I wonder what the young girls and boys who started at Abbotsleigh on 20 July 1885 would have made of Abbotsleigh 2020. I can’t imagine that even in their wildest dreams they would have predicted the size, the buildings or the activities in which our girls are engaged today, let alone the technology!

Abbotsleigh turned 135 years old on Monday – and what a rich history it has developed since then. As I said to the girls across the School in our first assemblies for Term 3: in establishing this great school that has stood the ‘test of time’, Miss Marian Clarke was certainly an incredible woman of foresight and courage.

The early history of the School is ‘the stuff of legend’. Miss Clarke reportedly named her school, ‘Abbotsleigh’, so that it would appear at the top of any alphabetical listing of schools. That is the case today, but sadly, it was not the case back in Miss Clarke’s time; the school was known as ‘Miss Marian Clarke’s School, Abbotsleigh’!

The ‘spectacular’ failure of the first group of Abbotsleigh girls to sit public examinations is also legendary. Perhaps Miss Clarke was a little over-zealous as the girls were entered to sit the public examinations after only three months of preparation. In typical Abbotsleigh style though, Miss Clarke helped the girls face their disappointment with a day’s holiday and a treat of strawberries and cream. They then got straight back into their studies and passed the examinations the following year, this time with the requisite 12 months preparation, with flying colours. The girls’ success marked the beginning of Abbotsleigh’s very strong academic tradition and reputation.

From its inception, Abbotsleigh has educated amazing young girls and women. One of the first young women to graduate was Dr Agnes Bennett, who was the first woman to graduate with honours in Science at Sydney University and the first Australian woman to enlist in the British army (because the Australian army would not allow women to join at the beginning of WW1). She was also the first woman to drive a car in New Zealand!

On the occasion of Abbotsleigh’s 135th birthday we honour the past. We also celebrate the present and embrace the future. Abbotsleigh’s ‘2020 present’ is something that none of us could have predicted in our wildest dreams. However, Abbotsleigh girls and staff have risen magnificently to the challenges that this year has brought. The girls’ resilience and courage during AOCL
and ROCL have been superb and I know that if Miss Marian Clarke were here today, she would be immensely proud of each and every girl and staff member, as am I.

And what of the future? We must embrace the future, whatever that might look like. As Rev Jenni Stoddart said to the staff this week, ‘Schools touch the future. We do it as we make a difference to the next generation. Every act of compassion, every action that brings good to our students and to each other...is a window into hope. Schools touch the future. A future that God has touched with hope’.

What will Abbotsleigh be like in 2085? We do not know. Maybe we can predict this future with a little more accuracy than our forebears of 1885 could; maybe not. However, whatever it will bring, I know that the Abbotsleigh girls in 2085 will be strong, resilient and courageous; they will be compassionate young women of integrity who demonstrate the deepest respect for all others and aim to make a positive difference in their world.

‘Schools touch the future. A future God has touched with hope.’

Happy 135th Birthday Abbotsleigh

---

Chaplain

Counting Joy – Connecting students with female Christian leaders

Rev Jenni Stoddart
Chaplain

On Friday 31 July, Abbotsleigh will be running its first Women in Christian Leadership conference for students in Years 10-12. What was expected to be an onsite conference will now be run via Zoom. Our Abbotsleigh Years 10-12 students will connect with Rev Dr Katy Smith, Principal of Mary Andrews College and Anna Grummitt, the Youth Editor for the Centre of Public Christianity.

Our theme is ‘Counting Joy’ – focusing on how serving others and persevering in following the Lord Jesus is the way to joyful leadership.

Students from a number of Anglican Girls’ Schools will also join us via Zoom, giving us all the opportunity to connect with students across Sydney.

The mini-conference will run on Friday afternoon at Abbotsleigh from 3.30-5.30 pm.

Girls in Years 10-12 interested in attending are invited to email Rev Stoddart.
Community

Year 7 2022 scholarship applications open

Mrs Colleen Fenn
Registrar

Year 7 2022 scholarships are now open with exams on Saturday 19 September 2020.

Click here to register now.

Any questions? Please contact the Registrar, Colleen Fenn, or call 02 9473 7744.

Abbotsleigh Christian Fellowship seeks to support our school through prayer and acts of generosity

You are warmly invited to our Zoom Term 3 prayer meeting on

**Tuesday 18 August – 8 pm for an 8.10 pm start**

Please contact Heidi Grout on grouthh@abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au or 9473 7736 to RSVP

Please join us as we give thanks to God for all that he has done
Welcome to your new Abbotsleigh parent app

Follow these simple steps to quickly and easily set up the app.

It's Abbotsleigh's birthday! We are celebrating 135 years of Abbotsleigh magic.

As part of the celebrations we are excited to give our parent community a birthday present! Your new Abbotsleigh parent app has arrived and ready for you to start using today.

The Abbotsleigh parent app is a place to go to catch up on all the news from the School and keep up to date with important notices and information.

Click here to view the user guide and download your app now.

Who would have thought 135 years ago that all Abbotsleigh’s news, calendars and events could be in the palm of our hands whenever we needed it.

Abbotsleigh Community Directory

During these difficult times it has been comforting to know we are all a part of one large community supporting and looking after one another.

Many of our wonderful Abbotsleigh parents own their own business and we have created a Community Directory of those businesses so we can all support each other – both now and into the future.

Please click here to view the directory, where you will find a vast array of businesses with goods and services we can all use. The directory is also available on the Parent Portal.

If you are a business owner and would like to register your business on the directory, please click here.

If you have any questions, please contact Heidi Grout Community Relations Manager, or call 02 9473 7736.
Junior School

Welcome back and organisation for Term 3

Ms Sally Ruston
Head of Junior School

I took great pleasure in welcoming the girls back to the Junior School on Tuesday. The looks of delight, energy and enthusiasm on their faces reminded me of just why I am so passionate about educating.

As we headed into the holidays, we were all full of expectations that things would be somewhat ‘back to the new normal’ this term. While we are delighted that cocurricular activities, including music, sport and AbbSchool classes are back on, there is still much that doesn’t resemble our typical schooling experiences. Tuesday’s Chapel was again a blend of Zoom and face to face for a single year group. During this time, I encouraged the girls to welcome and embrace with optimism, excitement and hope the mystery that much of this term will be. We will snatch every opportunity to learn, connect and celebrate at each possible turn.

Abbotsleigh turned 135 years old on Monday 20 July. Today in assembly we celebrated this remarkable milestone and the girls were given the first of a number of surprises to mark this occasion. Today it was a bookmark showing just how much Abbotsleigh has physically changed but philosophically remained consistent through this passing of time. Many exciting events are on the drawing board as we wait to see our COVID-19 reality in NSW.

To ensure that our school community continues to remain a healthy and enabling one for all this term, I share here again the cautions, measures and protocols being taken in the Junior School. If we don’t model and gently remind each other how to physically distance and engage in practices that limit the spreading of COVID-19, how can we expect our girls to do so? Your support of the following measures is anticipated and very much appreciated.

• Classes commence each day with your daughter’s temperature being checked by her class teacher. Please ensure that your daughter is completely healthy when attending school.

• AbbSchool and cocurricular activities have recommenced this week. Parents collecting girls from after school sessions should only enter the campus a maximum of 15 minutes prior to the session completion and wait physically distanced outdoors adjacent to the activity location.

• IPSHA Saturday Sport will commence on Saturday 1 August, with training sessions on designated days after school this week and also on Saturday 25 July. As sports training concludes, girls will be walked to the lower car park for collection at 4.30 pm. Those not collected by
4.40 pm will be signed into ASC. Only one parent/carer is to attend the game on Saturday whether at Abbotsleigh or an external venue. Parents must ensure they remain physically distanced throughout this time and each venue will have a system of registering your attendance to enable contact tracing. Further details will be provided by Paul Guirri.

- Year 2 sport will commence on Saturday 25 July on the Lower Oval with girls dropped off at this location before 8 am and collected from the upper car park at 9.30 am. Parents are not to remain on campus during the training session.
- Assembly and chapel each week will continue to be delivered live to a year group in Everett Hall and via Zoom to classrooms for those unable to attend.
- Incursions will recommence with strict COVID-safe protocols in place.
- The Department of Education still directs that excursions and camps are not to be held. The advice is also that large community gatherings such as concerts, family events and functions do not occur. We are hopeful that this advice might change as the term progresses and will alert you when events can recommence.

**Parent information**

- **Before and After School Care** will operate as usual with fees now being charged. Families needing government financial support to access these facilities, should speak with the BASC Supervisor, Penny Charalambous for details.
- **The Palmer Library** will be open from 8 am until 4 pm but for borrowing only. There is not sufficient spacing to allow the library to be used for after school supervision or homework completion. Families requiring supervision before and after school should use BASC.
- **Tuckshop** has been fully operational from Tuesday with girls able to order both online and make over the counter purchases. It is preferred that online orders remain in place as much as possible to avoid crowding. We are welcoming parents back into the Tuckshop to volunteer from the start of this term, as allowed by Government guidelines. We greatly need parent volunteers to assist in the preparation and sale of foods for the girls. Please look out for the email you will shortly receive seeking assistance which includes this [online form](#) to enable you to clearly indicate your availability.
- Other than on these identified occasions above, we request that parents continue to remain off campus. Should you need to enter the campus during the school day, then please report immediately to Reception to complete our formal COVID-safe protocols.
- **Parent and Teacher Interviews** will be conducted in Week 3 via phone calls. Information enabling you to book times with both Classroom and Specialist Teachers will be distributed later this week. So that these meetings can be most productive, we ask that you ensure a quiet, distraction free environment be identified. It will be important that your daughter is not listening in to these adult discussions. Portfolios will come home with your daughter after the phone meeting has occurred and we encourage you to view her work together.
- **Parent meetings and prayer groups** will continue in the online format established last term.

Girls are encouraged to bring in their scooters, skateboards, rollerblades and skipping ropes again as this enables them to seamlessly physically distance and engage in robust, healthy activity. Year 2 girls will be involved in a Bike Education Program this term and are asked to bring in their bikes. Such activities also support the girls in their social interactions.

I seek your support in modelling to your daughter safe hygiene and physical distancing practices. With us as wise, caring adults ‘doing the right thing’, our girls will have encouraging role models that demonstrate how we can live safely with COVID-19.

---

**Positions of responsibility**

Ms Sally Ruston  
*Head of Junior School*

I took delight in announcing the House and class positions of responsibility for Term 3 in assembly today. It is most important that we give appropriate opportunities for leadership to those girls ready to shoulder this responsibility in an equitable and inclusive manner. It is; however, important for all girls to carry out their duties in an altruistic way, without constantly seeking tangible rewards. We warmly congratulate the following girls as they take up their positions of responsibility to serve the School in the coming months:

**Semester 2 responsibilities:**

- Library Captain – Emily Keats
- Blaxland House Captain – Primrose Russell
- Blaxland House Vice Captain – Alisha Gunalingam

Lawson House Captain – Charlotte Panikian  
Lawson House Vice Captain – Evelyn Cooksley

Macquarie House Captain – Chanel Kang  
Macquarie House Vice Captain – Kaitlyn Au-Yeung

Sturt House Captain – Charlotte Parasyn  
Sturt House Vice Captain – Melanie Wong

Wentworth House Captain – Cecilia He  
Wentworth House Vice Captain – Jemima Jones

**Service Committee Semester 2**

6G – Nicole Gabonian  
6O – Shriya Shankar
TERM 3 - WEEK 1  ABBOTSLEIGH NEWSLETTER  JULY 2020

Parent teacher interviews

Ms Sally Ruston  
Head of Junior School

As part of our communication and reporting process we are holding parent and teacher interviews in Week 3 of this term. We are offering this current round of interviews by telephone to minimise the number of people presenting on our Junior School campus. During this brief telephone meeting it will be possible for you to gain an updated insight into how your daughter is progressing and also to hear of ways in which we can all further support her learning journey. Any queries that have arisen from the Semester 1 report can also be clarified at this time.

Opportunity to schedule telephone interviews with Specialist Teachers is also possible. We ask that you only seek to talk with the Specialist Teacher if you have a specific question or essential additional information to share with regard to your daughter’s progress in a specialist subject. This question or topic should be entered into the text field when selecting an appointment time.

Instructions on how to access the Parent Portal and complete telephone interview appointments with your daughter’s class teacher are available here. Please ensure that you enter your preferred contact phone number and take a screen shot of your appointment time for easy reference.

For Class Teacher meetings, you are encouraged to use the text field to record any questions you might have. For Specialist Teacher meetings, it is essential that this text field is completed. This is so that your daughter’s teacher can be informed prior to the interview and ready to give feedback. Telephone appointments are most beneficial if they are conducted in a quiet, uninterrupted space, where you are able to confidentially discuss your daughter’s progress.

Should you require any assistance, please contact IT Services or call 9473 7750 (option 1).

While we have instigated a formal structure to schedule this second round of meetings, please know that you are encouraged to make contact with your daughter’s Class Teacher, Year Coordinator, Deputy or myself at any time you have a query or concern. This contact can be made through the diary or by phoning the Junior School Reception. Also be assured that if we have any concerns or information to convey, we will be quick to speak with you either by phone or by arranging a meeting.

TERM 3 - WEEK 1

Stage Crew Semester 2

6L – Emma Simpson  
6D – Loretta Oun

Class responsibility

3G  
Class Captain – Mirabella Bertolla  
Vice Captain – Summer Shao  
Environment Captain – Sophie Birch

30  
Class Captain – Michaela Peppel  
Vice Captain – Ava Jamieson  
Environment Captain – Yuxi Wang

3L  
Class Captain – Maheen Rao  
Vice Captain – Nava Salahi  
Environment Captain – Ayva Karamil

4G  
Class Captain – Sonali Edirimanne  
Vice Captain – Ria Kim  
Environment Captain – Aaliyah Hassan

4O  
Class Captain – Isabella Feng  
Vice Captain – Alyssa Low  
Environment Captain – Elise Miller

4L  
Class Captain – Isabella Wang  
Vice Captain – Melody Cui  
Environment Captain – Samantha Parr

5G  
Class Captain – Chiara Richards  
Vice Captain – Alice Citer  
Environment Captain – Irisa Lee

5O  
Class Captain – Carys Byrnes  
Vice Captain – Scarlett Low  
Environment Captain – Vera Yuen

5L  
Class Captain – Rachel Choe  
Vice Captain – Olivia van der Vlies  
Environment Captain – Anastasia Berenger

5D  
Class Captain – Amelia Ma  
Class Vice Captain – Saisha Arora  
Environment Captain – Becky Qiu

Term 3 Responsibilities 2020

SRC Representatives

KG – Chloe Nam and Annabelle Yuan
KO – Isabella Sicouri and Hayley Tan
1G – Anya Bhardwaj and Christina Jin
1O – Huihui Fu and Gemma Tang
2G – Lily Kielt and Harriet McKinnon
2O – Brianna Chan and Phoebe Wu

Infants Stage Crew

2G – Georgia Whyburn  
2O – Katie Carless

For Class Teacher meetings, you are encouraged to use the text field to record any questions you might have. For Specialist Teacher meetings, it is essential that this text field is completed. This is so that your daughter’s teacher can be informed prior to the interview and ready to give feedback. Telephone appointments are most beneficial if they are conducted in a quiet, uninterrupted space, where you are able to confidentially discuss your daughter’s progress.

Should you require any assistance, please contact IT Services or call 9473 7750 (option 1).

While we have instigated a formal structure to schedule this second round of meetings, please know that you are encouraged to make contact with your daughter’s Class Teacher, Year Coordinator, Deputy or myself at any time you have a query or concern. This contact can be made through the diary or by phoning the Junior School Reception. Also be assured that if we have any concerns or information to convey, we will be quick to speak with you either by phone or by arranging a meeting.

For Class Teacher meetings, you are encouraged to use the text field to record any questions you might have. For Specialist Teacher meetings, it is essential that this text field is completed. This is so that your daughter’s teacher can be informed prior to the interview and ready to give feedback. Telephone appointments are most beneficial if they are conducted in a quiet, uninterrupted space, where you are able to confidentially discuss your daughter’s progress.

Should you require any assistance, please contact IT Services or call 9473 7750 (option 1).

While we have instigated a formal structure to schedule this second round of meetings, please know that you are encouraged to make contact with your daughter’s Class Teacher, Year Coordinator, Deputy or myself at any time you have a query or concern. This contact can be made through the diary or by phoning the Junior School Reception. Also be assured that if we have any concerns or information to convey, we will be quick to speak with you either by phone or by arranging a meeting.
IPSHA Saturday Sport (Years 3-6)

Mr Paul Guirreri
Head of Junior School Sport and PDHPE

As the IPSHA competition does not commence until Saturday 1 August (Week 2), we are conducting an internal match/training session for all teams this Saturday morning, 25 July on the Senior School Top Oval where the girls will prepare for the season commencement and also allow us the opportunity to finalise our Term 3 teams, especially now that we are able to participate in match play.

Saturday morning’s schedule is as follows:

Abbotsleigh Senior School Top Oval (grass oval)
- Years 3 and 4 touch football and AFL: 8-9 am
- Years 5 and 6 touch football: 9-10 am
- Years 5 and 6 AFL: 10-11 am

We ask that all parents/carers arrive with their daughters no more than 10 minutes prior to their scheduled starting time and to leave the venue as soon as your daughter is returned to you after the session.

The following protocols must be adhered to this Saturday morning, and also when the IPSHA competition begins in Week 2:
- Only 1 parent/guardian per participant can attend.
- Spectators are asked to comply with social distancing guidelines.
- ‘If in doubt, sit it out’ Any student, parent/carer, coach, official who has any cold or flu like symptoms cannot attend
- All parent/guardians MUST sign in on arrival via a QR code. These will be displayed at various locations around the parking area and top oval. The QR code can be accessed via the camera on your smartphone/device. If you do not have a device, there will be hard copies available via the convenor or PDHPE staff.

The following applies for Junior School/IPSHA parking to ensure that there is no crossover with Senior School sport:
- There is strictly NO Junior School parking or drop off in the underground car park - this is the drop off and pick up point for Senior School sport
- Junior School/IPSHA parking is via Gate 7 (off Pacific Hwy) and will be signposted ‘IPSHA parking’. The exit will be via Gate 16 (off Lucinda Avenue). Street parking is available on Lucinda Avenue
- Pedestrian entry access is via Gate 16 on Lucinda Avenue

Download the parking map.

All girls are required to present this Saturday in their full PE uniform with white sports hat and water bottle. Soccer/football boots are a good idea to be worn however runners are also fine. All girls playing AFL MUST have a mouthguard.

Team sheets and draws should be available early next week once we have finalised our teams on Saturday and have received the draws from IPSHA.

Year 2 Saturday Sport

Mr Paul Guirreri
Head of Junior School Sport and PDHPE

Our Year 2 Saturday Sport program commences this Saturday 25 July and will see the girls engage in the Netsetgo program run by Netball NSW to commence the term.

The girls need to wear their full PE uniform including their white PE hat. All girls must also have a water bottle with them as the bubbler is not in use. We ask that girls do not wear watches/fit bits, earrings or jewellery.

The sessions will commence at 8 am so we ask that your daughter arrives by 7.45 am so that we can start on time. Sessions conclude at 9.30 am.

In line with current restrictions, parents are requested to drop their daughter at the seating area next to the Junior School pool opposite Poole House and then leave the campus.

Parents are asked to return at 9.30 am to collect their daughter from the upper car line.

Kindergarten to celebrate 100 days of school

Ms Sally Ruston
Head of Junior School

The 100th day of school is a memorable way for Kindergarten to celebrate the various mathematical concepts that can be taught using the number 100. On Thursday 30 July, the Kindergarten classes will be celebrating the 100th day with related activities. Some of these activities include 100s related maths games, cooking, craft and fitness. The girls are encouraged to bring in a collection of 100 small items from home to share with their class. The creative collections will be displayed in our ‘Gallery 100’ and shared with Kindergarten friends.
Junior School Music

Mr Stephan Kooper
Head of Junior School Music

Question: What do you call people who hang around musicians?

Answer: Drummers.

The music world is full of jokes about drummers, insinuating that their art form is less sophisticated than others. Then, you have the term ‘percussion’, which poses an enigma to those who have not been acquainted with this family of instruments. It’s time to turn the stereotype on its head and discover the diverse range of instruments and the high level of musicality to be learned through percussion tuition.

The xylophone, timpani (kettle drums), snare drum and marimba are just some of the instruments that make up the orchestral percussion family. With a small xylophone and a rubber drum pad for practice, one can learn all of the skills necessary to play this wonderful array of instruments.

Since Abbotsleigh’s percussion tutor, Kaylie Dunstan, received her Bachelor of Music in Percussion Performance at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, she has travelled Europe and the USA learning from the world’s most distinguished percussionists. They have taught her musicianship, technique and teaching methods. Miss Dunstan returned to Australia to complete a Masters in Percussion. She uses this wealth of knowledge to develop accomplished musicians in this field. As an AMEB examiner, she is passionate about seeing children experience the exciting world of percussion and all of the challenges and rewards it brings.

Miss Dunstan will be presenting a mini-concert to girls in the Junior School on Thursday 30 July. It is hoped that this presentation will spark curiosity and an eagerness in suitable students to learn percussion at school. With obvious gross motor benefits and another avenue for students to participate in the world of music, we hope students find the concert engaging and inspiring.

SDN Debating kicks off for 2020

Miss Susanna Matters
Year 6 Coordinator and Debating Coordinator

The SDN Debating competition commences this week with a home debate in the Senior School against Riverview. We have 14 girls eager to consolidate and refine their powers of persuasion as they think critically about a range of topical issues. The ability to evaluate and weigh evidence, understand opposing viewpoints, recognise faulty logic and speak with conviction in front of an audience are highly valued skills. In addition, the ability to work closely with others stimulates critical and creative thinking, as well as a very tangible experience of effective teamwork.

This year, we are fortunate to have Jessica Cejnar (2019) and Elizabeth Luu (2018) as our coaches for the SDN competition. Jessica and Elizabeth, are not only Old Girls, but they are also experienced and successful debaters in their own right.

We congratulate the following students on their selection in our 2020 Junior School teams:

SDN Primary A Team
Veronica Charteris, Amber Li, Song Liang, Ava Martinez, Charlotte Parasyn, Emily Wu, Zhujin Zhang

SDN Primary B Team
Kaitlyn Blair, Chanel Kang, Charlotte Panikian, Vanessa Ton, Charli Whyburn, Helen Xu, Shirley Zhang

University competitions

Ms Sally Ruston
Head of Junior School

This term all Primary (Years 3-6) girls will be sitting for the University of New South Wales ICAS competitions in Science, Mathematics and English. Girls in Year 2 will complete the Mathematics competition as an introduction to the style of tests they will be exposed to in Year 3 and beyond. Valuable feedback is given to each girl and to the School, and also provides additional experience in external tests. While we have taught the strategies necessary to answer multiple choice questions, it is not the School’s policy to ‘swot’ or ‘ cram’ for these competitions. Generally, the knowledge needed to answer the questions is provided within the paper itself. The competition places emphasis on interpreting data and information, and the content does not always align with the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) requirements.

What I believe we all want for our girls is that they emerge from their formal education as curious learners with the skills to function and contribute successfully and confidently in our society. While each learner has to negotiate this pathway, we make this journey a joyous and motivating one when undue emphasis and stress is not placed on any one element to the exclusion and detriment of others. We seek your support in helping your daughter see this long term goal too.
Kids giving back

Ms Sally Ruston
Head of Junior School

Congratulations to Neomi Verma (5D) who has been acknowledged for the volunteer work she undertook during the December school holidays with the Kids Giving Back cooking and holiday programs. Kids Giving Back is a charity whose mission is to create the next ‘generation of generosity’.

Their programs are delivered for children 6-18 years old and their families, and offer opportunities to assist vulnerable people in the community. In 2019 they reached the milestone of 25,000 participants in their programs since beginning in 2012.

Embracing the concept of making a contribution back into community, all sessions are run by skilled facilitators. Kids Giving Back programs deliver a range of volunteering experiences to assist students as they acquire empathy, experience altruism and achieve a sense of belonging.

If you would like to know more about the programs on offer, contact Kids Giving Back.

Mythology competition success

Ms Sally Ruston
Head of Junior School

As part of their Latin program, students from 6G were invited to respond creatively to the myth Daedulus and Icarus and enter the 2020 Minimus Mythology Competition. This competition is open to children all around the world who study Latin with the Minimus textbook by Barbara Bell.

Congratulations to Ava Martinez who was awarded 2nd prize in the Creative Writing category for her expressive piece. Well done Ava!

What Matters? writing competition shortlist

Miss Susanna Matters
Year 6 Coordinator

Congratulations to Amber Johnson, Amber Li and Charlotte Parasyne whose evocative compositions have been shortlisted in their age category in the 2020 What Matters? writing competition run by the Whitlam Institute. Amber Johnson wrote about the importance of happiness, Amber Li wrote about the purpose of knowledge and Charlotte Parasyne wrote about the importance of starting each day by making your bed. Well done girls!

This prestigious competition attracted entries from around Australia this year and we are delighted that all our Year 6 students at Abbotsleigh submitted sophisticated and persuasive works. The Year 6 teachers enjoyed reading pieces on a wide range of topics. It was inspiring to see nuanced arguments about bushfires, imagination, the environment, health and wellbeing, animal welfare, equality and human rights being expressed so well by the girls.

Senior School

Return to Senior School sport

Mrs Kate Howitt
Head of Sport

After four months of being at home or socially distanced, the Senior School is very happy to be back playing sport this term. We have 13 hockey teams taking the field and 34 netball teams taking to the court this weekend. In a few weeks' time, a handful of rugby teams will also take to the park on a Saturday afternoon.

While the girls are happy to go back to playing sport, there are a number of changes this term of which parents should be aware:

- No spectators are allowed at IGSSA sport – this is Senior School sport
Girls must be dropped off and collected, or parents can wait in the car

Girls are to bring in pre-filled water bottles to the venue.

Girls must ‘get in, play, get out’ – there is no hanging around and watching friends.

There is half an hour between timeslots this year:
  - Teams can only enter their venue 15 minutes prior to their game.

There are no handshakes or team huddles this year – cheers should be done ‘socially distanced’

Equipment should be wiped down at the end of the game

Hands should be washed/sanitised both before and after games

The athletics season is still being confirmed, and we hope to have some sort of competition in late August. Sport aerobics (aerobic gymnastics) has started training again for the State Championships in late September and the cross country girls are back training hard at The Glade in the mornings for the IGSSA Cross Country Carnival which has been postponed to September 19.

Thank you for your support of the above rules.

New beginnings

Mrs Marg Selby
Careers Advisor and Exchange Coordinator

As we start the new term, there is plenty of activity in the Careers area. Year 10 are considering their subject choices for the next two years and this inevitably raises questions about their long term goals. There are endless resources in the Careers Room to assist students with any queries about such matters, so please do not hesitate to ask. Based on the fact that most people are working 40 hours+ per week and that people are staying in a job for an average of only three years, futurist thinkers like Mark McCrindle are predicting that current students will have about 18 jobs across the span of their working life and six different career pathways. More than half of our student body will be working in areas that do not currently exist. Thus, when making subject choices to prepare you for life after school, selecting a variety of subjects that you love will ensure that students have the best chance of building up their generic skills. These transferable skills gleaned from both academic and cocurricular activities will allow them to move easily and smoothly across a variety of sectors during their working life.

We also have our second round of Careers Focus Nights coming up next month. On Tuesday 18 August we have the Law Focus Night and on Thursday 20 August it will be the Allied Health Focus Night, so please mark those dates in your diaries and keep them free so that you can attend. Be quick to reserve a place at these online events once you receive the email about bookings being open.

All girls in Years 10, 11 and 12 have been emailed a link to the virtual tertiary Open Days across Australia this week. They are being held at weekends from late July until mid-September. Attending Open Days is a vital tool in assisting students to select the right course and most suitable institution for them, and they have never been easier to attend than in 2020. You are able to listen to lectures, take virtual tours and ask questions of all institutions from the comfort of your own home. No travel is involved and institutions across several different states can all be visited on the same day!

For other Careers news, please visit the Careers page on AbbNet.
Senior School library opening hours

Ms Terri Moore  
Head of Curriculum, Innovation and Design

The ARC has returned to full opening hours for Senior School students as follows:

Monday to Thursday: 7.30 am-8.30 pm  
Friday: 7.30 am-6.30 pm

Protocols

School hours

- Students can only enter the library once they have had their temperature checked and are wearing a coloured dot
- No congregating in the bag room - just drop off bags
- No physical browsing of the collection

- Click and Collect reservations close at 9 am, and to be collected from Recess.
- Upon entry, ALL students must complete the digital sign-on form via the library website (and sign out when exiting)
- Students will be allocated ‘stage zones’ for working in the library. Please follow the signage and sit in the allocated zones. Ask at the desk if you have queries.

After hours

- Parents are not to enter the library to collect students
- Students are to meet their parents in the Gate 7 car park

Face-to-face ensemble rehearsals are back

Mrs Lynette Clarke  
Acting Head of Music

While we were able to have online rehearsals last term with our ensembles, we are very pleased to have all ensembles back rehearsing at school this week. Adjustments have been made to ensure safe protocols are in place. Please check with your ensemble director/s for further details.

Virtual performances

Mrs Lynette Clarke  
Acting Head of Music

With public performances suspended for the time being, musicians have had to think creatively in setting their performance goals. Term 2 saw some students completing online AMEB examinations or performing in Zoom concerts, while others participated in online eisteddfods. Many students also created their own informal concerts for family and friends at home.

We would like to congratulate the following girls who submitted entries in the 2020 NSW State Band Solo Championships.

- Amy Fox, Year 11 (Trumpet) was the Hansen Trophy winner
- Emily Wan, Year 7 (Oboe) was the U15 Double Reed winner
- Elinor Trevelyan-Jones, Year 10 (French Horn) was the U/19 French Horn winner

These students are commended for their achievements.

A description of the girls’ experiences below gives wonderful insight into preparing for a virtual eisteddfod:

“For the NSW State Solo Online Band Championships, I performed the Oboe Concerto No.9 in D minor by Antonio Vivaldi in the Double Reed Under-15 section. While I have performed this piece in front of a live audience before, I have never done a recording before. It was quite a challenge as I didn’t have an audience and then having to check things like sound and video quality before submitting my piece. There were other challenges to face such as recording a piece until you get it perfect. The little mistakes that I made threw me off a bit, but I had to remind myself that if it were a live performance, I would have to keep going instead of starting all over again. That was a big obstacle for me. Being a perfectionist makes it so hard to accept a tiny mistake.”
I didn’t know about my results until Mrs Clarke emailed me about them. I was so surprised and very happy. I just assumed I didn’t win anything! It was a big shock, but I am really happy and grateful to be a section winner. Some other section winners had their submissions posted, and they all sounded amazing! We couldn’t hear the other submissions from our own section though, which was a shame, as I would have loved to hear how great everyone’s recording was.

This is my very first time competing in the Solo Band Championships, but I have competed in lots of other music competitions before, and doing an online submission was definitely very different and challenging. COVID-19 and quarantine was a hard time for all of us, and it still is. I hope everyone stays safe and healthy as we make our way into a new term at Abbotsleigh.”

Emily Wan, Year 7

“The NSW State Solo Championships were run quite differently this year. We were required to submit a video of our performance, which was then adjudicated, and the results released online via the NSW Band Association Facebook page. We also received individual comments for each submission. Performing online was in a way more challenging than performing live, as sound quality via videos is much different to in a concert hall, and I spent a lot of time doing retakes of my pieces. We were also not able to watch other performances in our sections, as only the winner from each category has had their video uploaded to YouTube. Another big change was not using piano accompaniment, so repertoire choice was more challenging. Overall it was quite an interesting new experience in performing online this year.”

Amy Fox, Year 11