

The Shuttle

Time flies faster than a weaver's shuttle.

Our Senior College girls 'Journey With Joy'

Mrs Megan Krimmer
Headmistress

Welcome to our next instalment in our *Shuttle* series exploring the unique and fabulous character of the different 'schools within our school' at Abbotsleigh.

Ms Penny Chilton, our Head of Senior College, has written an excellent article highlighting the wonderful programs and opportunities experienced by our girls in Senior College (Years 10-12) as they 'Journey With Joy' at Abbotsleigh. Consistently aiming to make a positive impact on others within and outside of Abbotsleigh, our Senior College girls are excellent role models as they learn, lead and prepare for a life of meaning and purpose beyond the gates of our magnificent school.

I warmly commend Ms Chilton's article to you.



Preparing for a purposeful life today and tomorrow to make a positive impact

Ms Penny Chilton
Head of Senior College

We are past the halfway point of Term 2, and Abbotsleigh Senior College is, as always, a hive of activity. Senior College girls stand at the transition point of school and life beyond the school gates and make the most of every opportunity along the way. Their energy, leadership, enthusiasm and dedication are evident in the way they approach learning, as well as their sport, music, drama, service, public speaking and myriad other co-curricular activities and senior milestones that are part of Senior College life.

In the last two weeks alone, Year 10 students have completed over 200 work experience placements; Year 11 students have strengthened their leadership and teamwork through the yLead Program and by

supporting younger students in Peer Support and Peer Mentoring sessions; and Year 12 students have completed assessments in all their subjects. As one of the newest members of the Senior College team, I have been inspired by the way in which our girls strive in their learning, leadership, engagement and service.

This striving builds a sense of purpose, engagement and empowerment that speaks to the heart of our Prefect theme, 'Journey With Joy'. The young women of Senior College understand that joy is grounded in resilience, hope, perspective and strong relationships. When they speak of 'journeying with joy', they refer to moments of perseverance, supporting one another and sharing the good times as well as the challenging ones.

It is a privilege to see our girls making a positive impact in our world today as they continue preparing for life beyond the school gates. This impact is evident in significant initiatives and small, meaningful moments, such as:

- The Year 12 students who give so much time and energy to leading our student councils for Service, Environment and Student Representation

- The fundraising and awareness-raising efforts of our girls in Years 10-12 to support Bunda Girls Secondary School in Tanzania, World Vision, The Royal Flying Doctor Service, Amnesty, and many other charities
- Students across Senior College stepping in as buddies for new students
- The way in which our girls advocate for causes about which they are passionate
- Students listening to a friend practise her English speech, giving feedback and asking questions to help her prepare well for her viva voce
- The example that our 'house proud' seniors set for younger students in every interhouse opportunity
- Students seeking out opportunities to serve and support our wider community through volunteering
- The time given to preparing for Chapel and supporting peers in exploring the Christian faith through CRU
- Everyday moments when students help one another and their younger peers... to find the right classroom, to give comfort if someone is upset, to ensure people are included, and to cheer and celebrate the successes of others (even when they may be feeling disappointed).

The Senior College years hold some unique pressures alongside the many opportunities they present. Our aim is for our girls to maintain a balanced approach and to develop strategies to help them in every aspect of life and learning. In doing so, they grow in their wellbeing, faith and sense of personal agency, as well as in their academic achievement.

This is supported through the girls' engagement with key programs such as The Resilience Project, the Science of Learning, and the Abbotsleigh Women in Leadership Academy (WiLA). It is also made possible by the dedication of our staff, including our outstanding teachers and tutors, year coordinators, and a support team specialising in wellbeing and careers. Opportunities to deepen understanding of the Christian faith through Christian Studies, Theology and Chapel are also central to supporting students' spiritual development.

Many students notice that their relationships with teachers evolve during the senior years, as they increasingly recognise the depth of experience,

care and support available to them both inside and beyond the classroom.

Ongoing participation in Outdoor Education and Challenge Week programs provides Senior College students with valuable opportunities to connect, face challenges beyond the classroom and work collaboratively. For Year 10, this included a visit to Canberra tailored to areas of interest, with students exploring sites related to Science, HSIE, Sport and Visual Arts.

In Year 11, students developed practical life skills – including the basics of car care – before building teamwork through the Urban Challenge, navigating the city in an imaginative array of costumes. Gangsta Grannies, Dr Seuss characters, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles and others were warmly received wherever they went. More importantly, the experience reinforced the importance of collaboration and resilience – key qualities as they prepare for their HSC year.

Our Year 12 students are proudly 'Team Abbotsleigh', supporting one another in academic endeavours and caring for each other in a positive and productive Common Room environment. While research shows that each student benefits when every member of a cohort achieves their personal best, this is only part of the story. Our Year 12s are keenly aware that Senior College is a community that depends on each person being connected, supported and engaged in what they are doing. Seeing them take steps to ensure this is the case for their peers and for younger students is both an honour and a clear indicator that they are ready to face life beyond the gates of our school and operate in the world with integrity, respect, compassion, courage and perseverance.

Senior College girls are well supported, and our partnerships with families are essential in ensuring students feel connected and confident as they prepare for life beyond school. We value your continued engagement as we support, challenge and celebrate your daughters in these important final years of school.

I look forward to seeing the many ways Senior College students continue to make a positive impact – within our school community and beyond – as they 'Journey With Joy'.



Chaplain

Shine like stars

Rev Sarah Hobba
Senior Chaplain and Head of Christian Studies

In Chapel this week, we reflected on what it truly means to ‘shine’. This is not about appearance, perfection or even talent but about the way people radiate kindness, humility, courage and integrity in how they live.

We can all think of individuals who ‘shine’, personally and in the wider world, whose faithful service to others radiates. Two such examples are Dr Catherine Hamlin, who established fistula hospitals in Ethiopia to restore dignity to women suffering after complicated labour and Yorta Yorta elder William Cooper, who courageously spoke out against injustice, including organising protests against Hitler before the outbreak of World War II. Their lives point beyond themselves and are grounded in the true example of Jesus.

Paul reminds us that this kind of ‘shining’ stands in contrast to a world that is often ‘warped and crooked,’ and that our response flows from Jesus’ example of humility, sacrificial service and self-giving love demonstrated at the cross (Philippians 2:6-11). Importantly, this call is not about being perfect but about holding firmly to the truth of who Jesus is and what he has done. As we adopt the mindset of Jesus, seeking to obey, to serve and to reflect him in everyday life, we become people who shine brightly in the world.

There is also great joy in this: joy in living lives of purpose, and joy in seeing others doing the same.

Philippians 2:14–16a

¹⁴ Do everything without grumbling or arguing,
¹⁵ so that you may become blameless and pure, ‘children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.’ Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky ¹⁶ as you hold firmly to the word of life.



Upcoming events

WHOLE SCHOOL

Parent Wellbeing Hive – parent wellbeing resources	Available to all parents on the Parent Portal	Click here to visit
Pacific Highway pedestrian overpass overnight closure	Tuesday 28 April to Friday 31 July 9 pm-5 am	15 temporary overnight closures to complete work on pedestrian overpass
Juno Games exhibition	Friday 8 May to Wednesday 3 June	Grace Cossington Smith Gallery
Young Curators exhibition	Thursday 4 to Saturday 13 June	Grace Cossington Smith Gallery



Junior and Senior School Band Festival	Thursday 4 June 5.30-6.45 pm	PDCH
King's Birthday public holiday	Monday 8 June	

JUNIOR SCHOOL

Cinderella Kindness Day – Transition	Tuesday 2 June	Transition classroom
Year 4 Maritime Museum excursion	Wednesday 3 June	Sydney Maritime Museum
Year 2 Lego WeDo	Thursday 4 June 8.30-11 am	
Jump Rope for Heart Jump Off	Friday 5 June	
Year 5 Micro:bit Market	Thursday 11 June 9 am-12 noon	Junior School Library Plaza
JS Production dress rehearsal and photos	Saturday 13 June 2-5 pm	Everett Hall

SENIOR SCHOOL

Saturday sport	Saturday 30 May	Click here for times and venues
Year 8 Parent Teacher night	Wednesday 3 June 3.30-8.30 pm	Online
IGSA Archdale Debating round 5	Tuesday 9 June 4-8 pm	Various locations
Years 9 and 10 Junior Science Olympiad exam	Wednesday 10 June 11.15 am-1.45 pm	Online exam
Museum of Feisty Females – Parent viewing	Wednesday 10 June 3.30-5 pm	iHub
Year 8 language excursions/ incursions	Thursday 11 June	Various locations
Years 7 and 8 Junior Science Olympiad exam	Friday 12 June 11.15 am-1.45 pm	Online exam
Interschool chess competition	Friday 12 June 4-6 pm	Library seminar rooms