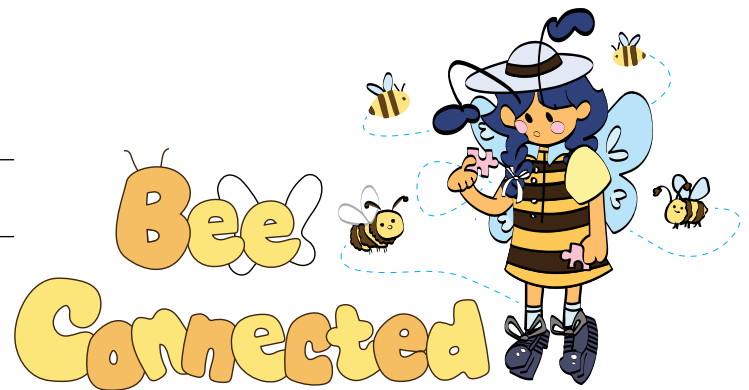


The Shuttle



Time flies faster than a weaver's shuttle.



'Bee Connected' in 2025

Mrs Megan Krimmer
Headmistress

What a fabulous start we have had to 2025! It has been an absolute joy to see the beaming faces of the girls and the staff as they have either started or returned to school this week.

I would especially like to extend a very warm welcome to our new girls and their families, as well as to welcome back all our girls and their families to Abbotsleigh. We also warmly welcome our staff and our new members of staff to 2025 in what promises to be an exciting and vibrant year filled with joy and hope as we celebrate Abbotsleigh's 140th birthday together as a community.

Fitting in beautifully with community, connection and exciting possibilities, our 2024/25 Prefects, led by Head Prefect, Jazarah Tambyrajah, launched their inspiring 2025 Prefect theme, 'Bee Connected', with passion, vibrance and great fun yesterday. Please see Jazarah's superb speech below:

I hope that you have had a well-deserved break over the holidays, and you are ready to embark on this new year!

Your 2025 Prefect body ... has chosen the theme 'Bee Connected' (that's b, double e)!

Now you're probably wondering, what do bees have to do with connections?

... Bees, arguably, are the best symbol to represent connection!

Bees are like unseen heroes, working every day in our midst, humbly carrying out their duties. These hardworking creatures carry with them a profound message about the importance of connection. About teamwork and purpose. To achieve their tasks, they cannot do it alone. They are a part of a vast network that thrives on the connection between each individual bee, and together, side by side, they support their hive.

Together they are stronger. United they are powerful.

We, as a Prefect body, want to foster this spirit of connection within our school community. We, like the bees, thrive on connection with one another. Our connections

are the foundation of everything we do, from our personal relationships to our broader school community.

And we can practise connecting every day – smiling to someone new in the hallway allows for kindness to spread within our school grounds. In the same way, lending a helping hand or offering an encouraging word promotes compassion, and in the process draws us together. These small acts of connection can send a ripple effect throughout Abbotsleigh, spreading positivity within our community, and eventually, extending beyond our gates.

If we isolate ourselves and neglect the opportunity to connect with one another, we run the risk of missing out on the strength and growth which comes from working together.

1 Corinthians 12:12 says, Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.

We all are our own individuals, but when we recognise our different strengths, welcome our differences and stand together as one, we form a strong, Abbotsleigh community. To 'bee connected' is to embody what it truly means to be an Abbotsleigh girl.



I hope that this year, as we all embrace and embody this Prefect theme, you are inspired to courageously meet new people, strengthen friendships and foster a spirit of togetherness within our school.

Here's to an amazing 2025!!! Thank you



Here is to an amazing 2025 indeed – as our whole school community becomes even more connected as, together, we celebrate Abbotsleigh and all that this great school stands for, and has stood for, over the last 140 years. Indeed, in borrowing from Jazarah's bee analogy:

Together we are stronger. United, we are powerful!

I hope that everyone in our community has a truly wonderful 2025.

Chaplain

Celebration

Rev Sarah Hobba
Senior Chaplain and Head of Christian Studies

Returning for the academic year has been filled with numerous smiles and joyous interactions. This year, we have the joy of participating in celebrating the 140th anniversary of Abbotsleigh. Celebrating important events and milestones is an important part of our lives, which we do regularly with birthdays, weddings, anniversaries, religious events, family dinners, sporting events...the list could go on.

Reflecting on this term's theme of celebration in Chapel, Rev Butterworth spoke to us about how celebrations help us to: 1) remember the past; 2) be thankful for the present and 3) look to the future. Throughout the Bible, there are celebrations that remind us of how God has been faithful and rescued people in the past (e.g. Esther 9:21-23). The Bible also speaks about rejoicing in each day that the Lord has made (Psalm 118:24) and points us forward to a time when Jesus will return and we will no longer mourn, but have great feasting (Isaiah 25:6-8).

As we celebrate this 140th in the present, it is our hope and prayer that we reflect back on God's goodness and provision of Abbotsleigh in the past and look forward to his continued faithfulness in the future.

Psalm 118: 24

This is the day the Lord has made;
We will rejoice and be glad in it.

Psalm 145: 4-7

One generation commends Your works to another;
they tell of Your mighty acts.
They speak of the glorious splendour of Your majesty –
and I will meditate on Your wonderful works.
They tell of the power of Your awesome works –
and I will proclaim your great deeds.
They celebrate Your abundant goodness
and joyfully sing of Your righteousness.

Upcoming events

WHOLE SCHOOL

Carving Perspectives exhibition	Saturday 25 January to Saturday 22 February	Grace Cossington Smith Gallery
Music tuition commences	Monday 3 February	
AbbSchool activities commence	Monday 3 February	
Lunar Calendar Morning Tea with Fan Dongwang	Friday 7 February 8.30-10 am	Grace Cossington Smith Gallery

JUNIOR SCHOOL

JS Photo Day – individual and class photos	Monday 3 February	
T-6 Parent Information Evening	Tuesday 4 February 6.30-9 pm	Everett Hall and Classrooms
Years 3 and 4 swimming trials	Wednesday 5 February	SS Aquatic Centre
Years 5 and 6 swimming trials	Thursday 6 February	SS Aquatic Centre
Year 4 flippa ball trials	Thursday 6 February 3.20-4.30 pm	JS Pool
Years 3-5 soccer trials	Saturday 8 February 8-11 am	SS Synthetic Oval
Year 5 water polo/flippa ball trials	Saturday 8 February 10-11 am	SS Aquatic Centre
Year 6 water polo/flippa ball trials	Saturday 8 February 11 am-12 noon	SS Aquatic Centre
Year 6 soccer trials	Saturday 8 February 21 noon-1 pm	SS Synthetic Oval
JS Diving Carnival training	Saturday 8 February 21 noon-1 pm	SS Aquatic Centre
Year 6 Spit to Manly Walk	Tuesday 11 February All day	
Kindergarten parents morning tea	Wednesday 12 February 8-9.30 am	Bundarra Lawn
JS Diving Carnival	Wednesday 12 February 12.30-3.30 pm	SS Aquatic Centre

Year 5 soccer, water polo/flippa ball training	Wednesday 12 February 3.20-4.30 pm	JS Pool
Years 3 and 4 soccer and flippa ball training	Thursday 13 February 3.20-4.30 pm	JS campus
Transition parents morning tea	Friday 14 February 8-9.30 am	Bundarra Lawn
Primary Swimming Carnival	Friday 14 February All day	SS Aquatic Centre

SENIOR SCHOOL

Year 8 Information Evening and Family Barbecue	Monday 3 February 6-8 pm	PDCH and Plaza
STEM Mixer Night	Wednesday 5 February 5.30-8 pm	SS Assembly Hall
Women in Design Breakfast	Monday 10 February 7-8.15 am	Dining Hall
Years 9-11 Design incursion	Monday 10 February	
Year 9 Information Evening and Family Barbecue	Monday 10 February 6-8 pm	PDCH and Plaza
Lunchtime Futures – UAC	Wednesday 12 February 1.20-2.10 pm	
Prefect Service	Thursday 13 February 8 am-2 pm	St Andrew's Cathedral
Senior Drama production rehearsals	Thursday 13 February 3.30-6 pm	Drama Studio
Design Expo	Thursday 13 February 5.30-8 pm	PDCH
Year 7 Information Evening and Family Barbecue	Thursday 13 February 6-8 pm	PDCH and Plaza