

The Shuttle

Time flies faster than a weaver's shuttle.

Welcome to 2026 at Abbotsleigh as, together, we 'Journey With Joy'

Mrs Megan Krimmer
Headmistress

Welcome to a new year at Abbotsleigh! It was an absolute privilege and pleasure to see our girls' happy faces and hear their squeals of delight as they reconnected or met each other for the first time after the long summer break. I extend a very warm welcome to our new girls and their families, and welcome back all our girls and their families to Abbotsleigh. We also warmly welcome our staff and new members of staff to what promises to be an exciting and vibrant year filled with joy and hope.

A new year is a time of great **hope**, great **dreams** and great **possibilities** – and our senior girls' excitement and enthusiasm were palpable as they explored what those new hopes and dreams might be during our Welcome to 2026 Assembly on Thursday morning.

At our assembly, we also celebrated the achievements of the Class of 2025, the great ABBOX Camp for children living with disabilities, the sporting and robotics achievements of many of our girls, and the incredible work carried out over the holidays. The girls are especially grateful for our sensational new café/dining area, which was in full use on Thursday. It is a magnificent addition to our school, and I would like to thank Mr Greg Fisher, Mr Ross Bowden, our Catering team and our School Council very much indeed for their dedication and phenomenal hard work in making this wonderful facility possible for our girls. Thank you!



Our Senior School Assembly ended with the much-anticipated launch of the 2026 Prefect theme.

Senior School Assembly address to the School

Laura Jones
Head Prefect 2025-2026

We are very excited to announce that the 2026 Prefect theme is 'Journey With Joy'!

The theme 'Journey With Joy' is an invitation to journey alongside our character, Joy, an Abbotsleigh girl like you and me, navigating her way through the ups and downs throughout the school year. Rather than seeing joy as simply an abstract concept, we have brought it to life as a character who personifies the values that will guide us along our journey. Through our shared experiences with Joy, and thus each other, we can appreciate our school journey for all its challenges and many rewards and discover together that finding joy in each and every moment is at the heart of making the most of our time at Abbotsleigh.

Throughout this year in assembly, we will be following Joy's journey along the 'yellow brick road', a journey where she comes to appreciate the true meaning of joy. She will learn that it is built on a range of core values that she cultivates, symbolised by each of the flowers she receives with each challenge she overcomes. These values include teamwork, faith, gratitude and of course our school values – integrity, respect, compassion, courage and perseverance – alongside many others. We will watch Joy welcome the challenges of school life while still enjoying every step of the way with her friends. Of course, Joy won't always feel happy, but we will see that she uses a positive outlook to be resilient and grow in the face of adversity.

Life is what you make of it, and our 2026 Prefect theme encourages the students of Abbotsleigh to embrace school life and see the 'joy in their journey'. We cannot wait to 'Journey With Joy' alongside you all.



Our Prefect theme is the theme for the whole school and, most fittingly, following our Senior School Assembly was our first Junior School Chapel Service, which was 'joy personified'. The girls entered Everett Hall with great excitement and were delighted to sing their favourite songs – 10, 9, 8 *God is Great* and *Our God is a Great Big God*. During the service, our Chaplain, Mrs Alison Soper, and Christian Studies Teacher, Mrs Renee Gale, put on a very clever skit where they used the metaphor of different fruit to help the girls feel comfortable in their new classes and and/or new school. It is fantastic that we are all different, that we all have beautiful qualities and that we can all get along together – a bit like a beautiful fruit salad!

As I said above, the new year brings a time of great **hope**, great **dreams** and great **possibilities**, all of which are sorely needed when our country is still reeling from December 14th's Bondi terrorist tragedy. We spent time in the Senior School yesterday honouring the victims, all those affected and all those who responded with such bravery at Bondi, knowing that we never want such a dreadful event to occur in our country again.

We are so grateful that Abbotsleigh is a place of safety and deep respect for all, and I know that we will all work together to ensure this remains the heart of who we are as a community. I am confident that our girls are determined to live this out by treating all others as equals and with the deepest respect so that they will continue to make a very positive difference in our world, today and tomorrow. As it says in Matthew 5:9: *Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God...*

I wish you all an amazing 2026 as our whole school community becomes even more connected, 'journeying with joy' along the 'yellow brick road' as, together, we weave and write the next exciting chapter of the rich and magical tapestry that is Abbotsleigh – the school that has stood the test of time.

Together we are strong and resilient. United, with 'Joy', we are powerful!



Chaplain

Summer Journeys

Rev Sarah Hobba
Senior Chaplain and Head of Christian Studies

Since we ‘took off’ from December 2025 and have now returned at the end of January 2026, our summer journeys have taken many forms. Each of us has had different experiences; for some, it was full of adventure, while for others it was quieter and closer to home. A travel agent might describe them as *Fly & Try, Staycation, Rest & Reset, Booked & Busy, Cared & Supported, or Projects & Crafts*. As we learn together in community, it is good to be mindful of the varied experiences each person brings to this year's journey.

The Apostle Paul wrote to Christians living in Rome, encouraging them to live with a mindset that reflects Jesus’ example to us. As we travel through 2026, may we put these words into action, looking to Jesus who loves us deeply and gives us peace with God.



Romans 12:9-10, 17-18

⁹ Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in love. Honour one another above yourselves.

¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. ¹⁸ If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

Upcoming events

WHOLE SCHOOL

lines and lines and lines exhibition	Friday 30 January to Saturday 28 February	Grace Cossington Smith Gallery
SchoolTV program – student wellbeing resources	Available to all parents on the Parent Portal	Click here to watch

JUNIOR SCHOOL

Junior School Photo Day 1	Tuesday 3 February	
T-6 Parent information evening	Tuesday 3 February 6.30-9 pm	Everett Hall and classrooms
Year 3 swimming trials	Wednesday 4 February 9am-12 noon	Senior School Aquatic Centre

Year 4 swimming trials	Wednesday 4 February 12 noon-3 pm	Senior School Aquatic Centre
Year 5 swimming trials	Thursday 5 February 9am-12 noon	Senior School Aquatic Centre
Year 6 swimming trials	Thursday 5 February 12 noon-3 pm	Senior School Aquatic Centre
Kindergarten eyesight testing	Monday 9 February 9 am-12 noon	
Year 6 Spit to Manly walk	Tuesday 10 February	
Kindergarten parent morning tea	Wednesday 11 February 8-9.30 am	Bundarra Lawn
Primary Swimming and Diving Carnival	Friday 13 February 8.30 am-3 pm	Senior School Aquatic Centre

SENIOR SCHOOL

Boarders Community Weekend	Saturday 31 January to Sunday 1 February	
Senior School Band workshop day	Saturday 31 January	
Year 8 Parent information night and BBQ	Monday 2 February 6-8 pm	PDCH and Marian Clarke Plaza
Senior School diving trials	Wednesday 4 February 1.15-2.10 pm	Senior School Aquatic Centre
Co-curricular Fair	Friday 6 February 1.20-2.10 pm	Marian Clarke Plaza and Lawn
Saturday sport begins	Saturday 7 February	Draws released in The Shuttle and parent app next week
Year 9 Parent information night and BBQ	Monday 9 February 6-8 pm	PDCH and Marian Clarke Plaza
Senior School Diving Carnival	Wednesday 11 February 3.45-5 pm	Senior School Aquatic Centre
Year 7 Parent information night and BBQ	Thursday 12 February 6-8 pm	PDCH and Marian Clarke Plaza
House Choir competition	Friday 13 February 8.20-10.20 am	

