

The Shuttle



Time flies faster than a weaver's shuttle.

Year 12 Brave the Waves of graduation and moving beyond the gates of Abbotsleigh

Mrs Megan Krimmer
Headmistress

The last few weeks have been a wonderful time of celebration for our Year 12 girls as they have been farewelled by every member of our school community, from our littlest people in the Junior School to our oldest in the Senior School.

The girls have celebrated with breakfasts, lunches and dinners, music concerts, sporting matches, a dog show and a picnic. The fantastic Junior School assembly, a moving CRU meeting, a fabulous welcome lunch hosted by the Abbotsleigh Old Girls Union, the Tutors' breakfast, and the Wheeldon Boarders' dinner were especially appreciated.

The celebrations culminated in a poignant Chapel Service, a very special Valedictory Assembly and a sensational Valedictory Dinner yesterday. As is our custom, there were many speeches, and I commend to you Head Prefect Lily Thornthwaite's final message to the girls below. It truly is superb.

Year 12 have been a wonderful year group who have led the student body so well with their inspirational theme, 'Brave the Waves'. Each girl has achieved so much and, as a group, the girls have been incredibly supportive, not only of each other, but also of the girls in younger year groups. I would like to thank each girl in Year 12 for her leadership, her hard work, and for her invaluable contribution to her school.

I know that the whole Abbotsleigh community will join with me in wishing Year 12 2024 God's richest blessings as they 'Brave their final school waves' of the upcoming HSC examinations, and then, life beyond the gates of Abbotsleigh.

Year 12, fare thee well.



HSC showcase nominations

We would like to congratulate the following girls who have recently been nominated for inclusion in HSC showcase events.

OnSTAGE – Group performance

"Which Witch?"

Xi He
Kate Matthews
Chloe Pearce
Katherine Schroder
Joyce Sharma

OnSTAGE – Individual performances

Charlotte Doyle
Ana-Lei Elias
Kate Matthews
Anna Morrison
Katherine Schroder

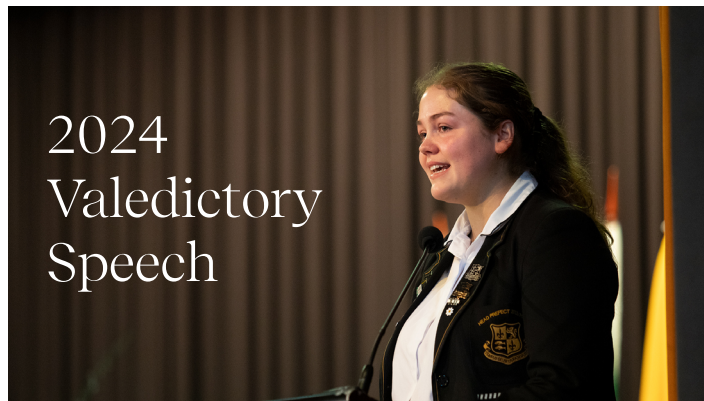
ENCORE

Zala Choate
Katherine Schroder

SHAPE

Skye Barnett
Elanor Carter
Evie Christian
Olivia Coughlin
Olivia Crawford
Audrey Kennedy
Amelie Luong
Alisha Parker





Lily Thornthwaite
Head Prefect 2023/24

When I started at Abbotsleigh 12 years ago and heard our school motto “Tempus Celerius Radio Fugit” or “Time flies faster than a weaver’s shuttle” I could neither say it with the correct Latin pronunciation nor truly understand what it meant. And today, still without the correct diction (sorry Latin students) I tell you I understand what it means.

Because truly, in a blink of an eye, our journey at Abbotsleigh has come and gone, and today I am tasked with the immense responsibility of capturing some of our Year 12 2024 memories and give our final farewell.

Whilst I am admittedly daunted by farewelling Abbotsleigh on behalf of Year 12, I know that I am supported by the most uplifting, encouraging and vibrant year group, who I have had the privilege of sharing my journey with over the past rollercoaster year of Year 12, and for some, all the way back to Year 1.

So, let’s take a blast to the past, to our first day of high school. New faces, new uniform and a lot to learn. Probably feeling nervous, but excited for the opportunities ahead. A little familiar to how some of us might be feeling today.

In Year 8, we enjoyed the privilege of having our very own full-sized locker, watching the rest of the school from the Maths corridor above. But the new stairs we sprinted up every day weren’t the only challenge we braved in 2020, because ‘hello COVID’!

Year 9, another challenging COVID year, and yet we banded together as a year group, and put our tech skills to the test with an online version of Wheeldon Cup.

Year 10, who could forget the coconutty smell of Bondi Sands that filled the corridor as we transformed into goddesses for our very first formal. We travelled near and far for Immersion Week, growing in our spirit and understanding of service, and imagined the possibilities on work experience.

We persisted through the jump to Year 11, braving the many academic waves that came our way, and embraced the spirit of Urban Challenge.

And 2024 - a year to remember. Over this past year we have supported each other through exam stresses, shared laughs, tears, and study notes, and soaked up the joy of final events and moments. We’ve stood

shoulder to shoulder, as we led and lived out our Prefect Theme “Brave the Waves” with passion and pride.

Not only has our journey at Abbotsleigh been shared by our cohort, but by our Abbotsleigh community.

Thank you to the Year 12 supporters here with us today, our families and friends. We are so incredibly grateful for the opportunity to attend Abbotsleigh, and we recognise the sacrifices you have made for us to be here today.

On behalf of Year 12, thank you to our superb teachers and all the amazing staff that keep Abbotsleigh running. Thank you to the Senior Leadership Team for their guidance and vision for Abbotsleigh. Thank you to our Abbotsleigh sisters who have made our schooling experience that much brighter.

At the end of every year, Year 12 presents a gift to the school as a small thank you and farewell. This year, we are donating a feature tree, in celebration of how every girl has grown in their resilience and grit by Braving the Waves. The tree will stand alongside a plaque with Jon Kabat-Zinn’s quote “*You can’t stop the waves, but you can learn how to surf*”, to memorialise the message of Brave the Waves. Just as we continue to face new obstacles and opportunities that strengthen our personal character, so too this tree will grow alongside every Abbotsleigh girl, a legacy of the Class of 2024.

So, just like that, thirteen years now comes to an end. Year 12, you are the best, thank you for braving every wave with me, I will miss seeing your gorgeous faces every day.

To the rest of the school, cherish your time here at Abbotsleigh because time really does fly faster than a weaver’s shuttle.

Thank you for entrusting me with the role of Head Prefect, it has been an honour.



Chaplain

The end of Term 3

Rev Sarah Hobba
Senior Chaplain and Head of Christian Studies

Our Year 12 girls have completed their final formal school days. In saying farewell, their chapel had the Bible reading of Psalm 23. This psalm has the image of God caring for his sheep at all times. He provides them with rest and restoration in places of green pastures and still waters. He also is there alongside them in times of difficulty. In the New Testament, Jesus says he is the Good Shepherd, who loves, cares for and ultimately gives his life to rescue his sheep. As we head into the holidays, it is my prayer that our community will know the care of God as our Shepherd and find times of restoration over the break.

Psalm 23

¹ The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.
² He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters,
³ he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake.
⁴ Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me;
 your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
⁶ Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life,
 and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Upcoming events

WHOLE SCHOOL

A Sense of Colour exhibition	Saturday 5 October to 2 November	Grace Cossington Smith Gallery
Term 4 commences	Tuesday 15 October	

JUNIOR SCHOOL

Years 1, 2, 4 and 6 2025 Orientation Day	Tuesday 15 October 8.30 am-3 pm	Junior School
Transition ACEE excursion	Tuesday 15 October 8.30 am-2.30 pm	ACEE
Year 2 Leon and the Place Between incursion	Tuesday 15 October 8.30 am-2 pm	Library Immersion Dome
Years 3-6 IPSHA Hot Shots tennis	Tuesday 15 October 3.20-4.30 pm	JS Tennis Courts

Kindergarten 2025 Orientation Morning	Wednesday 16 October 8.45 am- 12 noon	Kindergarten classrooms
Transition 2025 Orientation Morning	Wednesday 16 October 10 am-12 noon	Transition classrooms
Year 5 basketball and cricket training	Wednesday 16 October 3.20-4.30 pm	Junior School
Year 5 basketball and cricket training	Thursday 17 October 8.30 am-3 pm	Junior School
Year 5 Claymation incursion	Thursday 17 October 8.30 am-3 pm	Year 5 Classrooms
Year 6 Taronga Zoo Wild Ropes excursion	Thursday 17 October 7.15 am-3 pm	Taronga Zoo
Years 3 and 4 basketball and cricket training	Thursday 17 October 3.20-4.20 pm	Junior School
Year 5 Sculpture by the sea	Friday 18 October 8.30-3 pm	Marks Park, Tamarama
Year 5 2025 Orientation Day	Friday 18 October 8.30-3 pm	Junior School
Year 6 Jumpstart Day	Friday 18 October 8.30 am-12.45 pm	Auditorium
IPSHA tennis training	Friday 18 October 3.30-4.45 pm	JS Tennis Courts
Kindergarten and Year 1 football (soccer) program	Friday 18 October 3-4 pm	Junior School
Year 2 sport training	Saturday 19 October 8-9.30 am	Junior School
IPSHA Saturday Sport	Saturday 19 October 8 am-12 noon	See Parent app for team sheets and venues
Years 3-6 IPSHA artistic gymnastics training	Saturday 19 October 1-5 pm	Gymnasium, Senior School

SENIOR SCHOOL

Boarder travel day	Monday 14 October	
Year 7 2025 Orientation Parent Session	Monday 14 October 8.20-9.30 am	PDCH
ABBOX training (Year 12 2025)	Monday 14 October 3-5 pm	Year 12 Common Room
Year 12 (2025) Conference	Tuesday 15 and Wednesday 16 October	Lake Macquarie

Year 8 Geography Water in the World field trip	Thursday 17 October 8 am-3.25 pm	Lake Parramatta
Year 11 Business Studies excursion	Thursday 17 October 11 am-3.25 pm	
Year 9 Textiles printing excursion	Friday 18 October 8.20 am-3.15 pm	Signature Prints and SubliTECH, St Peters

