



Pittwater House

# Class of 2020

## Achievements and Results

# 2020



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# Congratulations



Congratulations to the Class of 2020 on their outstanding HSC results. Their success is testament to their talent, determination and hard work not only this year, but throughout their time at Pittwater House.

We celebrate our Duces Callum Metzke and Mia Giladi with their exceptional ATARs of 99.8 and 99.05 respectively. We also commend our two All Rounders (Band 6 or 90+ in all courses), Ben Cook and Callum Metzke, Accelerated Year 11 student and Top Achiever Shantani Jepson for placing fifth in state for Dance and to all of our 26 Distinguished Achievers for attaining a Band 6 or 90+ in one or more courses.

Above all, at Pittwater House our education program is focused on preparing students for their future. Scholastic achievement in the form of an ATAR is but one important milestone on this journey and I am thrilled to report that 80% of our Class of 2020 students received pre-HSC offers to their first choice of university.

This is a remarkable achievement considering the challenging year that was 2020. It demonstrates that our students have adapted to an ever-changing learning environment with an admirable combination of ingenuity, positivity, and resilience. They have exemplified our School's motto 'semper diligens' – always hardworking.

Throughout their time at the School, these students have also achieved true balance in their education by broadening their perspectives and talents in their Cadet Units, on the sporting field, at the rostrum, on the stage and in their creative endeavours. They have worked in service to others or to the environment. They have made lifelong friendships.

All of these experiences and qualities will continue to hold our Class of 2020 in good stead as they embark on their life journey. We are proud of the young men and women they have become and their many achievements. We wish them well in their future endeavours and remind them they will always remain part of the Pittwater House family.

Lastly, I wish to applaud the commitment and support our dedicated teachers have given each student throughout their time here. They have demonstrated resourcefulness, flexibility and commitment to the Class of 2020 during this uniquely demanding year.

**Dr Nancy Hillier**

Principal (BA, DipEd, MEdSt, DEd, MACE, MACEL, MAICD)



## Result Highlights

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*We are incredibly proud of the achievements of our Class of 2020. We celebrate hard work and determination in all of our students and whole-heartedly thank our dedicated teachers for the commitment they have shown to ensure the individual academic growth, happiness and well-being of each of them which has enabled them to fulfil their academic potential.*

**Dr Nancy Hillier**  
Principal

99.8



Top ATAR  
Dux of Boys' Grammar  
**Callum Metzke**

99.05



Dux of Girls' College  
**Mia Giladi**

1



Student in the Top Achiever List, 5th in NSW for Dance

2



Students in the All Rounders List with scores of 90% or above in 10 or more units

23%



Students achieved an ATAR over 90, placing them in the top 10% of the State

80%



Students received pre-HSC university offers

5



Nominations for ENCORE, ARTEXPRESS, Callback and Shape

26



Students achieved Distinguished Achiever Listings for their Band 6 and E4 results across 56 subjects

# Callum Metzke

Top ATAR 99.8

All Rounder

Dux of Boys' Grammar

Studying Bachelor of Science and Master of Mathematical Sciences at University of Sydney



*"I'm grateful for all the different opportunities I have been able to take part in, everything from Robotics Club, to Cadets, to being part of the SRC (Student Representative Council). There really is so much that I'm going to miss."*

## **What subjects did you study for the HSC?**

English Advanced, Chemistry, Physics, Maths Extension 1 and Maths Extension 2

## **Which was your favourite subject and why?**

My favourite was Maths Extension 2, I have loved learning about new, abstract and complex ideas and the way they all apply. How everything connects is just amazing to me. My motivation to learn this year has come from my desire to understand things, why some particular physical phenomenon occurs or why a certain maths application applied to something. Curiosity to learn and understand is what has really driven me this year.

## **What has been one of your proudest School achievements?**

Getting my ATAR. The morning I received my results, I was super nervous: I had been up all night and had not had much sleep. I had a specific number in my head of 98, which is what I needed to get into the course I wanted. But at 9am, when I opened my results on the computer, I was absolutely speechless. The result was way above what I had thought I could ever achieve. My sister recorded the whole thing on her phone, which I still haven't watched back yet, but I remember I was just so over the moon. It was real validation that all my hard work had absolutely paid off.

## **How was your experience of Remote Learning?**

I found remote learning due to the COVID-19 lockdown challenging. That said, I knew we were very lucky and felt very fortunate as the School was very prepared for remote learning. I realised over the course of the year that I can overcome challenges like remote learning. Whilst it wasn't for me, I did get through it and I did go on to work hard and overcoming that situation has definitely taught me resilience.

## **What co-curricular or other activities/practices did you do to balance your commitment to your studies?**

I took part in a variety of co-curricular activities at Pittwater House to balance with my academics. The main ones included Cadets and SRC (Student Representative Council).

## **What have been some of the highlights of your time at Pittwater House?**

There are too many highlights from my time at School to name all of them, but a handful would certainly include all the Cadet camps, going on the band tour and walking out of Graduation Hall at the end of Year 12.

## **How have your teachers contributed to your success?**

I'm so thankful for my teachers. Not just what I was able to learn from them during my classes but outside as well. They were always willing to have additional discussions with me before or after class to discuss complex and abstract topics, to talk outside the syllabus to extend my knowledge in subjects like Maths.

## **How have your peers contributed to your success?**

I could not have succeeded in the way that I have this year without my friends. There has been too much work this year to do alone. My friendships have also provided a much-needed emotional break from all the study and they have been a huge factor in getting me through the year.

## **What advice would you give future students undertaking their HSC?**

The advice I would give to next year's HSC students is find what works best for you. I found that I work best in a relaxed state. For example, the night before an exam, I would sit down and simply relax and the morning of an exam I would not be cramming. But that's not for everyone. If you think you work better under pressure, then create that environment for yourself.

## **Overall, how would you describe your time at the School?**

My time at Pittwater House has been absolutely amazing and I'm going to miss the School so much. I can still remember playing water polo in Year 7 and those were some of the best times.

# Mia Giladi

ATAR 99.05

Dux of Girls' College

Studying Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Advanced Studies (Dalyell Scholars) at University of Sydney



## What has been one of your proudest school achievements?

My proudest achievement at Pittwater House is undoubtedly becoming the Dux of the Girls' College this year. I'm particularly proud of having achieved my ATAR through a more unconventional way, studying subjects such as Dance, which I achieved as an accelerated Year 11 student, as well as more rigorous academic subjects and getting the grade for my preferred course at university.

## Pittwater House is structured to provide students with largely single-sex classes within a co-ed school campus, gradually moving to a full co-ed education in Years 11 and 12. What do you think are the benefits of this structure?

I hugely benefited from the single-sex classes through Years 7 to 10. The structure encouraged a more comfortable learning environment in my adolescence as my College friends and I were developing and maturing differently (to the boys). By Years 11 and 12, the interests and motivations of my peers in the classroom became much more aligned with Grammar students, enhancing the learning environment further.

## What has inspired you/motivated you during 2020?

Throughout my final year, I have been motivated and inspired by the hard work and dedication of my friends and peers, where the healthy competition has pushed us to all do our best.

## What co-curricular or other activities/practices did you do to balance your commitment to your studies?

During my time at School there were inevitably many ups and downs, however, the classroom was a reliable constant, as the teachers were so understanding. Whether it be out of school commitments, or the stress of the workload becoming too overwhelming at times, the teachers were always extremely adaptive and accommodating when supporting a student to reach their personal goals. For this reason, I am very fond of, and grateful for, Pittwater House for making schooling so enjoyable and my goals achievable.

*"I received incredible support from my teachers, who have been a key factor in me doing so well at School. Without them I could not have achieved my results. The close relationships built between students and teachers at Pittwater House have been so valuable and are still deeply appreciated by myself and all of my peers."*

# Ben Cook

All Rounder and 2nd place Boys' Grammar

ATAR 98.15

Studying Bachelor of Politics, Philosophy and Economics at UNSW



## What have been the highlights of your time at Pittwater House?

There have been so many highlights during my time at Pittwater House. I've been here for 15 years! A handful of standout moments include playing in two Grand Final winning teams in both water polo and soccer and obviously graduating Year 12, even though it was under strange circumstances with COVID-19. I have been provided with terrific opportunities by the School such as attending the Australian Business Economists annual dinner and meeting Dr. Philip Lowe, the Governor of the Reserve Bank of Australia. My most treasured highlight, however, would have to be gaining the opportunity as Deputy Head Prefect to escort my brother on stage to get his Junior School prefect role of Assembly Leader.

## How have your teachers contributed to your success?

One of the most amazing things about Pittwater House and what I love about the School is how committed the teachers are to every single one of their students. They always go above and beyond to give you every opportunity that you can to succeed. Especially this year, where we faced the challenge of remote learning, the teachers were so committed to adapting their teaching style to ensure that our education and our HSC was impacted as little as possible.

## How have your peers contributed to your success?

Year 12 is such a tumultuous year, regardless of whether there's a pandemic, and having your peers around you to support you and bring you up when you're down, encourage you to keep going, keep you motivated and push you to be your very best is so important and definitely helped me through Year 12.

## What advice would you give future students undertaking their HSC?

My advice to future Year 12 students is to find a study style that works best for you. There's no one best way and what works for someone else might not work for you. The bottom line is understanding that you need to give it your very best if you want a great outcome at the end.

*"I have loved Pittwater House. Every one of the 15 years I've been here, I've absolutely loved. The School has given me so much and I'll be forever thankful. I was lucky that as Deputy Head Prefect I was given the opportunity to give something back and that made me feel amazing."*

# Emily Zhou

2nd place Girls' College

ATAR 97.4

Studying Bachelor of Engineering Honours and Bachelor of Science at University of Sydney



# Duncan Easter

ATAR 98.75

Studying Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Advanced Studies at University of Sydney



**Pittwater House is structured to provide students with largely single-sex classes within a co-ed school campus, gradually moving to a full co-ed education in Years 11 and 12. What do you think are the benefits of this structure?**

I've been at Pittwater House since Kindergarten. I feel like having the single-sex classes, particularly in Years 7 and 8, really helped me develop my confidence as I created really strong bonds with the girls in my class and created an environment where I was ready to speak up and ask questions. The integration to co-ed classes prepared me for the real world where I would have to work with all different types of people.

**What subjects did you study for the HSC?**

I studied Advanced Maths, Extension Maths, Advanced English, Extension English, Music 2, Extension Music and Chemistry.

**What was your favourite subject?**

My favourite subject was Music because it provided a welcome change to all the other subjects where we would be sitting in class and not moving around. Being able to play the piano, especially in the practical side in Music enabled me to let loose with my more creative side.

**What have been the highlights of your time at Pittwater House?**

My highlights from my time at Pittwater House are actually just the little things: like spending time with my friends at lunch, running around the Oval, enjoying time with my peers in the Common Room, and attending the School Camps, particularly Year 10 Camp when I went skiing for the first time.

**What has been your proudest school achievement?**

My proudest achievement was playing one of the lead roles in the School musical 'Footloose'. I am also really proud of my academic achievements this year where I was awarded first place in Extension English, Advanced English, Music 2 and Music Extension.

**How have your teachers contributed to your success?**

My teachers have been incredibly supportive and really put in the extra time and commitment for me, especially this year when they had to transfer to online learning. They are always willing to meet me after class to answer any extra questions, give me feedback on practice essays and papers and so I'm grateful and really want to thank my teachers for all that they have done for me.

**What subjects did you study for the HSC?**

My HSC choices were Advanced English, Extension 1 Maths, Extension 2 Maths, Physics, Chemistry, Extension Science.

**What was your favourite subject?**

My favourite subject was definitely Chemistry. Mrs Filmater is an amazing teacher. I was really motivated this year primarily because I just really enjoy learning. Being able to choose the exact subjects I wanted to study, from a wide selection offered, has meant that it really didn't feel like work. I just had so much fun learning all the content and this in turn motivated me to do so well.

**What has been the highlight of your time at Pittwater House?**

The biggest highlight from my time at Pittwater House has been participating in the Cadets. I have really enjoyed the Cadet camps, working with the other kids in the younger years as well as my peers, planning all the activities throughout the year and just about everything about Cadets!

**What is your proudest school achievement?**

Coming first in the year in Chemistry is one of my proudest achievements. I was really competitive with a friend in Year 11 and 12 and he was always beating me so it was a great feeling to finally beat him! Being competitive with each other drove us to each try our very best. My advice to next year's HSC takers is to do the same: find a close friend who you can be competitive with and who's similar in ability and push each in a positive way to achieve your best.

*"My Pittwater House friends have really helped me through this year. I've got a really good group of friends, many of us have known each other since the Junior School, so it's been really nice supporting each other through this important final year."*

# Pia Lenarduzzi

Studying Bachelor of International Studies and Bachelor of Media (PR and Advertising) at UNSW



**Pittwater House is structured to provide students with largely single-sex classes within a co-ed school campus, gradually moving to a full co-ed education in Years 11 and 12. What do you think are the benefits of this structure?**

I think the structure at Pittwater House is really unique with the single sex classes when I was younger to develop my confidence and then moving into co-ed in the Senior years which gave me an insight into how boys learn differently.

**What co-curricular or other activities/practices did you do to balance your commitment to your studies?**

From Year 7 – Year 12 I was a national swimmer and I upheld that standard, competing in Nationals during my HSC year. Every day I swam while balancing my studies. This valuable opportunity enabled me to really strengthen my time management skills. I also represented the school in swimming, athletics, cross country and also triathlon.

**What has been some of the highlights of your time at Pittwater House?**

One of my highlights at Pittwater House was developing really strong friendships which I know I will have for life, but also developing a great rapport with my teachers which stood me in good stead for the HSC.

**What have you learned about yourself over the last year?**

I've learned that I really can achieve anything I put my mind to. My time at Pittwater House has been really gratifying. I feel extremely grateful for all the opportunities given to me, both academically as well as in sports. I have mixed emotions about leaving Pittwater House. I'm really excited to begin the next phase of my life but I will miss the nurturing environment at this School.

**What advice would you give future students undertaking their HSC?**

My advice to future students is to utilise your teachers. Push yourself to submit as many drafts as possible and practice papers that you can so that by the time you get to the HSC you will feel really confident about your exams and also surround yourself with like-minded people who want to do well at the HSC.

*“My teachers have been instrumental in my success. I feel so grateful that we have such dedicated teachers. They are honestly your biggest supporters in Year 12 and will go above and beyond to see you succeed, whether that be replying to emails on weekends, providing extra study lessons or marking extra drafts.”*

# Izzy Wanders

Studying Bachelor of Education at University of Sydney



**How have your teachers contributed to your success?**

My teachers have made a huge contribution to my success. They were always there if I had any queries, questions or concerns about upcoming assignments or homework and really supported me if they knew I was juggling an overwhelming amount of overlapping work. I felt they were there to take the load off me and give me extra time which was unbelievably helpful.

**What has inspired you this year?**

I was inspired to do well and wanted my 13 years of schooling to amount to something that I could be proud of and be happy that I achieved, which it definitely did.

**Overall, how would you describe your time at the School?**

Enjoyment will be my overriding memory of School. Every moment was fun and exciting. Especially meeting all the new faces when I first joined Pittwater House. Getting to attend all the remarkable excursions we got to go on including the Year 10 Camp to the snow which was also a big highlight.

**How do you feel about leaving Pittwater House?**

Leaving Pittwater House is sad but I'm also happy at the same time. I'm leaving behind a huge chunk of my life but then I have got another big chunk ahead of me which is really exciting. I've been supported through all of my schooling and now I get to finally get to step forward and go “no – I've got this, I can do this by myself now”.

# Shantani Jepson

Top Achiever

5th in NSW in Dance

(Year 11 Accelerated student)



## What have you learned this year?

One of the benefits of being able to take Dance Accelerated early, in Year 11, is that it gave me a perspective of what the HSC Course would be like. It's definitely beneficial now in Year 12 as I have more study periods to focus on the other subjects that I'm studying, and it was just a great experience overall.

## What has been your proudest school achievement?

My proudest achievement was receiving my HSC mark of 98 and being awarded 5th in the State. I was so thrilled. I want to pursue dance as my career, so it has given me the confidence, and showed me I can achieve a very high level.

## How have your teachers contributed to your success?

At Pittwater House, having two dance teachers for the course, was so beneficial. Having the wider range of opinions with both of them assisted my success. Both have been so amazing and unbelievably supportive. They were each very different and helped me in different ways.

# Students achieving in top 2 Bands

(by course) (% correct to 2 decimal places)

Course	School %	State %	Number of students in course
Music 1 2 unit	100	64.06	2
Science Extension 1 unit	100	73.72	3
Biology 2 unit	100	30.54	3
English Extension 1 1 unit	100	92.54	15
English Advanced 2 unit	83.78	63.31	37
Visual Arts 2 unit	81.81	64.73	11
History Extension 1 unit	80	76.06	5
Ancient History 2 unit	80	33.06	10
Mathematics Extension 1 2 unit	80	74.25	20
English Studies Examination 2 unit	75	17.15	4
Mathematics Advanced 2 unit	70.82	52.46	24
Modern History 2 unit	53.33	37.13	15
Business Studies 2 unit	51.72	34.91	29
Studies of Religion I 1 unit	50	43.71	14
Industrial Technology 2 unit	50	23.71	6
PDHPE	50	34.19	12
Mathematics Standard 2 2 unit	43.17	24.5	44
Investigating Science 2 unit	37.5	27.88	8
	ATARS	%	
	90-100	23	
	80-100	55	





**Pittwater House**

## Want to find out more?

Experience true balance in education first hand. For a Zoom Q and A with Dr. Hillier, our Principal, or a tour of our Campus in action, please contact our Registrar or book online via our website.

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