

# Students shine at Festival of Speech

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Last month, a team of 13 Meriden students took on the annual IGSA Festival of Speech. Students competed in the following sections:

**Junior Poetry:** Rochelle Tao

**Junior Public Speaking:** Frances Errington

**Junior Readings:** Elisy Arfianto

**Junior Soapbox:** Alice Feng

**Senior Poetry:** Alexandra McLean (Alexandra was unfortunately absent due to sickness on the day)

**Senior Public Speaking:** Anna Satchithanathan

**Senior Readings:** Protiti Karmakar

**Senior Soapbox:** Veronica Xie

**Current Affairs:** Anjali Popuri, Diya Maninathan and Yumi Takusagawa (Kitty Gai also trained with the team but was unwell and unable to compete on the day)

**Religious and Ethical Questions:** Ila Bains, Olivia Kim and Iris Gai

Our talented speakers delivered compelling performances on the day, demonstrating exceptional audience engagement and strong rhetorical skills throughout their presentations.

Some highlights included:

- **Veronica Xie** – First Place in Senior Soapbox
- **Rochelle Tao** – Fifth Place in Junior Poetry

Overall, Meriden placed seventh out of 26 schools in the Senior Division, and 12<sup>th</sup> overall. Our sincere thanks extend to Ms Priscilla Curran, who coached the Religious and Ethical Questions team, and Ms Stella He, who coached the Current Affairs team.



Yumi Takusagawa, Diya Maninathan and Anjali Popuri