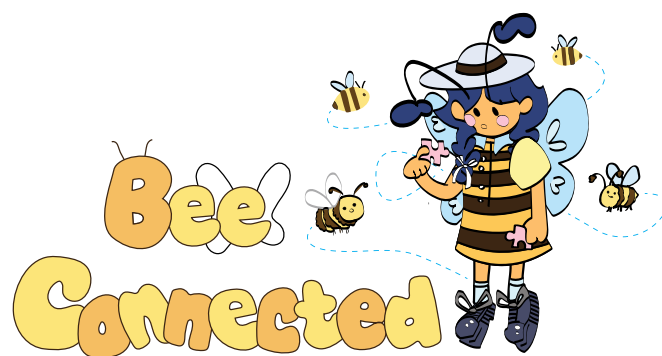


The Shuttle

Time flies faster than a weaver's shuttle.



'Bee and Stay Connected' Abbotsleigh farewells the Class of 2025

Mrs Megan Krimmer
Headmistress

This week at Abbotsleigh has been bittersweet as our wonderful Class of 2025 graduated. The girls are so excited at the prospect of leaving school – so many possibilities lie before them. The world, as the saying goes, is literally their oyster. We are excited for them too, they are incredible young women – strong, courageous, intelligent, resilient, compassionate and kind, ready to take their seat at any table and, as I said in my speech to the girls at their Valedictory Assembly, the world certainly needs young women like them to make a really positive difference – they are most definitely future leaders.

The Class of 2025 has made a significant impact on their school. With their inspirational theme, 'Bee Connected', they have really brought our student community together and left a strong and indelible legacy. We could not be prouder of each girl in Year 12.

Naturally, although excited, the girls are also very sad to leave their school; we are equally sad to see them go. However, I exhorted the girls to not only 'bee connected' but to 'stay connected' to Abbotsleigh throughout the rest of their lives.

Our Head Prefect, Jazarah Tambyrajah, echoed my words above in her inspirational and superb speech to the School, which I warmly commend to you.

We wish Year 12 God's richest blessings as they prepare for their final examinations and embark on the next exciting chapter of their lives.

Year 12 fare thee well

I also wish everyone in our community a fabulous term break and I look forward to seeing you all for the commencement of Term 4 on Tuesday 14 October.



Address to the School

Jazarah Tambyrajah – Head Prefect

It is a long-standing tradition at Abbotsleigh that the leaving class presents a gift to the School to show their immense gratitude and appreciation. To the dedicated staff who have educated, inspired and empowered us, you have shaped us into the women we are today. This school runs like clockwork because of your commitment, and we thank you for giving us the privilege to attend such an excellent school. To all the girls, we hope you will continue to be reminded of the importance of connection. And so, Year 12, Class of 2025 would like to present a gift to Abbotsleigh – two flow bee hives!

What are flow bee hives, I hear you ask? Flow Hives are a revolutionary invention allowing honey to be harvested without opening the hive and disturbing the bees. These hives are a valuable reminder of our 2025 theme, **Bee Connected**. Throughout this year, bees have undoubtedly become a prominent symbol of connection, truly reminding us of the 'good' of Abbotsleigh's hive. Our 140th birthday has been unforgettable, and the Flow Hives will be a lasting reminder of the joyful spirit that has marked this year's celebrations.

This year, an agriculture course was launched at Abbotsleigh and it seems fitting that our gift of the Flow Hives will symbolise its commencement. Situated in the ACEE, Abbotsleigh's Centre for Environmental Education, girls from the ELC through to Year 12 will have the opportunity to view the Flow Hives and learn more about honey production, bee biology and pollination. This will remain a wonderful service for years to come.

Year 12 2025 – our time at Abbotsleigh is drawing to a close. We have reached the finish line... some have had to drag themselves over the line, but nevertheless, we made it! This is the moment we have been anticipating – graduation. For some of us, today is filled with excitement or possibly slight nerves. I find myself somewhere in between.



It is almost impossible to summarise in such a short moment all the fond memories at Abbotsleigh, but here are a few that come to mind. Like the time we wore piggy tails on the last first day of school. Or racing to the canteen for cheesymite scrolls that were somehow sold out before recess. Scrambling to class from the Common Room after hearing the familiar sound of a whistle. And even though it is a 10 km walk and we got our steps up, I will miss the trek to the Science Centre. I will miss reminding each other: 'you are more than a brain' and 'you're not a Tesla'. And just this past week, all the leaving celebrations from heated sports games to bawling our eyes out at the Junior School. All these memories are so significant not because of what we did but because we got to share them with each other.

There is, of course, another aspect of our school life that is equally important – our parents and extended families. We want to say a huge thank you – and I know sometimes, as Year 12 students, we don't say it enough, but we really do appreciate you. Without your wisdom, guidance and love, we would not be **who** we are or **where** we are today. I mean, let's face it, without you, the school fees wouldn't be paid!

And to my Mum – Thank you for the sacrifice you made to send me to such an incredible school. I am so grateful to have you as my mum, my best friend and my role model. I love you so much.

Some of you may know my story. I was raised by my mum, and it's always been just the two of us. At times, it has been challenging, and in those times, we had to choose to put a smile on our faces. I saw in my mum a deep strength of character and unwavering faith in God, which has taught me so much throughout my school journey.

I am certain everyone here has their own unique story. And somewhere along the way, whether you realise it or

not, a thread of connection to another has shaped your identity.

Year 12 – as you reflect on your unique story, I want you to ask yourself, 'Who am I becoming?'

When you walk out of these Abbotsleigh gates for the last time as a school student, going beyond our lovely Wahroonga Village may well be a culture shock. But if you know who you are, you will know what you stand for.

Who you are – your very identity – will help you choose the impact you make in the chapter ahead. And of course, there will be good days and bad. There will be a lot of voices and a lot of things competing for your attention, but if you live according to your convictions, you will not compromise.

Jeremiah 29:11 reads, '*For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*'

Year 12 – as you sit amongst your peers in this Assembly Hall for one last time, take a look around. Amongst you are the future world changers, leaders, doctors, scientists, lawyers, prime ministers and maybe even pop stars (fingers crossed).

But now, we are at a crossroads. It is time for us to consider which path we take.

Drawing inspiration from *The Road Not Taken* by Robert Frost:

*Two roads diverged in a wood, and we (the graduating Class of 2025),
We took the one less travelled by,
And that has made all the difference.*

I wish you all the best in this next chapter ahead, and wherever you find yourself, remember – 'Bee Connected'.



Chaplain

Seasons

Rev Sarah Hobba
Senior Chaplain and Head of Christian Studies

As Term 3 draws to a close, we have welcomed longer days, warmer weather and the beauty of spring flowers. For the Class of 2025, the season of their formal schooling at Abbotsleigh has come to a close, and we have said goodbye and celebrated their time with us.

At the final Valedictory Service, Mr Ben Hunter, Assistant Chaplain and long-time Tutor for Year 12, who has seen them grow and learn, shared the analogy of a tree: strong, steady and deeply rooted. A tree provides shelter, nourishment and beauty, and its strength comes from deep roots in good soil. Reflecting on Psalm 1 and Jeremiah 17:7-8, girls were encouraged to view their lives as trees planted by streams of water – streams that represent God’s Word and trust in Jesus. These spiritual roots, formed through time spent in Scripture and community, offer stability and resilience through all seasons of life, both good and challenging. As our Year 12s step into their next season, they were reminded to stay connected to God and His people, so that they may continue to grow into fruitful, dependable and joyful individuals in the world. That is a hope for all our students and our wider Abbotsleigh community.



By God’s grace, may we all have a season of rest and restoration during the Term 3 break, enjoying His beautiful creation and time in deep connection with others.

Jeremiah 17:7-8

*Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord,
whose confidence is in him.
They will be like a tree planted by the water
that sends out its roots by the stream.
It does not fear when heat comes;
its leaves are always green.
It has no worries in a year of drought
and never fails to bear fruit.*

Upcoming events

WHOLE SCHOOL

Dreaming, Looking Inwards exhibition	Thursday 2 to Saturday 25 October	Grace Cossington Smith Gallery
SchoolTV program – student wellbeing resources	Available to all parents on the Parent Portal	Click here to watch
Start of Term 4	Tuesday 14 October	
AbbSchool Dance Showcase rehearsal and photo day	Saturday 18 October 12 noon-6 pm	Senior School Assembly Hall

JUNIOR SCHOOL

Years 1, 2, 4 and 6 2026 Orientation Day	Tuesday 14 October	Junior School
Year 6 Allwell Testing for Year 7	Wednesday 15 October 8.30 am-12.30 pm	Year 6 classrooms
Kindergarten 2026 orientation morning	Wednesday 15 October 8.50 am-12 noon	Junior School
Transition 2026 orientation morning	Wednesday 15 October 9.50 am-12 noon	Junior School
Year 6 Wild Ropes excursion	Thursday 16 October	
Year 3 2026 orientation day	Thursday 16 October	Junior School
Year 5 2026 orientation day	Friday 17 October	Junior School
Year 6 Jumpstart day	Friday 17 October 8.30 am-12.45 pm	Junior School Auditorium and classrooms
30 St Lucy's visit	Tuesday 23 September 9.10-10.45 am	St Lucy's School, Wahroonga
ELC Special Friend Day	Tuesday 23 September 10-11 am	ELC
30 St Lucy's visit	Thursday 18 September 9.10-11.20 am	St Lucy's School, Wahroonga

SENIOR SCHOOL

French Language and Culture Tour	Friday 26 September to Thursday 9 October	
New York City and NASA Trip	Monday 29 September to Sunday 12 October	
Saturday sport	Saturday 20 September	Times and draws available at the beginning of Term 4
Year 7 2026 Boarder City Family Welcome	Sunday 12 October 5-7 pm	Senior School Dining Room
Year 7 2026 orientation day	Monday 13 October	Senior School
Year 12 Conference	Tuesday 14 to Wednesday 15 October	CRU Lake Macquarie
Year 9 textiles industry excursion	Wednesday 15 October	
HSC examinations begin	Thursday 16 October	
Year 8 Geography fieldtrip	Thursday 16 October	Bobbin Head

