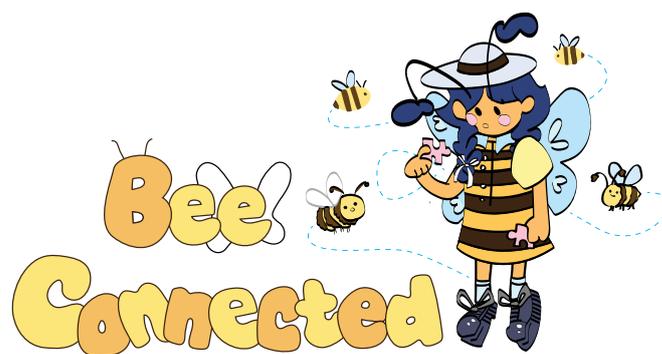


The Shuttle

Time flies faster than a weaver's shuttle.



Bee Connected – Leadership that really makes a difference

Mrs Megan Krimmer
Headmistress

'The best way to ensure that students are ready to lead into the future is by giving them an opportunity to lead today.'
US Principal 2025

Leadership has been the subject of extensive research, with countless studies, doctorates, books and articles dedicated to the topic. As you know, leadership is a big focus for all girls' schools – because at girls' schools, all leadership opportunities are undertaken by girls! As such, education about leadership and hands-on opportunities to lead, either with or without a badge, has been fundamental to Abbotsleigh for 140 years.

This year, the importance of leadership features significantly in our new Strategic Plan: *Present Focused – Future Ready*. In an age-appropriate manner, we aim for all our girls, Pre K-12, to experience what it means to be a leader and to lead, either *with or without a badge*, in all areas of school life – academic, wellbeing, co-curricular, boarding, our Christian faith and so on.

Research shows that fundamentally, the most important 'badge' or 'quality' of great leadership is being a person of *fine* character – someone who wants to make a positive impact on all those around them in general, and, more specifically, someone who wants to make a positive impact on all those who they may be leading at any particular time.

I commend to you the superb address about leadership in preparation for our Senior School Prefect voting period that our Dean of Senior College Mrs Annette Ware, delivered to our Senior Girls in Assembly last week:

Leadership – What it really means

Mrs Annette Ware,
Dean of Senior College

With Year 12 beginning their final term at Abbotsleigh, every girl in Year 11 is preparing to step into leadership from Term 4 onwards.

Back in Term 2, Year 11 engaged in a very powerful day with yLead, exploring the idea that *leadership isn't about*

a title or a badge but about legacy, the impact you have and what you leave behind. One of the most heartening aspects of the day was the girls' ability to recognise and affirm each other's strengths. In doing so, they gave voice to the fact that we are all wired differently, with unique skills and different perspectives. Yet when united around a shared vision and purpose, our diversity becomes a strength and the foundation of a truly effective leadership team. Many of these girls went on to complete the 'Women in Leadership' Canvas course. This is a clear sign of their commitment, not just to leading within our school but to developing skills that will serve them well beyond our school gates.

Today, I invite you to think about leadership through the lens of 'influence'.

We often associate the word 'influencer' with social media, but school leaders are also 'influencers', albeit of a different kind. Here are a few key differences:

1. Service vs self-promotion

School leaders serve others. They give time, energy and creativity, even when it's inconvenient. Social media influencers, by contrast, promote themselves. Their success relies on visibility.

2. Relationships vs popularity

School leaders seek to build genuine relationships. Their influence is grounded in care and connection. Social media influence is designed for effect or show, and depends on popularity.

3. Authentic vs curated

School leaders are most effective when they're authentic – consistent in character – the same person whether on stage or at a weekend party. Social media influencers often present a polished, idealised version of themselves.

As Abbotsleigh students, all of you can be effective influencers. It's simple: be outward-focused, committed to serving, committed to building genuine relationships and a person of honesty and integrity. This kind of influence doesn't require an application, votes, a title or a badge – it's quiet, powerful, compelling and deeply needed in our world.

This is 'everyday leadership'; it is influence that flows from character, not popularity. So keep growing your character, and as you do, you will grow as a leader.

While everyday leadership is available to all, specific leadership roles suit some better than others. That's true at Abbotsleigh, and it will also be true in many contexts throughout your life. Why? We are all different, we have different strengths, capacities and priorities.

It's time to vote for our Prefects for 2025–2026. The Prefect role is a specific one. If we are going to vote responsibly, we need to think carefully about two things:

1. The nature of the Prefect role
2. The girls who are best suited to this specific role.

Here are some things to consider:

- **Capacity:** Who has the capacity to add three to four hours of work, on average, into their weekly schedule? The Prefect role is a job, it is demanding and requires hard work.
- **Time management:** Who manages their time well? Formal leadership demands this.
- **Sustained commitment:** The Prefect role lasts more than a year. Some girls may be better

suited to short-term leadership roles – every bit as important, just different.

- **Role modelling:** Who lives out our school values daily? For example, who shows respect to everyone, not just those in their friendship group. Who wears their uniform correctly and effortlessly because it is intrinsic to who they are and the respect they have for their school?
- **Energy and ideas:** Who brings fresh energy and new ideas? Leaders don't just manage what exists, they imagine what could be and then work hard to bring it to life.
- **Involvement:** Who's widely involved in the life of the school? Good leaders will be. They will touch many areas of school life.
- **Positivity:** Who lifts others up with their energy and attitude?
- **Love for Abbotsleigh:** Who speaks about our school with joy and delight? Who knows our DNA and values our Christian foundations and our traditions. Abbotsleigh is in their blood! These are the kinds of people we want to lead us.

Year 11, your time to step into the role of school leaders begins in Term 4. All of you will receive your Year 12 Leadership badges, and we are excited to see each one of you embrace this responsibility, letting your character shine and becoming positive 'influencers' in our community each day... each contribution, no matter the title, will help shape and strengthen our school for the benefit of all.

Chaplain

Life Hacks and Wisdom

Rev Sarah Hobba
Senior Chaplain and Head of Christian Studies

Did you know that there are little perforated tabs on the ends of a foil or cling wrap box, which are designed to be pushed in to hold the roll in place? Many of us miss them for years – I was one of those people! When someone points these things out, life gets a little easier. These snippets of practical wisdom are called 'life hacks'. At Boarder's Chapel this term, we are exploring life hacks and the deeper wisdom the Bible offers, especially in the book of James. In Chapter 1, we are reminded to be quick to listen (we have two ears), slow to speak and slow to become angry (we have just one mouth) – not just listening to God's Word but *doing*

what it says. This is not just practical wisdom for better relationships but transformational wisdom, which we see fully lived out in Jesus. Through His life, His teaching and most powerfully, in His sacrificial love on the Cross, Jesus reveals the ultimate life hack: God's wisdom made visible to us – in His Word and in His actions.

James 1:19-22

¹⁹ My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, ²⁰ because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.

²¹ Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent, and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.

²² Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

Upcoming events

WHOLE SCHOOL

Possibility as Reality exhibition	Saturday 19 July to Saturday 9 August	Grace Cossington Smith Gallery
Gala Dinner - Bee Connected: An Evening of Celebration	Saturday 16 August 6.30-11 pm	Click here to purchase tickets
Hayden Wood exhibition	Thursday 14 to Thursday 21 August	Grace Cossington Smith Gallery
SchoolTV program – student wellbeing resources	Available to all parents on the Parent Portal	Click here to watch
State Interschool Snowsport Championships	Monday 18 to Friday 22 August	Perisher

JUNIOR SCHOOL

IPSHA Saturday sport	Saturday 9 and Saturday 16 August	See team sheets for times and venues
Junior School Environment Sustainability Week	Monday 11 to Friday 15 August	
3L St Lucy's visit	Monday 11 August 10.40-11.50 am	St Lucy's School, Wahroonga
100 Days of Kindergarten	Tuesday 12 August 9.30 am-2.45 pm	Kindergarten classrooms
Year 6 Designing for Change incursion	Wednesday 13 August 8.30 am-12.45 pm	Year 6 classrooms
Circle of Security parent sessions	Friday 15 August 8.30-10.30 am	
Year 5 Bathurst Camp	Wednesday 20 to Friday 22 August	Bathurst, NSW
3L St Lucy's visit	Monday 21 August 9.10-11.20 am	St Lucy's School, Wahroonga
Circle of Security parent sessions	Friday 22 August 8.30-10.30 am	

SENIOR SCHOOL

Saturday sport	Saturday 9 and Saturday 16 August	Click here for times and venues
Year 12 HSC Trials	Monday 4 to Friday 15 August	



Rising Minds Academy online parent seminar	Monday 11 August 7-8.00 pm	Online
IGSA Archdale Debating tie-breakers	Tuesday 5 August 3.30-8 pm	
Year 9 Write a Book in a Day (WABIAD)	Wednesday 13 August 8 am-6 pm	Senior School Library rooms
Lunchtime Futures session: Canberra University	Wednesday 13 August 1.20-2.10 pm	Careers Office (U5)
FUSE Cup Sydney Beat Saber competition	Thursday 14 August 9 am-3 pm	iHub
NSW Chess Interschool Girls' Team Challenge	Friday 15 August 8 am-3 pm	iHub, Room i204
FUSE Cup Sydney Beat Saber competition	Friday 15 August 9 am-3 pm	iHub
Twilight Athletics	Friday 15 August 4-8 pm	Sydney Olympic Park Athletics Centre
IGSA Chess competition	Friday 15 August 3.30-5 pm	iHub, Room i204
IGSA Archdale Debating Quarter Finals	Tuesday 19 August 3.30-8 pm	
Year 9 Write a Book in a Day (WABIAD)	Wednesday 20 August 8 am-6 pm	Senior School Library rooms
IPSHA Cricket Gala Day	Wednesday 20 August 8.20 am-3.25 pm	Top Oval and Synthetic
Years 9-11 Elective Drama Workshop	Thursday 21 August 10 am-12.30 pm	
Year 12 Geography Tea Farm tour	Thursday 21 August 12.45-4 pm	Green Tea Estate, Mangrove Mountain
IGSA Athletics Carnival (Year 7 attending)	Friday 22 August 8 am-4 pm	Sydney Olympic Park Athletics Centre
SDN Debating - Round 5	Friday 22 August 4-8 pm	
IGSA Chess competition	Friday 22 August 3.30-5 pm	iHub, Room i204