behaviours.

After lunch, we completed three activities discussing the philosophical concept, *Identity*, and how it manifests within other people and ourselves, as well as the criteria to gain an identity. Images were presented during the first activity that raised questions around whether identities can change over time or whether they are unalterable. We narrowed these questions down to one, which became the subject of the respective groups’ Community of Inquiry, a student-led philosophical discussion.

This event was an eye-opening and rewarding experience for all of us. Engaging in philosophical discussions and enhancing our critical thinking skills, where our thinking could be challenged and broadened by a range of different perspectives.



Cynthia Yu participating in a thought experiment