

# Year 8 students speak up

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On Monday 9 February, Year 8 students attended their first Communication Workshop of the year. These workshops fall under the Lateral Learning Program, where students take part in a range of workshops across different year groups to get them practising essential transferable skills. In Year 8, students focus on the skill of communication.

We have some incredible public speakers at Meriden who represent the school in public speaking competitions and debating teams across Years 7 to 12. However, public speaking should never be reserved solely for competition settings. In a world that is becoming increasingly divisive with heated online discourse and social commentary, it is essential that our girls leave Meriden knowing how to carefully and clearly articulate themselves.

Part of Meriden's very own *Fidelis Model* is to produce graduates who are confident, articulate, and responsible leaders. Therefore, in their first Communication Workshop, students learned about the fundamentals of public speaking.



Hanna Chu speaking with confidence at the workshop

The girls were introduced to techniques that promote audience engagement and speaker confidence. They took the opportunity to evaluate well-known speakers including Malala Yousafzai and Michelle Obama. They then moved into their classrooms and took turns speaking aloud to their peers.

Public speaking is something that requires confidence and bravery; we know it is something that many adults fear! By participating in these workshops, students have the chance to step outside their comfort zones to develop skills that will follow them well beyond their school years. I look forward to working with the girls throughout their Communication Workshop series this year.

## **Mrs Charlotte Yates**

Coordinator of Learning Link – Speech