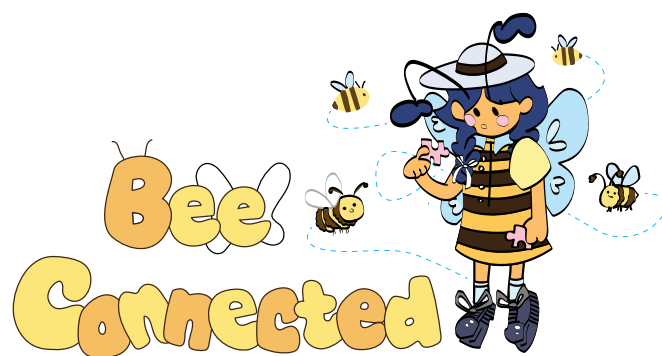


The Shuttle

Time flies faster than a weaver's shuttle.



'Bee Connected' as global citizens

Mrs Megan Krimmer
Headmistress

Abbotsleigh has always been, and will continue to be, a school that fosters global citizenship. Indeed, our Vision and Mission Statement in our new Strategic Plan clearly articulate that we aim for our girls to 'be independent, collaborative and courageous trailblazers who make a positive impact on our world today and tomorrow.' This necessarily means being positive and active global citizens.

At Abbotsleigh, we foster global citizenship through our rich and engaging learning, wellbeing, Christian Studies and Service Learning programs throughout the School. In addition, the Senior School offers well-established overseas exchange programs to countries such as the UK, Canada, the USA, France and Germany.

Each year, we also offer our Senior School girls wonderful opportunities to travel overseas, broadening their global perspectives and fostering collaborative learning.

An annual participation opportunity for our girls is the Oxford Royale Program. This program provides immensely rich learning and cultural experiences for our girls as they live and study in Oxford, giving them a taste of university life and high-level learning in areas such as law, medicine, politics and psychology. This trip is open to girls in Years 9-11 in 2026. (Girls should see our Head of Library and Learning Enrichment, Mrs Seeneevassen, very soon if they are interested in this very worthwhile educational experience in 2026.)

In this week's edition of The Shuttle, Mrs Tori Rennie has written a short article about the benefits of our overseas programs. This is followed by our girls' presentations on the highlights of the Oxford Royale Program undertaken in June/July, as well as the New York and NASA Design and STEM trip and the French Cultural trip, which were undertaken during the September/October holiday break.

I warmly commend these articles to you.

Expanding horizons: international tours inspire global citizenship

Mrs Victoria Rennie
Deputy Headmistress and Head of Senior School

Over the recent holiday break, students from our Senior School embarked on a series of enriching international experiences designed to broaden their global perspectives and foster collaborative learning. These tours – spanning the Design and STEM Trip to New York and Florida (including NASA), the French Language and Cultural Tour, and the Oxford University Program – offered immersive opportunities for our girls to engage with diverse cultures, cutting-edge innovation and world-class academic environments.

Each experience was a powerful extension of our commitment to nurturing global citizens. Whether

exploring the future of space exploration at NASA, practising French in authentic cultural settings or engaging in academic discourse at Oxford, students developed critical thinking, adaptability and intercultural understanding.

These tours not only deepened subject-specific knowledge but also encouraged teamwork, independence and a sense of global responsibility. We are proud of the way in which our students represented Abbotsleigh and returned with fresh insights and strengthened friendships.

I extend my thanks to the dedicated staff who invested extensive time and care into planning these exceptional global experiences, and to those who generously travelled with the girls during their own term breaks – Mrs Seeneevassen and Ms Oliver (Oxford); Ms Royston, Ms Oliver, Mr Bernard (France) and Dr Russell, Ms Scalone, Ms Moore and Mrs Counsell (USA). Their commitment to enriching your daughters' education beyond the classroom is deeply appreciated.



Highlights of the 2025 Oxford Tour

Presented by Lucy Miranda-Clark and Amelia Gething, Year 11

We were two of the lucky students to attend the Oxford Tour 2025. On the tour, we had the opportunity to see the sights of Oxford and London and attend classes at Oxford University.

Amelia on Oxford:

We arrived in Oxford a few days before we started the Oxford Royale program. This gave us an opportunity to see the city and get a feel for what living in Oxford would be like. We did a walking tour, which included the Radcliffe Camera, went punting, visited the Weston and Bodleian Libraries and the Ashmolean Museum and went to the Gloucester Green Market. The group also saw a production of Twelfth Night, by William Shakespeare, performed at the old Oxford prison. On the Sunday, we moved into the Colleges and were excited to start the Oxford Royale program.

Lucy on law:

There was a wide variety of interesting courses to choose from, led by professionals in their fields. Abbotsleigh students selected Experimental Psychology, Medicine and Law, and Politics, which Amelia and I chose to do.

The course was designed to feel like a mini Law degree, with a combination of lectures, mock trials, debates and workshops. One of the most memorable parts was the mock trial, where we were divided into prosecution and defence teams and given a case scenario. We had to prepare arguments and present in front of the other classes, which was a lot of fun.

Another highlight was the election project, where we formed political parties and wrote manifestos and campaigned to win votes from the rest of the cohort. It really helped us understand how political systems work in different countries and how legal and political decisions shape everyday life.



Amelia:

Living in Oxford was quite different to our day-to-day life here in Sydney. We were surrounded by beautiful buildings that are hundreds of years old, and the town was vibrant and buzzing with culture. We all attended the Headline Address by Professor Brian Cox, where he covered topics like the Big Bang and the potential for life on other planets in our solar system.

During the course, we had time every day to explore the town after classes. We would go out with friends to eat, explore and shop, which we found really fun. We also went to London on the weekend, where we could choose to visit galleries and museums.

For two weeks, we ate, slept and learnt in the 763-year-old Balliol College's beautiful campus located in the middle of Oxford. We made friends from all over the world, including Saudi Arabia, Mexico, America and Russia. One of the most valuable aspects of our trip was learning about the different ways others live in parts of the world.

Lucy on showcase day, graduation and value:

On showcase day, we presented to the Oxford tutors and our peers what we had learned and worked on, such as our mock trial arguments, campaign materials and legal research projects.

We had a graduation after our two-week course, where we were formally recognised, presented with certificates, and got to dress up (we wore clothes recycled from last year's formal).

The most valuable thing about the experience was that we could study subjects not offered at school. Being a part of the Law course was an opportunity we wouldn't normally have. Gaining a global perspective by working collaboratively with students from around the world and hearing perspectives on law in their own countries was great. It really opened my mind to how different governments and cultures approach legal studies.

If you haven't yet expressed interest in the Oxford 2026 tour, it is not too late. Contact Mrs Seeneevassen or go and see her in the Library for more information.

I would encourage you to consider this opportunity. We found it really great.



Highlights of the French Cultural Tour

Presented by Sophia Kwok, Isabella Cheng, Georgia Hall, Aaliyah Fisher and Samantha Parr, Year 9

Sophia: During the school holidays, 19 Years 9 and 10 French students, accompanied by Mr Bernard, Ms Oliver and Ms Royston, went to France for two weeks and learnt about the vivid French culture while adapting to the language and testing our speaking skills.

Bella: We spent the first seven days in Paris, with plenty of sightseeing and visited the Louvre, Arc de Triomphe, the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame, and many more Parisian landmarks. During our time in Paris, we also attended French classes, a cooking class and a river cruise along the Seine.

Georgia: We then spent the last week travelling around Normandy and Brittany, where we did even more sightseeing. We also visited Versailles, Rouen, Caen, Saint-Malo and Tours for day trips to the D-Day beaches, visited Mont Saint-Michel and the Loire Valley. In Rouen, we saw the incredible architecture of the 15th-20th centuries and the tallest cathedral in France. In Caen, we visited the D-Day Museum. In

Saint-Malo, there was the fortified main part of the town and the most beautiful sunset. Then in the Loire Valley, we explored some stunning châteaux and the towns surrounding them.

Aaliyah: Overall, this tour was an amazing experience, and we were immersed in the French culture and language throughout the trip. Throughout the tour, we had the opportunity to practise our French, learn about the deep history of the country and discover more about the customs, food and culture that make France so unique.

Samantha: On behalf of all the girls who attended the French trip, we would like to give a big thanks to Madame Helbert for her huge efforts in organising the trip and the teachers, Mr Bernard, Ms Oliver and Ms Royston, for accompanying us; we all really appreciate the time, effort and care that went into making this trip so memorable.

Thank you.



Highlights of the New York/NASA Tour

Presented by Dana Eftekhari, Rachel Theresia, Coco Yuan and Chloe Valmadre, Year 9

Rachel: During the Term 3 holidays, a group of Abbotsleigh students from Years 9-11 embarked on an unforgettable trip to the United States. From New York's bustling streets to the NASA Kennedy Space Center in Florida, the tour offered a mix of art, culture, design and science, providing us with visits to world-famous landmarks and the most innovative learning environments.

Coco: When we finally arrived in New York City, we were immediately blown away by its bright lights and nightlife. Our first full day was spent in New York's Garment District, where we participated in a workshop at M&S Schmalberg – a third-generation family business that handcrafts flowers for film and fashion. They told us stories about creating pieces for celebrities such as Jenna Ortega, Sabrina Carpenter, Olivia Rodrigo and even LeBron James. After creating our own special flowers, we headed over to the Museum of Arts and Design, where we explored contemporary exhibitions and abstract jewellery, as well as making our own.

Dana: The artistic inspiration continued at the Museum of Modern Art, where we saw famous pieces such as *Starry Night* by van Gogh, *Campbell's Soup* by Warhol and *Water Lilies* by Monet. We all took part in a sketching and designing tour, where our amazing guides helped us analyse abstract sculptures and paintings.

After an incredible time, we drove over to the Intrepid Museum, located on a World War II aircraft carrier, and ventured through the USS Growler submarine – an experience that offered a glimpse into living months at a time under the sea.

Rachel: One of my personal highlights was seeing Lin-Manuel Miranda through my hotel window, the writer of *Hamilton*, the Broadway musical, and songs from *Mary Poppins*, *Moana* and *Encanto*. Later that evening, we enjoyed a Broadway performance of *Wicked*, a true New York experience. From Elphaba's 'Defying Gravity' battle cry to the emotional moment when Elphaba and Glinda said their goodbyes in 'For Good', the show was amazing, and we had the best time. A few of us stayed back outside our hotel at the Richard Rodgers Theatre to take photos with the cast of *Hamilton*, including the Hercules Mulligan, James Madison, Seabury and George Washington actors. We even saw Leslie Odom Jr, the original Aaron Burr, come out and greet the

crowd. As someone who likes musical theatre, being able to immerse myself in the full Broadway experience was a dream come true.

Chloe: Over the next few days, we saw the city from new perspectives – cruising around Manhattan to see landmarks like the Statue of Liberty, Empire State Building and Brooklyn Bridge, before visiting the 9/11 Memorial Museum, which was a deeply moving experience for all of us. The following day brought more learning and discovery at the American Museum of Natural History, where the movie *Night at the Museum* was filmed, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, known for its highly exclusive events such as the Met Gala. There, we were able to explore artefacts and art spanning centuries and a range of cultures.

Dana: Our final day in New York included breakfast in Times Square and wandering through Chelsea Market. We ended our time with a movie-themed bus tour featuring filming locations like the fire station from *Ghostbusters*, the apartment from *Friends* and buildings from the Marvel Cinematic Universe. A surprise detour past Taylor Swift's apartment and a chance meeting with professional tennis player Naomi Johnson made a memorable farewell to the Big Apple.



Chloe: From New York, we travelled to Florida to experience three days of space exploration at NASA's Kennedy Space Center. We participated in a Space Camp program, blending real-world science with hands-on learning. We began with a tour around the Space Center, visiting historic launchpads and standing beneath the Saturn V rocket and Atlantis Space Shuttle. After learning about the evolution of human space travel, we had the enormous honour of hearing from astronaut Robert Cenker about his experiences aboard the Shuttle.

Coco: The following days saw us taking on the roles of astronauts, engineers and mission controllers through simulations and immersive activities. We grew microgreens in a Mars botany simulation, operated rovers, and learned how power and resources were managed on a space station. A talk by Space Force Officer Susan Dabrowski later that night inspired us all and gave us insight into women in STEM roles and the aerospace industries.

Dana: Our final day at NASA featured astronaut training simulations, including a Mars VR experience, a rocket launch exercise and even a microgravity simulation – designed to demonstrate the teamwork and precision required in space exploration. The experience ended on a fun note with mini golf and alligator spotting at Golf n Gator.

Chloe: Before returning home, we enjoyed the rest of our time in Orlando by visiting Wonderworks, where

we played laser tag, lay down on a bed of nails, and traversed an obstacle course. At Universal Studios, after butterbeer at Diagon Alley, chocolate frogs from Honeydukes, and crazy adrenaline rushes from the VelociCoaster and the Hulk Coaster, we rounded out a packed experience in the US.

Rachel: From the creativity in New York to the innovation at NASA, the tour was truly an unforgettable experience for everyone. We are eternally grateful to Dr Russell, Ms Scalone, Ms Moore, and Mrs Counsell for helping us through the journey. For anyone who might be interested, we highly recommend this trip to learn new things, make new friends and experience new places. Thank you!



Giving Day

Bee Connected
A Day of Celebration

8am-8pm, Thursday 6 November 2025

140 Years
1885-2025



ABBOTSLEIGH

Visit the [Parent Portal](#) to edit your profile, view the calendar and view parent notices.



Chaplain

The Lord, our teacher

Polly Butterworth
Chaplain

I wonder if there's a teacher who has stood out to you in life. I think of my Year 5 teacher, who taught me to love public speaking; my Bible Study leader through high school; and the chef Claire Saffitz, from whom I get all my recipes. Teachers, in many forms, shape us through both their words and their way of life.

In Jesus' time, rabbis were experts in the Scriptures whom students followed closely, imitating their teaching and lifestyle. But Jesus redefined what it meant to be a teacher. Unlike other rabbis, he called his disciples rather than waiting for them to apply, and he included unexpected people such as fishermen, tax collectors, zealots and even women like Mary Magdalene, Joanna and Susanna. His invitation was radically inclusive and deeply personal.

We might be reasonably comfortable with the idea of Jesus as a good teacher who shared great wisdom, such as to *'love your neighbour as yourself'* (Mark 12:31). However, Jesus also made claims about his own divinity, which we need to consider. C S Lewis has famously argued that we cannot simply accept Jesus as just a good moral teacher because his claims about being God force us to decide whether he was Lord, a liar, or a lunatic.

Jesus exposes us to good, wise ways to live, but his intention isn't that we only become good moral people who do good, ethical things, but that we also come to know him as our personal Lord. We see Mary enact the intended response to Jesus at the resurrection. In John 20:16, we read, *'Jesus said to her, "Mary". She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni"!*' (which means 'Teacher'). Then, we read in verse 18, *'Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: I have seen the Lord!'* Here Jesus is both teacher, whom we are to learn from, follow and emulate, as well as the Lord, for us to worship as God.

Upcoming events

WHOLE SCHOOL

To Approach the Unknowable exhibition	Saturday 1 November to Saturday 6 December	Grace Cossington Smith Gallery
SchoolTV program – student wellbeing resources	Available to all parents on the Parent Portal	Click here to watch
AbbSchool Dance Showcase full rehearsal	Saturday 1 November 2-6 pm	
AbbSchool Dance Showcase dry run	Wednesday 5 November 4-6 pm	
Abbotsleigh Foundation Giving Day	Thursday 6 November	Click here to learn more or donate
AbbSchool Dance Showcase	Friday 7 and Saturday 8 November 7-9 pm	Wenkart Theatre, Knox Grammar School

JUNIOR SCHOOL

ELC, T-1 intensive swimming week	Monday 3 to Friday 7 November	
Year 3 Gibberagong-Muogamarra excursion	Monday 3 November	Bobbin Head
IPSHA Debating Gala Day	Monday 3 November	
Year 1 Royal Botanic Gardens excursion	Monday 10 November	Royal Botanic Gardens
Year 5 Surf Education	Wednesday 12 November	Manly Beach
Year 6 Surf Education	Thursday 13 November	Manly Beach
Transition Cinderella Kindness Day	Thursday 13 November	Transition classrooms
Year 4 Kindness Day and French breakfast	Thursday 13 November	Library Plaza and annex rooms
Infants Swimming Carnival	Friday 14 November	Senior School Aquatic Centre

SENIOR SCHOOL

Saturday sport	Saturday 25 October and Saturday 1 November	Click here for times and venues
Year 10 Immersion Week project day	Wednesday 5 November	PDCH
Spring Instrumental Festival	Wednesday 5 November 4-6.30 pm	PDCH and various Senior School venues
Year 9 Languages incursion	Thursday 6 November 8.20 am-12.45 pm	
Year 7 Inquisitive Minds incursion	Thursday 6 November	
Year 10 Semi-Formal	Thursday 6 November 6.30-10.30 pm	Hornsby RSL Club
Sports photos	Friday 7 November 12.45-2.10 pm	Sports Hall
Prefect Afternoon Tea	Friday 7 November 3.30-6 pm	Global Learning Centre and Marian Clarke Plaza
Middle School Ethics Olympiad	Monday 10 November	Library Seminar rooms
Years 7-11 swimming heats	Monday 10 November	Aquatic Centre
Boarder Leadership 2026 induction service	Monday 10 November 5.30-7 pm	Chapel and Dining Room
Years 9-11 Elective Drama Showcase	Tuesday 11 November 6-8 pm	Drama Studio
Year 10 First Aid Course	Wednesday 12 November	
Year 9 Unserious Careers	Wednesday 12 November 12.15-1.15 pm	PDCH
Year 8 Luna Park excursion	Thursday 13 November	Luna Park
Year 9 Mandatory Geography field trip	Thursday 13 November	Barangaroo
Year 7 Geography field trip	Friday 14 November	Bondi
Year 7 History excursion	Friday 14 November	Chau Chak Wing Museum
Senior School Sports Awards	Friday 14 November 5-7.30 pm	PDCH
Year 10 Red Earth immersion	Friday 14 to Friday 21 November	

