



Pittwater House

achieve a balance
co-educational campus
single-sex education



a message from our Principal



Pittwater House offers families a unique educational choice. Our structure is very different from other schools, allowing us to achieve a balance which features the advantages of single-sex education within a co-educational environment. Pittwater House has pioneered this approach based on an understanding that boys and girls learn differently and as a result we are able to tailor teaching styles to suit these differences in a variety of subject areas, whilst also bringing boys and girls together for a range of activities and interactions.

Our approach is different, because we understand that our students (and their families) have a range of expectations. A typical 'one size fits all' approach cannot meet the individual needs of each student. For this reason, Pittwater House deliberately keeps class sizes small, fostering individual attention for each student and a real understanding of each student's abilities, talents and expectations.

Our people are different, with a staff comprised of experienced professionals who truly are committed to our students and to working with them to achieve the very best results. Education is a partnership, with both the school and the family working together. At Pittwater House, we welcome parental involvement and seek to provide a range of opportunities for our families to participate in school life and become active members of our vibrant community.

Thank you for your interest in Pittwater House. I invite you to explore these pages and to visit our campus, to see how we achieve a balance for our students, that prepares them for a successful journey in life.

Nancy Hillier

Principal, Pittwater House

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twin schooling – single-sex education in a co-educational environment

Setting Pittwater House apart from any other school is our approach to education. Our twin school structure offers the best of both worlds where students mix on the same campus but are educated in single- sex classes. This unique educational environment showcases the best teaching practices of single-sex and co-educational learning.



nurturing your child – seamless transition throughout their education

We believe that every child should have the confidence to succeed. Pittwater House has designed key programs to ensure your child feels supported and encouraged throughout their time at school.

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a state of the art approach to incorporating technology into education

Pittwater House recognises that technology is integral to life. Technology is included throughout the school and the curriculum, making every lesson an exciting adventure and engaging students in learning.



achieving academic excellence

Academic achievement is a cornerstone of our philosophy. In fact, for every Pittwater House student who applies to University, 90% are granted placement in their course of first choice – in the first round of offers.

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making sport an integral component of education

Pittwater House believes active students are confident students so maintains an outstanding sporting program. Any child with a passion to play is welcomed into our sporting teams.



promoting creativity through the arts

Education that provides a breadth of experience is encouraged at Pittwater House. The curriculum encourages all students to participate in cultural activities and caters specifically for the child who has a passion for the Arts.

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the broader curriculum- developing the mind, body and spirit

Pittwater House believes in providing a well-rounded education, offering students of all ages the opportunity to develop their talents beyond the classroom. Our extensive co-curriculum program ensures every student has the opportunity to explore and develop skills in any area of interest.



room to move, room to learn, room to grow

Pittwater House has more open and green space on campus per student than any other private school on the Northern Beaches. Coupled with outstanding facilities, a broad curriculum including a unique cultural and outdoor program we ensure your child has room to move, room to learn and room to grow.

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life at Pittwater House and beyond

Pastoral Care is an important part of life at Pittwater House. Here, every student has a close support network to assist them throughout their education. Beyond school, Pittwater House Alumni Association ensures that as students move on to University and successful careers they do not lose touch with the School and their peers.



enrolling your child

Key entry points are pre-school, Kindergarten, Year 5 and Year 7. To book a tour and see our campus in action please contact our Admissions Manager or visit our website.

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achieve a balance



Pittwater House espouses six 'Core Values' of **Honesty and Integrity, Consideration for Others, Maximum Use of Talents, Flexibility in Thinking, Tradition and Promoting Democracy** which form the foundation of our values-based philosophy. Each interlinked value provides guidance to students and staff on how to respond to challenges and opportunities that present in our daily lives. The School year is punctuated by special ceremonies and services of significance, including acts of Christian worship, which are attended by all students and members of staff and which serve to strengthen our sense of community and connectedness with the rich culture and history of our School.





twin schooling

Setting Pittwater House apart from any other school is our approach to education. Our twin school structure offers the best of both worlds, where students mix on the same campus, but are educated in single-sex classes. This unique educational environment showcases the best teaching practices of single-sex and co-educational learning.

Boys and girls learn differently, particularly during their formative years and we have structured the entire school curriculum and the overarching teaching philosophy to address this. Our approach is to educate our students in single-sex classes with a gradual introduction to co-education by Years 11-12, in preparation for university and life beyond.

Boys and girls are taught in single-sex classes from Kindergarten to Year 8. For other special elements of the program, and at break times, the boys and girls come together sharing the playground and facilities, allowing them a comfortable environment for socialisation.

Elective subjects in Years 9 and 10 are taught in a co-educational setting while the foundation elements of the curriculum across English, Mathematics and Sciences continue to be taught in single-sex classes.

In Years 11 and 12 all classes are fully co-educational. This gradual integration of both sexes

in the classroom allows students to be engaged in learning styles appropriate to their gender in their early years of education. The opportunity to learn to work in a co-educational environment is provided as they prepare for higher education and life beyond school.

The Girls' College and the Boys' Grammar School maintain their own identity by having leadership positions, sports and special events that are unique to each. Form classes are the cornerstone of the pastoral care program and remain single-sex from Kindergarten to Year 12.

Both schools combine for major celebrations, co-curricular and special academic activities, giving students a learning environment that offers a truly balanced approach to education.



"As the mother of a son and daughter, I felt conflicted about their education. I wanted them to have the benefits of a single-sex education however understood that socialisation in a co-educational environment was also very important. We were so excited to discover that the Pittwater House twin schooling philosophy addresses both issues perfectly and allowed us to enjoy the added benefit of having both our children attend the same school."

Donna, Pittwater House mum



nurtured to reach their full potential

We believe every child should have the confidence to succeed. Pittwater House has key programs and strategies to ensure your child feels supported and encouraged throughout their time at school.



The small student population and low student-teacher ratio at Pittwater House means our teachers are able to create extraordinary opportunities for their students. Enrolment is capped to ensure teachers can closely monitor each child's development and students have the chance to try new experiences that may pass them by at a larger school.

The school has well developed strategies in place to ensure a positive transition at each stage of a student's journey – from home to school, from the Junior School through the middle-schooling years into Senior School, and onto university and a career.

Early Childhood Centre to Kindergarten:

Our 'No Tears' transition program

Starting 'Big School' is a big step. Our 'No Tears' transition program focuses on ensuring that all children from our Early Childhood Centre are comfortably immersed in the school, before they even start. Children become an integral part of the school as the Centre is located on campus, students wear the school uniform and their learning

program familiarises them with the specialised learning spaces and resources of the wider school. By Term 4, children spend time with the Kindergarten teachers in the classrooms, becoming comfortable with the routine and environment.

Year 5 to Year 8: Middle Schooling –

Gently introducing the demands of Senior School

By providing a blending of Junior and Senior School practices, our middle schooling approach for children in Years 5 to 8 at Pittwater House gently introduces students to the demands and responsibilities of Senior School, ensuring they are emotionally and academically prepared for their biggest challenge to date.

Key to this approach is exposure to specialist learning resources (teachers, tools and classrooms), collaborative teaching between primary and secondary school teachers and learning strategies that involve a high level of interactive and multisensory learning.

Students take on leadership roles in Years 5, 6, 9 and 12 and nurture

'older brother or sister' relationships with younger students in the school, which contributes to a community with family values.

Transition to University – Encouraging independence

We support our students in their senior years to develop individual study habits, critical thinking skills and to take on personal responsibility, which will help to set them up for success at University and life beyond. Our Study Habits Series, which includes formal and informal briefings for students and their parents, the development of individual study plans, our vocational testing and tertiary briefings, combine to ensure our students are equipped for the demands of tertiary education and adult life.

There is also additional tutoring available as well as a mentoring program where every Year 12 student selects a staff mentor. These mentors assist them in navigating the HSC year and maximising their results.

technology

Pittwater House recognises that technology is integral to life and embraces this. Technology is included throughout the school and the curriculum, making every lesson an exciting adventure and engaging students in their learning.

Technology and the internet are shaping the world our students will live in as adults. We now have pocket access to the entire world's knowledge – to global databases, international media, to millions of blogs and created videos.

Exciting and dynamic, this world has moved education to a more engaged model, but it also presents new challenges. The role of education is no longer about 'where' to find knowledge but is now focussed on how to assess information's value and to interpret the findings.

This is why Pittwater House has accepted the challenge of making technology an integral part of the educational experience. The result is *MyHouse*, an e-learning platform that makes everything we teach and the way in which we teach it more relevant and engaging for our students.

MyHouse has fundamentally changed the way we work with our students as well as changing the way they are able to respond to their studies enhancing the quality of face-to-face and classroom teaching.

MyHouse creates the opportunity to make education as involving as possible. Students begin with a home page they can personalise and use to access timetables, class work, homework and assignments. In addition to using the portal as an everyday study tool, students can use the technology to create their assignments, embellish them with pictures, video and sound and then publish to share with their class or indeed, the whole school.

MyHouse recognises the important role teachers and parents play in educating children about

technology and provides them with specialised on-line tools to assist with this. Teachers are able to tailor each lesson to the individual child and access a plethora of new teaching techniques including on-line polls, puzzles, dialogues and discussion boards. Parents have password-protected, real-time access to enable them to view their child's school activities, assignments and achievements and monitor their child's progress without intruding into their child's personal space.

Across the school, from Kindergarten to Year 12, students will interact with technology and the internet via laptops, interactive whiteboards with touch screen technology and Apple iTouch units, with their level of use and exposure consistently monitored and managed to ensure appropriate use and maximum benefit.

Our technology strategy is one of continuous improvement. In our fast-paced world, we maintain that we need to embrace technological advancements so that our students stay at the forefront of learning and innovation.





academic excellence



"A school with a high regard for academic excellence as well as the program to support learning at all levels was one of the main reasons we chose Pittwater House. We couldn't be more impressed."

Katrina, PhD University lecturer in Education and Pittwater House mum

Academic achievement is a cornerstone of our philosophy. In fact, 90% of the Pittwater House students who apply for University are granted placement in their course of first choice, in the first round of offers.



At Pittwater House, a high priority is given to developing student capability in literacy and numeracy which begins from the earliest years of the pre-school and continues through to Year 12 with a clear focus on enabling students to gain admission to the university course of their choice.

Pittwater House has a strong long-term academic record and the focus on educational excellence has been further enhanced since the appointment of Principal, Dr. Nancy Hillier, in 2010. Dr Hillier has implemented a number of changes designed to further increase the academic focus on providing differentiated and individualised in-depth learning to our students. Initiatives such as reducing the number of periods per day and thereby lengthening each period enable teachers to spend more time with students and accommodate different learning styles and levels.

Core learning areas

In the **Early Childhood Centre** priority is given to the development of word and numeracy skills through inquiry based and experiential learning.

Each class is led by a tertiary qualified teacher to ensure your child is given the best start to their education. Being part of Pittwater House, they also have access to the full range of specialised learning resources and teachers of the school, for dancing, music, physical education and the library.

The six core learning areas in the **Junior School** are Mathematics, English, Human Society and its Environment, Science and Technology, Creative Arts and Physical Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE). Chinese and French are taught to all students from Year 3.

In Years 5 to 8 core learning areas include English, Mathematics, Science, Geography, History, Music, Visual Arts, French, Chinese, Technology, Personal Development, Health and Physical Education.

In Years 9 and 10, students are able to select elective subjects from up to 17 different subject areas.

HSC candidates in Years 11 and 12 may choose to structure their studies around 24 different courses including differing levels of English and Mathematics and special

interest courses such as Information Technology, Business Studies, Legal Studies, Creative Arts and Design and vocational and training courses at TAFE.

Special needs or abilities

Additional opportunities for students selected by their teachers as having special needs or abilities are implemented by classroom teachers.

In providing smaller classes, teachers have the opportunity to:

- Recognise students who require extension or remediation.
- Assist with individual learning styles
- Ensure effective communication with the parents to offer the child the most appropriate learning enhancement.



sporting program

Pittwater House believes active students are confident students so maintains an outstanding sporting program. Any child with a passion to play is welcomed into our sporting teams.



To reflect our commitment to giving our students the best facilities and opportunities, Pittwater House is proudly home to an eight lane short course heated Olympic swimming pool - catering to all types of watersports including hosting our own swimming carnivals and meets, waterpolo, and swimming as a part of Physical Education.

We also have a central playing field and all weather courts on campus which caters for school tennis, netball, basketball, rugby, cricket, athletics, softball and soccer.

Our new state of the art sports complex further enhances the sports program. The complex is complete with multi height baseboards, electronic scoreboards and is cooled by architecturally designed passive cooling plus large fans. The gymnasium is used for sports, dancing, weight training, gymnastics and other school activities.

Representative sport is not compulsory however participation is very much encouraged. Sporting teams at Pittwater House are

managed by members of our staff and trained by appropriately experienced and qualified coaches.

Each season, the School fields large teams for athletics and swimming and age-specific teams for games played in local inter-school competitions. This program provides the pathway to regional, state and national representation and we have a long history of students achieving at this elite level.

Other sports offered include, badminton, cricket, golf, skiing, snowboarding, squash, table tennis, and water polo.

As part of our commitment to working within the wider schools community, all students are given the opportunity to trial for Combined Independent Schools representation in all sports.




"With two active boys, it was important for me that they attend a school that challenged them physically as well as academically, and gave them room to move. From the first time we saw Pittwater House's short-course Olympic pool and quality sporting facilities we were convinced. Best of all, the specialist facilities for the arts and drama means every student thrives as an individual."

Karin, Pittwater House mum



the arts



Education that provides a breadth of experience is encouraged at Pittwater House. The curriculum encourages all students to participate in cultural activities and caters specifically for the child who has a passion for the Arts.

Pittwater House offers a variety of activities that embrace all aspects of the Arts. These activities are available to all students on a voluntary basis and school staff are actively involved to provide management, encouragement and expert instruction.

Students have many opportunities to develop their artistic talents through music, choir, languages, debating, and drama, as well as theatre set design and construction. Further complementing the dramatic program are school bands, orchestra, various ensembles and school choirs. These activities supplement the school music program by providing performance opportunities for students including those who participate in instrumental tuition.

Other cultural activities include photography and model construction competitions, the Debutantes Ball and annual residency programs by working artists.



the broader curriculum

developing the mind, body and spirit

To achieve a balanced, well rounded education, children should be provided with the opportunity to explore more at school than simply the fundamentals of numeracy and literacy. At Pittwater House, we offer a wide selection of co-curricular activities for students throughout the year.

Junior School Co-curricular activities

Each program has been designed especially for our Junior School students and all are run by qualified staff members who can work with each individual to broaden their experiences and assist them in reaching their goal.

Where applicable, Pittwater House co-curricular programs lead into or incorporate community and state wide competitions.

Senior School Co-curricular activities

Many of our Senior School extra-curricular activities build on those offered in our Junior School and allow students to continue building skills in those areas or perhaps pick up a new skill.

Duke of Edinburgh Award

The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme is an internationally recognised program designed to help children maximise their potential.

The program encompasses four sections: Volunteering, Skill, Physical Recreation and Adventure, with specific tasks and undertakings

being decided by the participant. This means that every Award is unique, based on the interests and desires of the individual undertaking the Award.



Cadets

The Pittwater House Cadet Unit is a voluntary co-curricular activity for Pittwater House students in Years 7 to 12. The Cadet Unit conducts courses which provide cadets with the chance to develop skills and qualities that add to their everyday abilities and develop them as the leaders of tomorrow.


Cadet activities include navigation, field craft, first aid, communications, fitness, roping, ceremonial drill, teamwork and leadership practice. The Pittwater House Cadet Unit has a prize-winning marching band for cadets interested in musicianship and public performance opportunities.

Community service

Pittwater House students are also involved in a wide-variety of community service programs. Each year the Senior Prefects nominate a charity worthy of support and co-ordinate a wide range of events and programs to raise money to assist with its objectives. The School's Community Service Program also provides opportunities for students to elect to work on projects to support a vast array of community programs including the environment, aged care and animal welfare.



room to move



Pittwater House has more open and green space on campus per student than any other private school on the Northern Beaches. We offer outstanding facilities – fields, gymnasium, our Great Hall and is the only school on the Peninsula with a swimming pool.

All Pittwater House students share the use of buildings and resources on the four hectare campus bounded by Westmoreland Ave, Parkes Rd and South Creek Rd in Collaroy.



Special Features

- **Swimming pool-** eight lane short course heated Olympic swimming pool built to FINA specifications.
- **Large multi-purpose playing field** on campus catering to all sports including rugby, cricket, soccer, all levels of athletics and softball.
- **Junior playground-** further adding to the open space our students enjoy, our new junior

playground includes a soft fall area, new equipment and a grassed area for general play.

- **Great Hall-** our multi-purpose hall is used by all areas of the school for assemblies, theatrical performances, displays, chapel services and school functions. It has a seating capacity of 1250, a stage area suitable for large scale dramatics and acoustic ceilings which were designed by the sounds engineer for the Sydney Opera House.

- **Indoor sports complex-** a regulation sized, rubberised synthetic basketball court, which has been designed for multiple uses.
- **Outdoor tennis** and all weather netball courts
- **Health Centre** with full time nursing sister.



room to learn



Specialist teaching spaces

- Science laboratories with preparation rooms
- Specialist music/ensemble rooms and tutorial rooms with the latest music composition software
- Art rooms with access to firing kiln for pottery and ceramics
- Auditorium/theatre, stage technical facilities, grand pianos and a pipe organ
- Applied technology classrooms for food technology and textile classes
- Industrial Arts studios for woodwork, metalwork and plastics.
- Language rooms

The latest technology and information resources

- All teaching spaces are equipped with interactive whiteboards and media centres
- Computer hubs equipped with individual work stations, printers, scanners and data projectors
- Secure intranet and high-speed digital internet access with whole campus wireless LAN and remote-access connections
- Library and Resources Centre with computer reference facilities enabling students to search other libraries and access material through inter-library loans
- Audio-visual collection and access to satellite TV
- Classroom sets of Apple iTouches



our own private bus fleet

Travelling to and from school

Students can travel to and from the campus on one of the School's fleet of private buses or on the public/government bus services. The School takes pride in its fleet, all of which are air-conditioned, fitted with seat belts and driven by our own staff drivers for added safety. The Pittwater House bus fleet make travelling to and from school, on excursions and to co-curricular activities an easy and safe experience.

Our private bus fleet offers services from Bayview/Avalon, St Ives &

Mosman/Spit Junction. Further services around the Northern Beaches and lower North Shore of Sydney are accommodated by public/government bus services.

Further information on transport options to and from campus can be found on the enrolment information section of our website.



room to grow

At Pittwater House, we recognise the importance of building character, leadership skills and all round personal development of our students. Our unique cultural and outdoor program is designed to build your child's life skills beyond the classroom.

Country life scheme

The Country Life Scheme has been a unique part of each student's experience at Pittwater House since 1970. Here academic, cultural, social, pastoral and leadership concerns are all advanced in the outdoors. From Year 3, students participate in a diverse program of activities, including team building and leadership activities.

The program is an integral part of the Pittwater House educational experience and the vast majority of students at Pittwater House consider this a cultural highlight of their year.

Outdoor adventure camps

In the middle schooling years, students are involved in a one week outdoor education experience. There are two separate locations we use, with different areas for the boys and girls. The aim of this program is to use the outdoor environment to promote leadership, student initiative, team building, resilience and problem solving skills. Some of the activities include camping, canoeing, bush walking, ropes courses, bushcraft, mountain biking and abseiling.

Year 6 study tour

This study tour takes place over four days and it gives our students the opportunity to see and experience the many educational and important sites of Canberra, our national capital.



life at Pittwater House and beyond

Pastoral Care

A hierarchy of care has been established to provide a close network of support for every child at Pittwater House. Every student is placed in a 'Form Group' as the centrepiece of the pastoral care network. Form Groups undertake a range of activities including in-class lessons, group activities and camps to help students adjust to the challenges they face and foster their independence and sense of community. Each single-sex Form group is led by a Form Teacher who acts as the first point of contact for students and their parents on any aspects of life at Pittwater House.

The Junior School, Grammar School and Girls' College are each led by a Head of School who provide a further level of pastoral support and guidance to students under their care, to ensure that every student is given the maximum support to achieve their potential and enjoy their time at Pittwater House.

There are staff on hand, including the School Chaplain, who are available to assist students and parents at any time.

Young people respond best when provided with a clear definition of their responsibilities, privileges

and limitations and when they are aware of the consequences of their actions. A system of positive incentives operates to recognise achievement in the areas of academia, co-curricular, sports, community service and general citizenship. These accrue as 'credits' towards certificates acknowledging increasing levels of achievement. There is a clearly defined system of sanctions for students whose performance does not meet expectations. Pittwater House deals firmly with unacceptable behaviour.



Pittwater House Alumni

The School has a very proud record of producing individuals who go on to higher education and successful careers. A common theme amongst all Alumni is the confidence they developed to pursue their personal goals and the support they received while at Pittwater House to do so.

Alumni regularly visit the campus and one of the greatest compliments to their old school is the number of children of alumni now being enrolled at Pittwater House.

The Pittwater House Alumni Association ensures the school maintains links with the Alumni through a series of functions, reunions and other Alumni activities.

enrolling your child

Key entry points into the school are:

Early Childhood Centre- enrolling children from age 3, Pittwater House offers separate flexible programs for 3 and 4 year olds. Features include: tertiary trained staff, a specialised and intensive transition program into school, excellent facilities and a quality education program designed around the Early Years Learning Framework.

Kindergarten- our small class sizes, twin schooling approach and nurturing environment provide the perfect environment to start school life.

Year 5- take advantage of our middle schooling approach, where our students are gently introduced to the demands of Senior School,

ensuring they are emotionally and academically prepared. Strategies such as introducing specialist learning resources- teachers, tools and classrooms in Year 5- and learning strategies that involve a high level of interactive and multisensory learning, all help to ease the transition into Senior School.

Year 7- our Senior School provides our students with the benefits of a strong academic focus. Features include: our unique twin schooling approach, great facilities with room to move, learn and grow, plus a nurturing environment designed to equip our students for the demands of tertiary education and life in the 21st Century.

Admission may also be possible in other year levels.

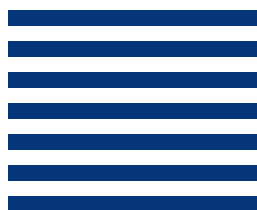
When can I start?

Each year there are limited vacancies at Pittwater House and there is a formal enrolment process to enter the school.

For further information on enrolment please contact our **Admissions Manager** during business hours.

tel: +61 2 9972 5789
email: enrolments@tphs.nsw.edu.au





Pittwater House

want to find out more?

Visit our website - www.pittwaterhouse.com.au

Contact our Admissions office on tel: +61 2 9972 5789
or via email enrolments@tphs.nsw.edu.au

Book a tour - Experience true balance in education first hand. For a tour of our campus in action contact our Admissions Office or book online via our website

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