

The Shuttle

Time flies faster than a weaver's shuttle.

Our girls 'Journey With Joy' through the Creative and Performing Arts and original research

Mrs Megan Krimmer
Headmistress

'Our girls have much to be proud of, and we are honoured to celebrate their achievements with them.'

Ms Isobel Royston, *Director of Curriculum and Professional Excellence*

From the Primary Ensembles Concert to the HSC Showcase, it has been a wonderful few weeks where our whole community has been treated to performances and displays that have highlighted the incredible curiosity, creativity, intelligence and talent of our girls.

At the end of Week 5, our wonderful Junior School girls in Years 3-6 staged a magnificent Music Ensembles Concert: 'The Joy of Music'. The range, variety and quality of the music performed by our girls, some of whom had only been playing their instruments for a short time, was superb. I know that the parents and teachers were justifiably proud of the girls, and they enjoyed the concert very much indeed. All the audience members also appreciated the excellent Junior School artwork displayed outside the Assembly Hall. This was a new initiative that allowed us to further enjoy the talent and creativity of our girls.

The Junior School music concert was closely followed by the grand finale of our girls' remarkable talent – our Year 12 showcase, held last week. The HSC Showcase

gave the whole community the opportunity to celebrate the pinnacle of our Year 12 girls' imagination, research, creativity, problem-solving and critical thinking skills, as well as their sheer hard work.

Ms Isobel Royston, our Director of Curriculum and Professional Excellence, has written an excellent article about the showcase, which I commend to you. I also commend the speeches delivered by our Creative Arts Prefects, Kylie Liu and Melanie Wong, as they opened the HSC Showcase, and our Music Prefect, Rita Chen, at the conclusion of the concert.

To experience even more of our girls' creativity and musicianship, I encourage you to come to our 'Catch a Rising Star' Music concert in the PDCH this evening. It should not be missed!

As Albert Einstein is reputed to have said:

'Imagination is intelligence having fun.'



Celebrating creativity, scholarship and perseverance at HSC Showcase 2026

Ms Isobel Royson

Director of Curriculum and Professional Excellence

HSC Showcase 2026 provided a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the remarkable achievements of our Abbotsleigh Year 12 girls and the culmination of dedication, creativity and hard work. The students proudly presented their major works and projects across a diverse range of subjects, including Aboriginal Studies, Design and Technology, Visual Arts, Science Extension, Software Engineering, History Extension, English Extension 2 and Music Extension. This year the HSC Aboriginal Studies projects were showcased for the first time, highlighting the breadth and richness of learning experiences available to our students.

On Tuesday 25 August, the HSC Showcase brought the School community together to celebrate these extraordinary achievements. Parents, students and staff were invited to experience the impressive range of works and performances on display. From thought-provoking research projects and innovative designs to stunning visual artworks, moving dramatic performances and outstanding musical compositions and performances from Drama, Music 1, Music 2 and Music Extension students, our School community was captivated by the authenticity, passion and talent evident in every presentation.

The girls' projects represent far more than assessment tasks. They are the result of countless hours of research, experimentation, refinement and perseverance. Each major work begins with an idea, a question or a passion, and through determination and resilience, our students transform those ideas into impressive final products.



The works on display reflected not only academic excellence, but also creativity, innovation, critical thinking and personal growth. We are incredibly proud of the courage the girls have shown in pursuing ambitious projects and bringing their visions to life.

Equally important is the invaluable support provided by our dedicated teachers. Behind every major work is a learning partnership built on guidance, encouragement and expertise. Our teachers invest countless hours in mentoring students, reviewing drafts, providing feedback and helping refine ideas. Their commitment ensures that students are challenged, supported and inspired throughout the creative and academic process.

The showcase was a powerful reminder of what can be achieved when curiosity, dedication and expert guidance come together. The beauty of the works, the originality of the ideas and the confidence with which students shared their learning left a lasting impression on all who attended.

Congratulations to Year 12 on their exceptional efforts and the outstanding quality of their major projects. They have much to be proud of, and we are honoured to celebrate their achievements with them. As they continue their final preparations for the HSC, we wish the girls every success with their major works and their upcoming examinations.



Opening HSC Showcase speech

Kylie Liu and Melanie Wong
Creative Arts Prefects

Good evening, everyone and thank you for attending the HSC Showcase for 2026! As the Creative Arts Captains, we would like to congratulate all the Year 12s for completing their brilliant major works and reaching another milestone!

For many of us, I think it's hard to believe this day has finally come. Our major project journey started in November 2025, conceptualising our passion projects and directing them throughout the year into what you will enjoy tonight. This process has certainly been a labour of love for all of us, with the major sacrifice of sleep, but I think I speak on behalf of everyone when I say it is a huge relief that we can finally share our work with you all.

Undertaking a major work is not an easy task, no matter the field of expertise. It takes an abundance of critical thinking, perseverance and most importantly, sustained creativity. It also relies upon a strong idea and the passion to back it up with hard work.

Each piece on display today has a developed concept that extends beyond its aesthetic value, offering an immeasurable depth that reflects the individuality and personal experiences of each student.

For the girls involved in a major project, tonight is a culmination of these attributes. For Music, to tell a story through performance and composition. For Art, to create a meaningful body of work. For Science, to investigate an aim and solve prevalent issues. For Extension History, to dive deeper into the topic of interest. For the girls in Extension English, to document the untold stories of our world and finally for DT and Software, with their desire to design for their preferred futures.

Looking at all the projects this evening, it is a privilege to see how our peers' storyboards, editions and sketches have come to fruition, and to recognise their bravery in sharing their passion and innovation with us!

This experience has certainly enabled us to develop our time management skills, responsibility and perseverance to produce something

This process also would not have been possible without all of our wonderful teachers. Thank you for the countless hours you dedicated to your continued mentorship and faith in our abilities, even at times when we didn't recognise it in ourselves.

Each of us would be able to recount an experience of support and wisdom you offered us. It's truly amazing how you have all facilitated such a wide diversity of ideas while managing these projects with equal investment and determination. We would also like to extend this thanks to IT, Maintenance and Grounds staff for keeping everything running smoothly.

Additionally, thank you to our parents for their patience and understanding. Sometimes my mum and I like to joke that she's going through the HSC with me because of all the help and encouragement she's given me. Whether providing moral, financial or food support, I know her and every parent's unwavering assistance is certainly valued.

As much as this is a recognition of thanks, most importantly we are here to celebrate the work of Year 12. It has been an honour to work alongside all of you; we are so proud of all the hard work that has gone into these projects.

Please join us in congratulating Year 12 2026.



HSC Showcase conclusion: Music Concert

Rita Chen
Music Prefect

Firstly, we would all like to say a huge thank you to our amazing Music staff.

It is your consistent commitment and effort that brings us to where we are today. Not only leading up to HSC but throughout all my years at Abbotsleigh, you have guided us to look for the wonder and joy in music. Thank you to our piano accompanist, Ms Lim, who works tirelessly with us to perfect our performances, as well as to Mr Haigh, Mrs Huxtable, Sarah, Charlotte and Mel.

I do admit it's been pretty strange this term having a shocking number of free lunchtimes and afternoons that used to be filled with rehearsals. And I do miss the profound joy I used to feel waking up at 6 am every Monday to go to Orchestra. I will never forget memories from the Music Tour in Europe, or laughing uncontrollably with my composition extension class, or getting up to sing in front of the whole school in green body paint.

This isn't true for everyone, but I also know I'm not alone when I say I'm not entirely sure what I will do with music in the big wide world once I graduate. But I have realised there is something in music that seems to stay with me always. I think it exists in the sacred fact that music



allows us to understand inexpressible emotions through a tangible form, even emotions and experiences that were put into music hundreds of years ago. And because of that, I've grown to be okay with not knowing where music will take me next. To everyone, but especially those who may feel doubtful in their musical journey, I encourage you to dig deep and hold onto the part of yourself that speaks through music, even if you cannot yet see where it belongs in the life ahead of you.

I hope we carry with us not just the music we have made, but the part of ourselves that we discovered through making it.

Thank you



Chaplain

Gifts of Creativity

Rev Sarah Hobba

Senior Chaplain and Head of Christian Studies

The book of Exodus contains an extraordinary and detailed description of the construction of the Tabernacle, the place where God would dwell with His people as they journeyed through the desert, long before a permanent temple was built in Jerusalem. The account is filled with references to precious stones, colourful fabrics, intricate embroidery and skilled craftsmanship. It reminds us that the gifts and talents of humanity are not limited to mental pursuits alone but also include the creation of beauty, wonder and awe.

As Genesis 1 teaches, humanity is made in the image of God. This means we are created to reflect something of God's nature, including His creativity.

The passage in Exodus reminds us that creativity, craftsmanship and intellectual gifts are not separate from God's work but are gifts from Him that seek to revere Him.

As we celebrate the many creative achievements of our students through music, art, design and drama, may we be reminded of the richness and diversity of the gifts God has given. In Jesus we see God's desire not only to create beauty but also to restore and renew His creation. May our gifts be used to serve others, build community and point us towards the greatness of the Creator Himself.

Exodus 35:20, 25, 31-32

²⁰ Then the whole Israelite community withdrew from Moses' presence, ²¹ and everyone who was willing and whose heart moved them came and brought an offering to the Lord for the work on the tent of meeting, for all its service, and for the sacred garments...

²⁵ Every skilled woman spun with her hands and brought what she had spun – blue, purple or scarlet yarn or fine linen...

³¹ God has filled Bezalel with the Spirit of God, with wisdom, with understanding, with knowledge and with all kinds of skills – ³² to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, ³³ to cut and set stones, to work in wood and to engage in all kinds of artistic crafts.



Upcoming events

WHOLE SCHOOL

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

JUNIOR SCHOOL

Year 1 Walking Around Wahroonga excursion	Wednesday 9 September 8.30-10.30 am	Wahroonga village
Year 4 Convict Day camp	Thursday 10 September	The Rocks
Year 5 Chinatown and Chinese Gardens	Friday 11 September	Sydney CBD



Year 2 Roald Dahl Day	Friday 11 September 8.30 am-12.45 pm	Year 2 classrooms
Year 5 Bush Dance	Thursday 17 September 5.30-8.30 pm	Everett Hall

SENIOR SCHOOL

Saturday sport	Saturday 29 August	Click here
Catch a Rising Star Gala Concert	Friday 4 September 6.30-8 pm	PDCH
Year 12 Integration Bee	Monday 7 September 12.40-2.10 pm	Assembly Hall
Japan Concert Band rehearsal	Tuesday 8 September 3.30-5.30 pm	PDCH
Prefect Dinner 2025-2026	Thursday 10 September 5.30-7 pm	RSR
Year 11 New Leaders Workshop day	Friday 11 September	GLC
Years 7-11 Father Daughter breakfast	Friday 11 September 7-8.15 am	Cafeteria
SDN Debating competition – round 7	Friday 11 September 4-9 pm	Various locations
CRU farewell to Year 12	Monday 14 September 1.15-2.10 pm	To be determined
Year 10 Mandatory Geography excursion	Tuesday 15 September	Long Reef
Year 12 and Staff concert	Tuesday 15 September 1.15-2.10 pm	Year 12 Common Room
Japan Concert Band rehearsal	Tuesday 15 September 3.30-5.30 pm	PDCH
Year 9 Elective Geography field trip	Wednesday 16 September	Hawkesbury River
Year 10 Languages excursions	Wednesday 16 September	Locations vary
Year 12 vs Staff football	Wednesday 16 September 1.15-2.10 pm	Top Oval
Abb-Lib Grand Finals	Wednesday 16 September 6-8 pm	PDCH
Year 12 vs Staff netball	Thursday 17 September 1.15-2.10 pm	Sports Hall
Year 12 2027 leadership induction	Friday 18 September 9.30-10.30 am	Assembly Hall
Year 12 visit to Junior School	Friday 18 September 1-3 pm	Junior School
Japan Jazz Ensemble rehearsal	Friday 18 September 3.30-4.45 pm	To be determined
SDN Debating competition – Grand Final	Friday 18 September 4-9 pm	Various locations

