

The Shuttle

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Time flies faster than a weaver's shuttle.



FROM THE HEADMISTRESS

Abbotsleigh Seizes the Moment to Farewell Year 12

Mrs Megan Krimmer
Headmistress

There have been wonderful celebrations, albeit tinged with some sadness, across the whole school as we have honoured Year 12 over the past few weeks. These marvellous celebrations culminated yesterday in a beautiful Valedictory Chapel Service followed by a moving Valedictory Assembly in the morning. The girls, parents and staff then celebrated in style at the Class of 2023's magnificent Valedictory Dinner in the evening. It was certainly a day and a night to remember, and I am sure the girls and their parents treasured every moment.

Through their inspirational theme, 'Seize the Moment', the Prefects and all of Year 12 have enthused and motivated the girls across the School to try new things, to be involved, to reach for their goals and to have fun. Our Year 12 girls have worked very hard; they also have ensured that they have looked out for others less privileged through their Service project. The girls have been very involved in the broader life of the School and have supported each other beautifully. As young women of integrity, respect, courage, perseverance and compassion, the Class of 2023 have been great leaders and wonderful role models. The excerpts from Head Prefect Phoebe Luu's Valedictory Speech, which appear below, encapsulate this very well.

We could not be prouder of each girl in the Class of 2023 and we wish them God's richest blessings as they move beyond the gates of Abbotsleigh after their HSC examinations next term. We are very confident that these young women will be great leaders who make a positive impact in whatever field they choose and in life.

Holidays

I would like to wish every member of our community a safe and happy holiday break. I hope that it is a time of rest, relaxation and renewal with your daughters.

I will be going on a short sabbatical over the holidays and into Term 4 for Week 1 and part of Week 2. Mrs Victoria Rennie will be Acting Headmistress in my absence. I look forward to seeing you and your daughters upon my return on 18 October.

Phoebe Luu's Valedictory Speech

'... 13 years ago, when I started at Abbotsleigh, or maybe even as little as 13 months ago when they were about to announce our roles for 2022/23, I never would have imagined that I would be up here as Head Prefect, tasked with the immense responsibility of capturing all of our Year 12 2023 moments together and giving our final farewell. Firstly, because I wasn't sure if I would even be able to see over this lectern and, secondly, because I was so scared that I could never do this year group, this group of girls who have been the best friends I've ever known and the most intelligent, talented and inspiring people I could grow up with, justice.

'Fast forward to the present. While I still struggle to see over this lectern and am still admittedly daunted by the task of farewelling this incredible year group, if there is one thing this year has taught me it's that the Class of 2023 are the most supportive, encouraging and loving people who, no matter who



ABBOTSLEIGH

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you are, will cheer you on and make you feel like you really can do anything.

'We've been through a lot together – from the chaos of the Year 7 locker area to the unspoken bonds we forged in the awkward silence of Zoom classes ... Every year we've spent together has given us something to celebrate and remember fondly. But I think this last year especially has been a year we will all never forget. We've all stood shoulder to shoulder as we led and lived out our Prefect theme, 'Seize the Moment', with the greatest pride and passion. Every moment, joyful or difficult, has been so memorable and, somewhere along our high school journey, we've grown from little Year 7s that were nervous about making friends with each other, to being like sisters.

'Today is another memorable day for us – among our brilliant staff/Year 12 handball costumes, uniform decorating, beach trips and days till grad countdown – and now we're finally at Grad Day. And that might mean something slightly different to each one of you, you might be excited to be done with high school and ready to break out into the world or you might be feeling a bit nostalgic and teary about saying goodbye.

'For me, today feels especially meaningful. It was actually 44 years ago on this exact day, 20 September, that my dad's family

landed in Australia as Vietnamese refugees. They went to the second most-disadvantaged school in the state, and they grew up with very little, but still the freedom they found in Australia made it feel like they had endless opportunities.

'So, to be graduating today from Abbotsleigh, having received the best education I could have ever asked for and having been surrounded by the most wonderful and supportive people, is something I could never be more thankful for.

'At the end of every year, Year 12 presents a gift to the school as a small thank you and farewell. This year, in looking both inside and out the heart of Abbotsleigh, we are donating two friendship benches, one of which will be memorialised here at Abbotsleigh and one at Bunda Girls High School in Tanzania to mark the beginning of our Service partnership: Bega kwa Bega.

'So, 13 years now comes to an end... I hope you will all never cease to seize the moment – there is so much to look forward to and experience in the years to come if you're willing to seize those opportunities.

Thank you.'



Community

Kids Club vacation care

Paige Dowd
Kids Club Centre Director

Running from tomorrow to Monday 9 October, Kids Club Vacation Care packs a lot of fun into just two short weeks. From a day at Luna Park, to a cosmic colour run, learning how to be a sustainable citizen to a visit to the farm, both the students and staff are very excited! We have capped some of our days so be

sure to book in quick! If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to Paige on 0408 092 413 or paige@kidsclubchildcare.com.au. Please see the program [here](#)



Uniform Shop Holiday Times

Lorraine Boothby
Abbotsleigh Uniform Shop Manager

The shop will reopen on Wednesday 27 September to Monday 9 October 2023 (weekdays only). Closed Monday 2 October (public holiday).

Please note that over the holidays the Uniform Shop will be open from 9.30 am–4 pm. Normal trading hours will resume from Tuesday 10 October 2023.

Junior School

Welcome orientation and new friends for 2024

Ms Sally Ruston
Head of Junior School

The first week back will be spent welcoming and orientating more than 100 new girls and families to the Junior School in preparation for the 2024 academic year. Routines are as follows for the girls:

- Year 7 2024 Orientation for current Year 6 girls will occur on Monday 9 October 2023
- Years 1, 2, 4 and 6 Orientation for new 2024 girls currently in Kindergarten, Year 1, Year 3 and Year 5 will occur on Tuesday 10 October 2023

- Transition and Kindergarten 2024 Orientation will occur on Wednesday 11 October 2023
- Year 3 2024 Orientation and Assessment for girls currently in Year 2 will occur on Thursday 12 October 2023
- Year 5 2024 Orientation and Assessment for girls currently in Year 4 will occur on Friday 13 October 2023

To ensure we have objective, nationally normative referenced data for girls in Years 2, 4 and 6, testing will be undertaken during Orientation Week when all new girls to Years 3 and 5 in 2024 will also be joining us. As always, the best preparation for such tests is a good night's sleep, a healthy breakfast and a positive disposition that the day will be filled with exciting new opportunities for learning and friendship making. I also warmly encourage the girls to read avidly over this holiday period as it will have the dual benefit of keeping them intellectually stimulated while also providing a wonderful world to escape to through the pages of books.

Thank you

Ms Sally Ruston
Head of Junior School

I take this opportunity to thank you all for the support you have brought to our school this term. I also thank the dedicated and talented members of staff who have worked tirelessly to ensure the best outcomes possible for your daughters. Our school is the richer for all your contributions.

I hope this holiday period is safe and enjoyable for all members of our community. School resumes for the girls on Tuesday 10 October, at which time all girls will be dressed only in the Summer uniform. I look forward to welcoming our girls back to what will be a short, busy term full of excitement and celebrations.

To assist in family organisation important dates, please refer to the School calendar [**AbbNet - Calendar**](#)

Staff news

Ms Sally Ruston
Head of Junior School

This week we have welcomed back to the Junior School Mrs Amber Thomson from maternity leave; she has been teaching and working with the Year 5 girls and staff to ensure a thorough handover process. As this term concludes we congratulate Mrs Kylie George on 12 years of dedicated service and commitment to Abbotsleigh as she takes Long Service Leave. We recognise Mrs George's outstanding and creative teaching practice, as well as her impressive leadership. The girls in Year 5 have certainly thrived this year and we look forward to Mrs George's return at the start of 2024.

Equally, we congratulate Mr David Knott who is also taking Long Service Leave next term after 18 years of dedicated service and support. As a Technology Innovator, Mr Knott's work has so well supported girls and teachers to access

online worlds and see creative ways of augmenting learning through the use of technology.

As this term concludes, we are saddened to farewell Mrs Kuni Takeshima as she returns to counselling in her private practice. Many girls, staff and parents have benefited directly from Mrs Takeshima's support, direction and guidance. We thank her for the optimism, energy and commitment to finding good solutions throughout her 15 months with us. As Term 4 commences, Ms Jacqui Olsson will be supporting us in the Junior School as we recruit for a counsellor able to take up the full four days of support we are now able to facilitate.

A night of circus fun

Ms Sally Ruston
Head of Junior School

For all our Infants girls, the Peter Duly Concert Hall was transformed into a venue where circus acts enchanted all present. The girls delighted in adding colourful costume items and taking on the personas of circus animals and performers as they sang and demonstrated their skills performing on a range of instruments. Our Bambini Strings opened the night with every girl from Kindergarten to Year 2 joyously singing in the concluding massed choir item. Our sincere thanks go to the creative teaching practices of Mrs Luck and Mr Huang, who were so well supported by classroom and music teachers and our audio-visual department. What a great way to showcase the fun and exciting activities that happen each week in the girls' lessons!



Friday 15 September
6.30-7.30 pm
Peter Duly Concert Hall, Senior School

Year 2 learns clean water is a luxury for some

Ms Sophie Burnett
JS Science Teacher

Last Friday, Year 2 took part in an immersive experience to help them have a better understanding of how hard it is to access clean water for our World Vision girl Rachel, who lives in Uganda. This is something we often take for granted in Australia. Before the experience, the students spent time in Christian Studies learning about Rachel, where she lives and how her family gets clean water. This background knowledge, additional to learning about water in Science, helped deepen the students' understanding of the problem.



AIS Athlete visit

Miss Dani Salt
JS Classroom Teacher

Last week, our Junior School Sport Captains had the privilege of meeting Amy Sligar, who plays for the Australian professional netball team, the Giants. This incursion was part of a health and wellbeing program organised by the Australian Institute of Sport, which encourages Australian primary school students to engage in design thinking and learn from high performance athletes. After the captains asked some thought-provoking questions, Amy shared excellent strategies to build grit and determination, while still maintaining a balance between work, play and rest. The girls will now engage in a task where they are required to

design and create a model for a new sports precinct, after many shut down during the pandemic. Towards the end of next term, they will present their ideas during a visit from another elite athlete. Well done for representing Abbotsleigh so well, girls!



Year 5 Go for Gold Day

Scarlett Harris, Elizabeth Osmen, Wendi Lv, Katie Carless and Margaret Huang
Year 5

Last Friday was Go for Gold Day, which was about raising money to solar-power our school. During recess and lunch we had a very successful stall! We were amazed at how many people were supporting our cause by buying our Go for Gold sweets. We also had a solar-powered insect competition, where students got to race solar-powered bugs in the sunlight in an attempt to win their very own bug! We were so happy to see so many people crowding around the course.

We all hope you had a great time competing, having fun and learning more about the power of solar panels. All together, we raised \$1570.50 to go towards installing solar panels in the Junior School next year. Thank you everyone for all your support.



Congratulations JS fencers

Raphaela Rotolo-Ross
Fencing coach

Congratulations to Yiling Zhou, Jade Ip, Gwendolyn Zhang and Allison Giang, all from Year 6, for their success in the annual Abbotsleigh Fencing Championships, which were held last Friday. A full report of the event can be found in the Senior School section of this *Shuttle*.



Senior School

Merry Monarchs nominated for OnSTAGE

Ms Angela Morosin
Head of Drama

Congratulations to Julia Wedgwood-Oppenheim, Esther Lam, Emma Fischer and Ava Ward for their Group Performance of *The Merry Monarchs*, which has been nominated for OnSTAGE, the showcase event for HSC Drama that features exemplary group and individual performances, script writing and video drama by HSC Drama students.

An OnSTAGE nomination means that this group of four students has achieved marks in the top band for the Group Performance component of their HSC. In doing so, they have demonstrated an exceptional ability to work creatively as an ensemble, with outstanding commitment and dedication to the process of development and refining their piece and exemplary characterisation with focus, energy and dimension. Additionally, their nomination is a testament to the hard work and guidance of their teacher, Mr David Owens.

Their performance was a highly engaging exploration of the banning of theatre under Oliver Cromwell and its bawdy revival during the reign of King Charles II. The group demonstrated a sophisticated and creative control of comedy including slapstick, pastiche and physical comedy. To be nominated is a great achievement that acknowledges their hard work. It is a fitting reward for their successful collaboration, creativity and commitment to excellence and I congratulate the girls and Mr Owens on their success.

In addition to our Group nomination, the following students were recognised for their outstanding Individual performances and have been nominated for inclusion at OnSTAGE. Congratulations to: Charlotte Fill for her performance of *Belize*, Emma Fischer for *Rose Ritz*, Mikayla Fung for *Extremities*, Sophie James for *The World is a Mess*, Anastasia Kellahan for *A Smell to Remember*, Sascha Kollar for *Rhinoceros*, Charisse Leung for *The World is My Oyster* and Julia Wedgwood-Oppenheim for *Every Brilliant Thing*.



AbbLib Grand Final

Mr David Owens
Drama Teacher

On Tuesday 12 September, the Drama Department presented the annual AbbLib Grand Final in the Peter Duly Concert Hall. This co-curricular improvisation competition involves participation from more than 150 students from Years 7-10 in all areas of the event. From participating in a team to operating the lighting in the Peter Duly, this student-centred activity begins early in the year and culminates at the end of Term 3. Olivia Lin, Captain of the Year 8 winning team, The Spotlight Stealers, found being involved a valuable

experience. 'AbbLib was a rewarding experience that gave so many an opportunity to let loose, laugh and develop our interpersonal connections.'

In Term 1, there is a call out for teams as well as mentors. The mentors are typically past team members who wish to work with the younger students. This often means weekly rehearsal sessions over lunch or recess when the older students pass on their knowledge while teaching the girls the rules of each game as well how to successfully improvise.

The mentoring program has been an informal aspect of AbbLib for several years but the current version, involving mentor training sessions and stronger liaison between

the producer, the teams and the mentors, was trialled last year and successfully implemented this year. AbbLib gives students the rare opportunity to work with other year groups, promoting a strong sense of community within the school. Some students enjoy the event so much, they have participated in five competitions during their time at Abbotsleigh. Diya Gambhir, Year 11 Mentor and Heats Host, said, 'Having now done AbbLib mentoring for two years, I would strongly recommend sharing Drama knowledge with the younger years – and you learn from them too!'

Anyone in Year 10 or 11 who is interested in mentoring is given the opportunity to participate in this rich and rewarding experience. 'I really wanted to mentor the younger girls in AbbLib as I have really enjoyed participating in the

competition in previous years and wanted to help improve the improv skills of an upcoming AbbLib group,' said Isabel Jennings, Year 10 Mentor. 'It has been a very fulfilling experience and I encourage any Abbotsleigh student who has a passion for drama and improvisation to take part in this competition as a mentor or participant.' Anna Morrison, a Year 11 Mentor, agrees: 'It was an extremely rewarding process, where I got to develop my friendship with both my fellow mentor and the girls who I had the privilege of leading through an area I have a great passion in.'

The 2023 Grand Final was a highly enjoyable evening, full of many laughs, and showcased our students exemplary skills in improvisation and team work.

SDN Debating

Mrs Melissa Dooley
Debating Coordinator

Last Friday evening, Abbotsleigh hosted the Grand Final of the Schools Debating Network (SDN) competition. We had three of our six Senior School debating teams compete in the Grand Final. All Abbotsleigh teams excelled and congratulations are extended to students in the Year 8, Year 9 and Senior teams for winning their divisions. Special congratulations also to the Senior team, who have won the SDN competition every year since they were in Year 7!!

The teams were:

- Year 8: Neomi Verma, Scarlett Li, Sophie Meng, Christina Zhao and Olivia Lin.
- Year 9: Chanel Kang, Anna Wallwork, Charlotte Whyburn, Miya Zhang, Zhujin Zhang and Laura Jones.
- Senior team: Imogen Beletich, Sara Shah, Leah Teoh, Annelise McCormick, Sophia Chi and Chloe Davie.



Digging for History

Olivia Berry and Chloe Valmadre
Year 7

On Friday 1 September, we did a remarkable activity: excavating and creating conclusions from a supposed archaeological site to find different objects and come to some conclusions about the pieces we discovered. The history teachers set it up for us to learn about the significance of archaeology and the passion that many

people have for it, along with some enjoyment in the outdoors.

We completed the activity as an 'in the field' idea about the concepts we have been learning. We went over to the long jump pit in search of a memorable ancient dig, and to discover a historically important person's remains. We were instructed by our teachers to assign ourselves different roles, and those who were digging had the privilege of immersing themselves in a real-life dig. As they unearthed the artefacts, others documented our finds and inferred important clues to try to determine who the mystery figure was.

We discovered many distinctive objects such as bowls, bracelets, notes that had to be decoded and even a body. It was a great immersive experience overall and we thought it was a very creative method of teaching archaeological skills. We learnt how to work as a team and share the roles; also, how to use our deciphering skills when presented with a different language. It felt so rewarding to figure out who this person was – and it was, in fact, Cleopatra.

Every girl has benefited from the activity and we have all absorbed some skills on the focus area of archaeology.



Fencing Championships

Raphaella Rotolo-Ross
Fencing coach

Last Friday, all our fencers embarked on an afternoon of fierce and friendly competition – our annual Abbotsleigh Fencing Championships. Following on from the pool results of the previous Friday afternoon, the fencers were ranked in three categories: Junior School, Year 7 and Senior. Every fencer was then paired up for a direct elimination bout, with the victorious fencers continuing to the next rounds, while the others became referees or cheered on their friends.

At the end of the afternoon, our finalists received their certificates and medals. Congratulations to all fencers for their athleticism and perseverance throughout the afternoon.

Results were:

Junior School

- 1 Yiling Zhou
- 2 Jade Ip
- =3 Gwendolyn Zhang and Allison Giang

Year 7

- 1 Isabella Feng
- 2 Vanessa Wu
- =3 Sasha Ndiritu and Alma Zentner-Pitman

Senior School

- 1 Summer Sivaraj
- 2 Olivia Ashley
- =3 Raina Han and Alice Ji

We then said a bittersweet farewell to our departing Year 12 fencers, including Captain Julia Wedgwood-Oppenheim and Vice Captain Raina Han. Our Year 12 fencers have all been heavily involved in the fencing program for many years and great role models for the younger fencers, we will miss them incredibly! We look forward to the new leadership of and Captain Audrey Kennedy and Vice Captain, Jaylise Beale for Term 4!

