

Connect  
Grow  
Belong



**Boarding**

Our boarders come mainly from rural and regional NSW with a sprinkling of students from around the world and a handful from greater Sydney.



## Boarding | Years 7 to 12

### Study and support

Our boarding school is non-selective for girls whose aspirations and interests are wide ranging. Our curriculum is broad based and aimed at lifelong achievement. HSC subjects in the arts and sciences and the creative and performing arts are taught to the highest level.

Boarders enjoy a culture of high academic standards and excellent HSC results. From Year 7, boarders coming from isolated areas or schools with different standards of achievement receive extra tuition where necessary. The Betty Archdale Library (located in the Abbotsleigh Research Centre) has excellent facilities, and is a wonderful resource for boarders to use after hours.

### Sport and physical activity

Competing against 27 other schools in the Independent Girls' Schools Sports Association (IGSSA) competition, Abbotsleigh offers a choice of sports every term such as tennis, softball, diving, swimming, gymnastics, athletics, cricket, basketball, netball, hockey and more. Hockey is one of the boarders' favourite sports. Our indoor Aquatic Centre facilitates fitness, leisure fun, water polo and excellence in swimming.

### Diverse range of interests

Music offers orchestras, bands, choirs and ensembles, HSC Music and performance tours to other parts of Australia and the world. Drama and Visual Arts run from Year 7 to the HSC. All three disciplines combine in concerts and drama productions for which all girls can audition.

Agriculture Club, debating, chess, Duke of Edinburgh's Award, Mock Trials and many other activities are available during the day and are complemented by weekend activities for boarders.

There is a wide range of weekend activity possibilities including outings to the theatre, ice skating, the Art Gallery of NSW, a walk across the Harbour Bridge to The Rocks markets, a ferry ride to Manly – staff are open to suggestions! Staff organise and supervise group outings on alternate weekends.

### Family and friends

Our boarders come mainly from rural and regional NSW with a sprinkling of students from around the world and a handful from greater Sydney. Our boarding family lives in a variety of houses, two old family homes converted to comfortable and homely living for

Years 7 and 8, McCredie House, with more space and break out areas for Years 9 and 10, and the senior boarding facility, opened in 2008, Wheeldon House. Senior students in Years 11 and 12 live in this state of the art house, which features single bedrooms with ensuites, open spaces and an atmosphere conducive to study and collaborative learning.

Abbotsleigh has more than 25 boarding staff. The Boarding Coordinator in each house has qualifications and training in residential care, and becomes well acquainted with the academic and pastoral needs of the girls in her house and liaises with Year Coordinators, Learning Support staff and School Counsellors. We also have an Assistant Chaplain for boarding, who is always available with a ready ear or cupcake to help the girls feel connected.

The Head of Boarding lives on campus and is responsible for all boarders and staff. She is a member of the Executive team and also teaches several classes.

The boarding school 'raises' a Guide Dog puppy as a service to the Guide Dog Association but also for the boarders to enjoy. It's a great antidote to missing family pets at home.

Each boarder has a city family too. This is an Abbotsleigh family who has volunteered to help a boarder adjust to life away from home, to get to know the School and the city, to celebrate birthdays, to give advice and to be a friend close by.

### **Good food with lots of choice**

Attractively served food that boarders choose for themselves helps keep them healthy and energetic. A typical dinner offers a choice of a meat or fish dish, vegetables, rice, potatoes, pasta, sauce and a gourmet vegetarian selection. There is a self serve salad bar as well as bread, spreads and milk. Of course, there is also dessert for anyone who still has room!

The Food Services Manager oversees the menu, in conjunction with a qualified nutritionist. The two chefs are excellent and the staff serve friendliness with the food. There is also a Boarder Food Committee comprising the Food Services Manager, Chef, Deputy Head of Boarding and student representatives who discuss improvements and new ideas, as well as plan menus for special occasions.

### **Care when you are sick**

The Health Centre, overseen by a Registered Nurse, has several beds for minor illnesses. For more serious bouts of illness, the local doctor can be onsite in minutes and two major hospitals are less than 10 minutes away.

### **Unlimited access to family**

We understand that Abbotsleigh, as good as it is, can never replace your own family. That is why we allow leave almost every weekend and why parents who come to Sydney can take their daughters out for the evening, overnight or for the weekend. Parents and siblings are always welcome to share a meal in the dining room or to drop in at any time. Communication is of vital importance to nurture the partnership between parents and staff.

Each term the Boarder Parents' Association meets the Head of Boarding and Headmistress to discuss how boarding is working and to contribute ideas and support for the future of boarding at Abbotsleigh. The group also organises social activities for boarder parents, which complements those organised by each house during the year.

### **Scholarships**

Abbotsleigh offers a number of full and part scholarships awarded on several criteria including academic results, financial need, music, general merit and affiliations with Old Girls. For more information, please refer to the enrolment booklet enclosed in this package.



