

The Shuttle

Time flies faster than a weaver's shuttle.

Leadership: A 'Journey With Joy'

Mrs Megan Krimmer
Headmistress

At Abbotsleigh, we believe that developing leadership skills and giving girls formal and informal leadership opportunities are fundamentally important, in order that each of our girls may take their equal and welcome seat at any table and really make a positive social impact on our world. Indeed, as Reid Hoffman, Co-Founder of LinkedIn and other organisations, is purported to have said: 'When women succeed, we all do.'

A very special event marking our girls' leadership journey is our Leadership Induction Service, which was held this morning. At this service, every Year 12 student received her Year 12 Leadership Badge in recognition of her participation in Abbotsleigh's leadership development program and her important role as a student leader of our School.



Our Leadership Induction Service also saw the induction of our newly elected prefects for 2026-2027. We warmly congratulate each girl and give every prefect our best wishes for wisdom and success as they formally take up their roles in Term 4.

Mrs Rennie, our Deputy Headmistress and founder of WiLA, our Women in Leadership Academy, has written an excellent article about the leadership journey of our new Year 12 2026-2027 leaders, which I commend to you.

Please see Laura's (Head Prefect 2025-2026) excellent speech congratulating the girls and the list of our new prefects below.



Leading through our values: Year 12 2026-2027 Leadership Induction

Mrs Victoria Rennie
Deputy Headmistress

Today, we proudly celebrated the induction of our Year 12 2026-2027 student leaders at a special Leadership Induction Service. This significant occasion marked the beginning of the girls' formal leadership journey as they prepare to step into their roles from Term 4 and serve the Abbotsleigh community with purpose and dedication.

Throughout the year, all the girls in the year group have engaged in a rich program of leadership development, encouraging them to reflect deeply on what it means to lead in today's world. An important message underpinning this journey has been that leadership is not defined by a title or position but by the positive impact we have on others through our actions, choices and character.

A highlight of the year was the inaugural Abbotsleigh Women in Leadership Academy (WiLA) Conference, where students had the opportunity to hear from inspiring female leaders and explore contemporary approaches to leadership. Through these experiences, the girls were challenged to see leadership as something available to everyone and to recognise their own capacity to make a meaningful contribution within their communities.

The girls developed their understanding further through the yLead workshop, which explored the idea that leadership is measured not by the badge we wear but by the impact we leave on others. A memorable aspect of the program was the opportunity for the girls to recognise and celebrate one another's strengths, acknowledging that each individual brings unique talents, perspectives and gifts. Together, these strengths create a powerful foundation for effective leadership and teamwork.



At Abbotsleigh, we firmly believe that every student is a leader. Leadership is demonstrated each day through service, integrity, genuine relationships and a commitment to making a positive difference. While formal leadership positions provide valuable opportunities to serve the school community, they are not measures of the girls' worth. Leadership takes many forms, and every contribution helps strengthen the life of our school.

As we inducted our Years 11-12 leaders, we were encouraged by their shared desire to lead with integrity, act with courage, treat others with respect and compassion, and hold themselves and one another accountable to the standards they have set together. These qualities reflect the values that sit at the heart of our community and will guide them as they lead throughout the coming year.

A thriving school community is one where integrity guides our actions, respect shapes our relationships, courage inspires our choices and compassion strengthens our connections. We look forward to seeing our Year 12 2027 leaders embody these values as they lead with character, humility and purpose, helping to shape the future of Abbotsleigh and leaving a lasting positive impact on those around them.



Congratulations to the new prefect body and all of Year 12 2027

Laura, Head Prefect 2025-2026

Congratulations to the Abbotsleigh prefect body for 2026 and 2027 on your new leadership positions. They truly are well deserved! It is a great privilege to be recognised by your peers and teachers as leaders. Remember that these positions were appointed to you because you were already displaying incredible leadership before being elected to an official role. So, stay true to yourselves and believe in yourselves as much as we believe in you.

I remember being on stage this time last year where you are now, and amidst all the excitement, asking myself what it meant to be a leader. Reflecting on the journey gone by, I've come to understand the words of Eleanor Roosevelt, who said, 'A good leader inspires people to have confidence in the leader; a great leader inspires people to have confidence in themselves.' Today is a wonderful occasion to celebrate you girls, but now that you have been honoured with these leadership positions, look beyond yourselves to how you can serve your fellow students and help every other girl to become the best version of herself.

To all of Year 11, as the incoming Year 12 team who will now be leading our school: uplift each other, face the challenges together and it is alongside one another that you will make the greatest impact. I have had the privilege



of knowing many of you Year 11s. There were times when you lifted me up when I was crying, or brought me to tears laughing, or inspired me as I learned alongside you. In Year 12, every girl is a leader of this school, and I know that your year group will continue to be the role models that I have been lucky enough to witness.

And to Dineli, congratulations on your appointment as our new Head Prefect! There are countless times I have seen you be a great leader, a true friend and a person I genuinely admire. I have no doubt that you will lead our school selflessly and with humility and integrity because I have seen you display the same dedication in everything you do.

Once again, on behalf of the whole school, congratulations to all our new leaders. It truly is a privilege to be handing over the reins to such a capable group of girls. We are so excited for you and cannot wait to see where you will take the school next.

Prefects 2026-2027

PREFECT EXECUTIVE			
Head Prefect	Dineli	Music Prefect	Nandika
Head Boarder Prefect	Heli	Sport Prefect	Imogen
Vice Head Prefect – Duties	Margot	SRC Prefects	Stacy Cindy
Vice Head Prefect – Houses	Eve	STEAM Prefects	Allison Olivia
Vice Head Prefect – Service	Nimue	YEAR PREFECTS	
BOARDING LEADERSHIP		Junior School	Aria Chiara Hannah
Vice Head Boarder Prefect	Chloe	Years 6-7	Juliet Vera
Boarding Prefects	Mari Savannah	Years 7-8	Serena Bethany
PORTFOLIOS		Years 8-9	Katherine Tinya
Chapel Prefect	Kate	Years 9-10	Valerie Briar
Creative Arts Prefects	Jazaria Jasmine	Years 10-11	Juliet Sherry
Debating and Public Speaking Prefect	Neomi	Years 11-12	Rachel Poppy
Drama Prefect	Ruby		
Environment Prefect	Alice		
Middle School Prefect (new position)	Felicity		



HOUSE CAPTAINS

Chisholm	Alisha Sasha	Prichard	Leah Neave
Franklin	Imaya Philippa	Richardson	Aariyah Alyssa
Gilmore	Grace Lara	Tennant	Shreya Scarlett
Melba	Olivia Aelis	Wright	Saisha Annabel

Chaplain

Leadership that serves

Rev Sarah Hobba
Senior Chaplain and Head of Christian Studies

Our culture often associates leadership with influence, recognition or authority. We expect leaders to stand out, to be admired and to direct others. One of the most striking things about Jesus is that, as His earthly ministry was drawing to a close, He chose not to display His power, but His humility. At the Last Supper, Jesus knelt and washed the dusty feet of His disciples. It was the work usually reserved for a servant, yet the One with all authority willingly took the lowest place. In doing so, Jesus redefined greatness. This act pointed forward to His ultimate act of sacrificial servant leadership in giving His life on the cross for the sake of others.

This example remains profoundly challenging today. Most of us are unlikely to wash someone else's feet, nor give our lives for others, but every day presents opportunities to lead with the same spirit. We can choose to serve rather than put convenience or ourselves first, and to pursue humility rather than recognition.

The leaders who often make the deepest impact are not those who seek attention for themselves but those who quietly help others flourish. Whether in our homes,



workplaces or school community, Jesus reminds us that genuine leadership begins when we ask not, 'How can others serve me?' but rather, 'How can I serve others?'

'Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.'
John 13:14-15

'For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.'
Mark 10:45

Upcoming events

Parent Wellbeing Hive – parent wellbeing resources	Available to all parents on the Parent Portal	Click here to visit
Follow You Home exhibition	Friday 4 to Saturday 26 September	Grace Cossington Smith Gallery

Last day of Term 3	Thursday 24 September	
Boarder travel day	Friday 25 September	
First day of Term 4	Tuesday 13 October	

JUNIOR SCHOOL

Year 6 20 Hour Challenge Celebration of Learning	Tuesday 22 September 10-10.45 am	Year 6 classrooms
Years 4-6 author talk and book launch	Tuesday 22 September 12 noon-12.45 pm	
Year 5 Celebration of Learning – Wonder of Empathy Project	Wednesday 23 September 12 noon-12.45 pm	Year 5 classrooms
Year 6 Designing for Change Celebration of Learning	Thursday 24 September 10-10.45 am	Year 6 classrooms
Junior School House Cup	Thursday 24 September 1.30-2 pm	

SENIOR SCHOOL

Saturday sport	Saturday 19 September	Click here for times and venues
Year 12 and Tutor breakfast	Monday 21 September 7.15-9 am	Year 12 Common Room
Year 12 vs Staff Handball	Monday 21 September 1.15-2 pm	Marian Clarke Plaza and Chapel Walk
Year 11 Elective Music soiree	Monday 21 September 6.30-8.30 pm	PDCH
Year 8 Geography field trip	Tuesday 22 September	Sydney Harbour
Year 12 Crufts at Abbotsleigh	Tuesday 22 September 8.20-9.30 am	Top Oval
Year 12 Picnic Day at Balmoral	Tuesday 22 September 10 am-3.25 pm	Balmoral Beach
Japan Concert Band rehearsal	Tuesday 22 September 3.30-5.30 pm	PDCH
Wheeldon House Dinner	Tuesday 22 September 5-8 pm	Wheeldon House
Year 12 Valedictory Chapel	Wednesday 23 September 8.30-9.30 am	Senior School Chapel
Year 12 Valedictory Assembly	Wednesday 23 September 9.45-10.45 am	Assembly Hall
Year 12 Valedictory Morning Tea	Wednesday 23 September 10.45 am-12 noon	Marian Clarke Plaza
Year 12 Valedictory Dinner	Wednesday 23 September 6.30-11 pm	Miramare Gardens, Terrey Hills
Japan Concert Band rehearsal	Friday 25 September 8.30 am-3.30 pm	PDCH
Japan Jazz Ensemble rehearsal	Friday 25 September 9-11 am	To be determined
CRU Leadership training session	Friday 25 September 10 am-1 pm	GLC

