

# The Shuttle

Time flies faster than a weaver's shuttle.

## New beginnings and connections at Abbotsleigh as we continue to 'Bee Connected'

Mrs Megan Krimmer  
Headmistress

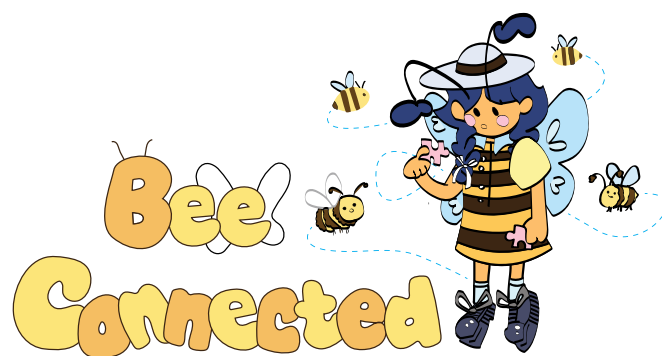
Welcome to Term 4 2025. I hope you and your daughter/s were able to have a wonderful holiday break, whether it was at home or further afield. For all those who were in Sydney, I'm sure you will agree, the spring weather was simply sensational!

Our first week back has been characteristically action-packed with daily orientation programs for new Junior School girls commencing at Abbotsleigh in 2026, as well as our Year 6 girls who will embark on their Senior School journey next year. It was fantastic to see our girls making new connections whilst remaining connected with their friends.

### Welcome to our new Head of Junior School

This week has been a time of beginnings and making connections for our Junior School, as we welcomed our new Head of Junior School, Ms Larissa Cameron, to Abbotsleigh. Ms Cameron received a very warm welcome from our staff on Monday and our Junior School girls on Tuesday morning, when they returned to school.

As I wrote earlier this year, Ms Cameron is a highly



experienced educational leader who is deeply committed to excellence, wellbeing and the fostering of a culture of innovation, continual growth, collaboration and Christian values. At her previous school, she implemented a number of whole-school initiatives, including gifted and talented programs and improvements in pedagogy and practice through embedding evidence-based learning approaches and high expectations. Further, Ms Cameron has led school-wide programs in pastoral care, positive behaviour, student leadership and child protection, always seeking to create a safe, respectful and nurturing environment where every student feels known and celebrated.

Ms Cameron is excited about leading in a girls' school, and the possibilities of helping our girls explore their potential without limitation, nurturing their voices, broadening their perspectives and championing their leadership. Ms Cameron believes that assisting our girls in becoming confident, compassionate and courageous learners and leaders is an absolute privilege, and she is very much looking forward to getting to know our girls and staff and, of course, our parents.

I am sure you will join me in warmly welcoming Ms Cameron to Abbotsleigh.

### Year 12 2025 and Year 12 2026

This week has also been momentous and a time of beginnings for our senior girls.

Our Year 12 2025 girls sat their first HSC examinations yesterday. It was marvellous to see their mature and calm approach, and the way they supported one another as they headed to the exam rooms to sit their first English paper. Our Year 12s have been taught and supported extremely well by their dedicated teachers, to whom they are most grateful. Each girl has worked very hard indeed, striving to attain her personal best. We wish our Year 12 girls the very best throughout their examinations.

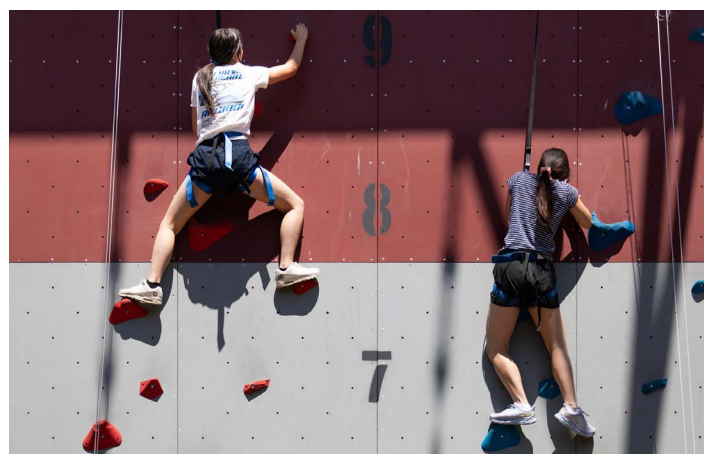
I would very much like to thank our Year 12 2025 girls for their inspirational leadership and brilliant theme, 'Bee Connected'. They have been great role models for our younger girls, and I am confident that the Class of 2025 will continue to make a very positive mark on the world.

I commend to you the excellent speech our new Head Prefect, Laura Jones, delivered at the Valedictory Assembly last term. Laura's speech articulates the respect and gratitude with which Year 12 is held throughout our whole school.



This week has been an important time of beginnings for our Year 12 2026 girls, who started their Year 12 journey with an excellent conference at Lake Macquarie on Tuesday and Wednesday. Returning to school on Thursday, the girls confidently started their HSC coursework and their roles as the new student leaders of Abbotsleigh.

We wish our Year 12 2026 girls the very best as they begin their Year 12 work and their time as the new student leaders of Abbotsleigh.



## Valedictory Tribute

Laura Jones  
Head Prefect 2025-2026



Year 12 2025, in the eyes of us students, you are the big girls of the school, and you have certainly been the biggest role models to us all; a year group with the biggest hearts, leaving us with the biggest shoes to fill.

As you go out into the world, perhaps no longer as the 'big girls' but rather as Old Girls and young, capable women, we hope you do so with excitement. We certainly feel excited about what you will achieve, especially given everything you have done for Abbotsleigh! Not only are you leaving behind school uniforms, rowdy house carnivals and long hikes to the Science and Art building, you are also leaving behind a group of girls inspired by the legacy you have created.

There has never 'bee'n a more connected school community at Abbotsleigh than this past year, and

that is entirely credited to *your* leadership. The way you all readily immersed yourselves in school life with enthusiasm was infectious and has been displayed in every area of our school. It has taught all of us younger students how to embrace being an Abbotsleigh girl and how, as your year group has shown, to be a part of a school family. The Year 12 versus staff football game last week, where you all rallied in a final valiant attempt to equalise the match, and the massive Year 12 lunchtime game of 'Cops and Robbers' a few weeks ago, were both great displays of the camaraderie for which your year group is known. Your 'Bee Connected' theme was so powerful for our school spirit that it even led to the remarkable sight of every Year 7 girl donning bee antennae to cheer on our school at the IGSA Athletics carnival!

Earlier, I referred to you as the 'big girls' of the school, which might sound slightly strange coming from someone who is only in the year group below, but throughout our time at Abbotsleigh, we have always looked up to you girls.

There have been countless times that I have experienced the kindness of your year group, whether that was being cheered up at dance class after a difficult assessment, celebrating together after surviving McCredie Drive at the school Cross Country Carnival, being comforted when overwhelmed at a stressful titration competition, being hyped up by your banger playlists on the train-ride to SOPAC or simply being smiled at in the hallways. Not only have you seemed to form a strong bond as a year group but you have extended that to the rest of the school... and I know that this experience of feeling uplifted by

Year 12 is a common one. Thank you for setting such a high standard of compassion for others, which every following year group may now strive to live up to.

So, on behalf of the Senior School, we wish you the best of luck in your HSC exams and pray for the very best for your future endeavours. As in Joshua 1:9, 'Be

*strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.'* We know that you will take on the future with the bravery and passion that you have inspired in us. Thank you and farewell, Year 12 2025.



# Chaplain

## Jesus, Our Advocate

Rev Sarah Hobba  
Senior Chaplain and Head of Christian Studies

The late Jane Goodall has been remembered as a pioneering scientist, conservationist, messenger of peace and a tireless advocate for the planet. Her deep understanding of animals led her to speak on their behalf to governments and industries, with grace and determination.

An advocate is someone who knows the cause intimately and speaks for it with conviction. In a similar but far deeper way, Jesus is described in the Bible as our Advocate. Jesus is someone who knows us completely and speaks on our behalf before God. Not just once but continually.

Even when we feel like we have failed or fear we are too difficult to love, Jesus doesn't give up on us. He stands beside us, defending us, offering grace and mercy. His advocacy is not based on our perfection but on His righteousness and love. Just as Jane Goodall's legacy was shaped by her advocacy, we too can shape our lives by following Jesus' example, which can mean speaking up for others, standing beside those in need and being people marked by grace and compassion.

*'But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father – Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.'* — **1 John 2:1**

# Upcoming events

## WHOLE SCHOOL

|                                                         |                                               |                                     |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Dreaming, Looking Inwards exhibition</b>             | Thursday 2 to Saturday 25 October             | Grace Cossington Smith Gallery      |
| <b>SchoolTV program – student wellbeing resources</b>   | Available to all parents on the Parent Portal | <a href="#">Click here</a> to watch |
| <b>AbbSchool Dance Showcase rehearsal and photo day</b> | Saturday 18 October<br>12 noon-6 pm           | Senior School Assembly Hall         |

## JUNIOR SCHOOL

|                                                 |                                                      |                                      |
|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Transition and ELC visit to the ACEE</b>     | Tuesday 21 October<br>8.30 am-2.30 pm                | ACEE, Senior School campus           |
| <b>Year 1 Light Up Lives solar kit building</b> | Tuesday 21 October<br>9.30 am-12.30 pm               | Knox Grammar School                  |
| <b>Years 1-3 Gateway Workshop</b>               | Wednesday 22 October                                 |                                      |
| <b>5G and 5D Optus Belrose excursion</b>        | Wednesday 22 October<br>9.15 am-1 pm                 |                                      |
| <b>NSW PSSA Athletics Carnival</b>              | Wednesday 22 October<br>8.30 am-3.30 pm              | SOPAC                                |
| <b>Years 4-5 Gateway Workshop</b>               | Thursday 23 October                                  |                                      |
| <b>Year 3 Wellbeing Day</b>                     | Thursday 23 October<br>8.30 am-12.45 pm              | Year 3 Classrooms                    |
| <b>IPSHA Gymnastics Carnival</b>                | Friday 24 October<br>8.30 am-3 pm                    | Sydney Gymnastics and Aquatic Centre |
| <b>Year 2 Gibberagong excursion</b>             | Monday 27 October<br>8.30 am-2.30 pm                 | Bobbin Head                          |
| <b>Kindergarten 2026 play sessions</b>          | Monday 27 to Friday 31 October<br>9.30 am - 12.30 pm | Kindergarten classrooms              |
| <b>Transition 2026 play sessions</b>            | Monday 27 to Friday 31 October<br>10 am - 12 noon    | Transition classroom                 |
| <b>5O and 5L Optus Belrose excursion</b>        | Wednesday 29 October<br>9.15 am-1 pm                 |                                      |
| <b>Junior School Leaders morning tea</b>        | Thursday 30 October<br>8.30 am-12.30 pm              | NSW Parliament House, Sydney         |

## SENIOR SCHOOL

|                                                         |                                     |                                                 |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Saturday sport</b>                                   | Saturday 18 and 25 October          | <a href="#">Click here</a> for times and venues |
| <b>Year 12 2026 information session and barbeque</b>    | Monday 20 October<br>6-8 pm         | PDCH and Marian Clarke Plaza                    |
| <b>IGSA Gymnastics</b>                                  | Thursday 23 October<br>7 am-3 pm    | PLC Sydney                                      |
| <b>AbbSchool Dance Showcase rehearsal and photo day</b> | Saturday 25 October<br>12 noon-6 pm | Assembly Hall                                   |
| <b>Years 9 and 10 Assessment Week</b>                   | Monday 27 to Friday 31 October      |                                                 |
| <b>Years 11 and 12 French excursion</b>                 | Friday 31 October                   | Macquarie University                            |

