

Success In Public Speaking

Public Speaking Competitions

It has been an exciting period for Public Speaking at Meriden with students showcasing their skills across a range of prestigious competitions. Following her success at the Rostrum Voice of Youth Competition, Frances Errington represented Meriden at the Regional Final. Presenting a thoughtfully crafted speech on gender inequality, alongside a challenging impromptu task, Frances used her rhetorical skills with great finesse.

Mia Wu (Year 10) and Anna Satchithanathan (Year 11) competed in the Plain English Speaking Award. This demanding competition requires both a prepared speech and an impromptu address with only three minutes of preparation. Both students delivered compelling performances, with Anna named a winner of the Local Final. She will progress to the Regional Final later this term.

Anna also prepared for the third heat of the Dame Enid Lyons Oratory Competition, held at Meriden. Now in its second year and run by IGSA, the competition challenges students from girls' schools across Sydney to think critically and respond under pressure. Participants are given fifteen minutes to prepare an eight-minute speech based on one of three selected quotes, requiring them to combine knowledge, rhetorical skill and sustained engagement with their chosen stimulus. A panel of adjudicators attends heats across Sydney before selecting ten finalists to compete in the concluding round. We look forward to learning the outcome later this term.

Lateral Learning – Year 8 Communication Workshop



All Year 8 students participated in their second Communication Workshop, focussing on 'Persuasive Speaking'. We were delighted to welcome Ms Sally Sitou, MP, as our guest speaker.

Building on their study of Aristotle's 'Triangle of Persuasion', students gained valuable insights from Ms Sitou's experiences using persuasive communication in a range of contexts, both in and outside of Parliament. From speaking with local constituents to introducing the Prime Minister at formal dinners, Ms Sitou had so many engaging anecdotes to highlight the importance of speaking

with purpose and clarity to influence and inspire others.

Ms Sitou emphasised that our voices are powerful tools for effecting positive change, encouraging students to use them thoughtfully and responsibly. Her visit was warmly received, with many students taking the opportunity to connect with her at the conclusion of the session.

We extend our sincere thanks to Ms Sitou for her time and generosity, and we look forward to welcoming her back to Meriden in the future.

Ms Charlotte Yates

History and Social Science Teacher | Coordinator of Learning Link – Speech | Debating Coordinator