



Pittwater House

# Prospectus



**Best of both worlds**  
Single-sex classes  
Co-ed campus

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*“Our size and structure enable us to provide our students with a well-rounded education in a supportive environment where they can develop a strong sense of self and give of their best.”*

*– Dr Nancy Hillier, Principal*





# Dear Parents and Guardians,

Thank you for considering Pittwater House for your child.

Choosing the right school is a very important decision, so the information contained in this Prospectus is designed to provide you with a good insight into what makes our School unique and what it may offer your family.

Not only are we an independent, non-denominational School catering for students from Early Childhood to Year 12, but our innovative twin schooling structure stands us apart from any other school in NSW. It provides 'the best of both worlds' - an environment in which male and female students socialise on a co-educational campus yet benefit from a tailored learning approach in single-sex classes.

At Pittwater House, we maintain a small student population to ensure that each individual is seen, heard, known and cared for. That way, we develop a true understanding of each and every student's ability, talents and needs – both inside and out of the classroom.

In classrooms, our highly qualified teachers use an evidence-based teacher-framed, student-led learning model, known as 'Deep Learning'. This innovative teaching framework provides students with the skills required to think critically and solve complex problems, enabling them to master essential academic content and to become lifelong learners.

At Pittwater House we believe a well-rounded education is about much more than just classroom learning. That's why we provide a world of co-curricular opportunities to cater to a diverse range of interests and abilities. From surfing to pottery and chess to cultural expeditions, Pittwater House offers your child countless ways to develop and thrive.

To truly get a sense for what we can offer your family, I would encourage you to talk to our Registrar, Kellie Finlay, to find out the best way you may learn more about our wonderful School.

I hope to become acquainted with you soon.

Dr Nancy Hillier  
Principal

BA Dip Ed MEdSt DEd MACE MACEL MAICD

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*“Our Core Values form the mnemonic ‘HEROIC’ to capture the intention of all we aspire to be as members of the Pittwater House community.”*

*– Mr James Walmsley, Deputy Principal*





# Our Motto and Values

At Pittwater House, you will hear two terms used often.

Semper Diligens is our School motto: 'Always Hardworking'. It underpins the attitude to which we apply ourselves each day at school in all that we do.

The 'HEROIC' mnemonic represents our Core Values – the widely adopted expression of our purpose and interactions in the classroom, on the sporting fields, in the cadet unit, on the stage and in our broader community.

## H

### HONESTY AND INTEGRITY

We challenge our community to develop and practise the qualities of kindness, honesty, moral courage and good character.

## E

### EXCELLENCE

We aspire to excellence in effort, determination and dedication in academics and all our endeavours.

## R

### RESPECT AND CARE

We nurture and model respect and care in self, others and our environment. We respect and care for individuals for who they are.

## O

### ORIGINS

We celebrate the journey of our traditions.

## I

### INNOVATION

We encourage originality, enquiry, risk-taking and critical thinking where students have the courage to imagine.

## C

### COMMUNITY

We connect our students, families, staff and alumni.



*“Each of these five ‘volumes’ represent a unique attribute of our School, which collectively provide a balanced education for our young men and women, so they may flourish beyond the school gates.”*

*– Dr Nancy Hillier, Principal*





# A School for HEROIC Learners

With consistent reference to our HEROIC Core Values, at Pittwater House we remain committed to five key tenets, or 'volumes', which enable us to deliver an exceptional educational experience for our students and their families.

Over the coming pages, read about each of these tenets in detail:

1. **Twin Schooling Approach** - our unique School structure, how it works and why we use it.
2. **An Innovative Learning Model** - our student-centered teaching and learning model, 'Deep Learning'.

3. **Knowing and Respecting Students, Staff and Families** - the scaffolding in place to support our School community.
4. **Well-Rounded Opportunities for a Balanced Education** - how co-curricular involvement benefits the whole child.

5. **Excellence in Teaching and Learning** - the ways in which we sustain our teachers as vital members of our School.

Collectively, they create a School environment in which our young men and women thrive, prepared for life after school.

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*“The single-sex classrooms throughout Junior School and the early stages of Senior School helped me stay focused and build my self-confidence. It provided a learning environment that was supportive and encouraging which helped shape my attitude and behaviour at school.”*

*– Olivia Butcher, 2022 Head College Prefect*







# Twin Schooling Approach

Our unique twin schooling structure tailors innovative learning experiences to engage the hearts and minds of our young men and women.

We understand that there are differences in the way boys and girls (and young men and women) prefer to learn and interact. Boys typically respond well to problem-solving and activity-based learning, whereas girls enjoy collaborative and discussion-led learning environments. That's why we use best practice strategies to educate boys and girls in a way that draws on their strengths and preferences, whilst

supporting their socio-emotional growth.

Using our unique twin schooling structure, we've found the best way for students to grow and learn is for boys and girls to start their educational journey together in the Early Childhood Centre, then be taught separately in their formative years, reconnect via co-educational Elective 'tasters' from Year 9 and ultimately regroup in

co-educational classes for their final two years.

We've seen this approach greatly benefit our students academically and improve their approach to learning. At the same time, it gives them the skills to be able to form respectful and positive relationships when they are interacting on campus, in co-curricular activities, in the broader community and in life.

## EARLY CHILDHOOD

Early Childhood Centre  
All classes co-ed

## JUNIOR SCHOOL

Kindergarten – Year 2  
Phonics, Maths and Literacy co-ed.  
All other subjects single-sex

## SENIOR SCHOOL

Years 3 – 8  
All subjects single-sex

Years 9 - 10  
Elective subjects co-ed.  
All other classes single-sex

Years 11 - 12  
All subjects co-ed

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*“More than ever, there is a need for schools to bolster the curriculum with deeper, student-centred learning approaches that optimise engagement at school, and real-world application in life. Our Deep Learning framework achieves just that.” – Mrs Jasmin Mano, Head of Teaching and Learning*





# An Innovative Learning Model

We use a teacher-framed, student-led teaching method known as 'Deep Learning', in which teachers act as learning agents, inspiring students to take a more proactive approach to their learning through enquiry, and problem solving.

Deep Learning enables a precise measurement of where a student sits in learning and where their next steps can take them.

At its core are six essential competencies, which help students integrate academic skills with personal and social capabilities in a reflective and fun learning environment:

1. **Citizenship** – encompasses intercultural understanding and diversity.
2. **Character** – metacognition, resilience, perseverance, and proactive learning.
3. **Collaboration** – personal and social capability, which includes self/social awareness and management.
4. **Communication** – literacy, numeracy, Information and Communication Technology capability.

5. **Creativity** – curiosity, innovation, imagination and seeking of new pathways and solutions.

6. **Critical Thinking** – questioning, thinking logically, reasoning and using evidence.

## High Potential Students

Our teachers differentiate their lessons to challenge high potential students with the level best suited to them.

Our Junior and Senior committee collaborate to ensure identified students are catered for, in and out of the classroom. This may include flexible progression, consisting of whole-grade or single-subject acceleration, and Senior extension streams for Mathematics, Science and Dance classes.

Students are also challenged through inter-school and

individual academic competitions, learning enrichment classes and excursions, and co-curricular programs such as ethics, chess, robotics and debating.

## Diverse Learning

We provide a supportive and collaborative approach to those needing additional learning assistance. We work in close liaison with families to create a learning environment where students can progress at their own rate. Recognising that all students have varying needs, our learning support systems include in-class support and team-teaching, student observations and teacher feedback, small group and individual remedial programs, curriculum differentiation, homework support and study skills.

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*“Mr Heath , Mrs Achurch and I work hard to ensure our students feel connected, safe and secure, so they can actively participate in their learning to achieve better physical, emotional, social and educational outcomes.” – Mrs Katie Thomas, Head of Girls’ College*





# Knowing and Respecting Students, Staff and Families

Empowered by our HEROIC Core Values, our young men and women become the best version of themselves in a supportive yet down-to-earth environment where they are known and valued.

This starts in the classroom, where our students benefit from small class sizes and high student-to-teacher ratios, resulting in every student being known by the teachers and by one another. This structure also affords teachers the opportunity to offer an individualised approach to teaching.

## Pastoral Care Programs

Our down-to-earth school culture, where students feel known and connected, provides the perfect foundation for a successful pastoral care program, which brings about individuals who are positive contributors to society with a strong sense of self-worth and emotional literacy.

At Pittwater House, pastoral care is a daily part of school life which is continually evolving to adapt with age

changes and developmental milestones. While our pastoral support team starts with the Junior class or Senior form teacher, there is a structured hierarchy of care in place as well as a range of formalised programs and camps\*.

For those needing additional support, two on-site counsellors are available to work confidentially with students and their families if required.

## Leadership

Our large number of Junior and Senior leadership initiatives help to build confidence in budding leaders, inspire students and serve our local community. From prefect positions, to peer support and buddy programs, community service initiatives, The Duke of Ed and our cadet corps, there are many opportunities for aspiring leaders at our School.

## Pittwater House Alumni Association (PHAA)

As an association of past students, teachers and friends of the School, the PHAA keep connections alive by facilitating events, sporting teams, reunions and parties, and provide mentoring and work experience to current students.

## Pittwater House Parents' Association (PHPA)

We are fortunate to have parents who partner with the School daily, to support student learning, safety and wellbeing.

This includes the PHPA, a dedicated network of parents who generously contribute their time by fundraising, holding various social events and liaising between parents and staff for the benefit of our School community.

\* These may be delivered in co-educational, single-sex or parent-child settings, in line with the desired outcome.

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*“The learning journey extends beyond the classroom for our students, who are encouraged to embrace co-curricular opportunities to pursue excellence in each area of school life.”*

*– Mr David Heath, Head of Boys’ Grammar*





# Well-Rounded Opportunities for a Balanced Education

We offer students a broad array of co-curricular opportunities to cater to diverse interests and abilities.

This gives every child the opportunity to develop their talents in and out of the classroom to become a well-rounded individual.

Participation in co-curricular activities are an important part of what we do, and our twin schooling structure lends itself nicely to a broad selection of all-male, all-female and mixed team pursuits.

Proven to lead to positive academic outcomes, respectful relationships and improved social networks, we encourage our students to explore their interests in a supportive environment.

Most of our activities take place on campus before or after school and are led by qualified staff or external professionals who have excelled in their relevant field.

Whether it be performing arts disciplines, sporting pursuits, cadets, clubs or youth development programs, Pittwater House offers your child the opportunity to discover new things or develop their talents, interests and passions across a broad range of activities.

Please refer to our website for the full range of co-curricular opportunities available.

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*“I could not have found the success I did without my teachers. In Years 11 and 12, my teachers challenged me to reach my full potential and worked alongside me to ensure I was producing high quality work. I will be forever thankful for their efforts, and the success I found is as much a reflection of them, as it is me.” – Liliana Edwards, 2022 Dux of Girls’ College*







# Excellence in Teaching and Learning

Our passionate teachers are vital members of our community who strive for excellence in teaching each day, to inspire our students for life.

They must feel valued and supported, so they can engage positively with students and build stronger connections with parents.

That's why we focus on staff excellence and welfare, maintaining the best standards of practice and the highest levels of professionalism.

Our teachers work in a collaborative inquiry cycle – an evidence-based approach that provides teachers the structure to plan, design, implement and reflect on

what went well and what could work even better next time. This inspires new thinking, which builds a strong culture of professional learning amongst staff and students alike.

With ongoing Professional Development days for staff, we support a performance development culture where outcomes are acknowledged, and staff are provided with opportunities to maximise their professional excellence by seeking higher levels of accreditation and

postgraduate studies. This professional culture of excellence enhances teaching practices across the School, sets a good example and deepens connections with students.

Our teaching approaches are qualified by ongoing professional partnerships with renowned educational leaders in their field, including Michael Fullan and Joanne Quinn and local Professor of Cognitive Neuroscience, Dr. Mark Williams.

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*“As a working mum, I find it helpful that my daughter’s activities all take place on the Pittwater House campus, and run before and after school.”*

*– Ms Lea Munro, Pittwater House mum*





# Our Campus

Our 3.5-hectare campus offers an abundance of open space, impressive sporting facilities and play areas for all of our students, from Pre-school to Year 12.

## On-site sporting facilities include:

- An eight-lane, heated 25m pool
- A full-sized oval for rugby, cricket, softball, soccer and athletics
- Outdoor courts used for tennis, basketball and netball
- An indoor sports centre for basketball, futsal and netball
- A mini Astroturf court (Junior School students)
- A fully equipped gym (Senior School students).

## Students congregate, study and play in a number of spaces, including:

- A secure play area for our Early Childhood Centre children
- A Junior School playground with age-appropriate play equipment

- A Senior School amphitheatre, which is also used for incursions and larger gatherings
- The oval, where Junior and Senior School students have access via staggered lunch breaks
- The kiss and drop playground, which is popular for handball
- The library, which accommodates Junior and Senior School students who may access a comprehensive range of books, games, encyclopedias, newspapers, magazines and audio books
- The Year 12 Common Room.

## Our Creative and Performing Arts facilities consist of:

- Specialised music and ensemble rooms
- Tutorial rooms with the latest music composition software

- A Performing Arts Centre which houses up to 100 people for various forms of dance, music, yoga, drama and performance
- Two Senior visual art rooms that cater to budding photographers, ceramicists, sculptors and visual artists.

## Additional on-site services:

- Health Centre staffed by two registered nurses
- Canteen with chef and assistant chef
- New and second-hand uniform shop
- After-school care (Junior School students)
- Private service of five buses that cater to families living between the School and Avalon, Forestville, Manly, Mosman and St Ives.

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*“Once building works are complete, we will have a series of wonderful new places for our students, staff and families to come together, to continue the dynamic conversations and learning experiences that take place within.” – Dr Nancy Hillier, Principal*





# The Next Phase

Pittwater House is creating a series of exciting new spaces to support the needs of our 21st Century learners.

## **Stage 1 - completed January 2022**

A long driveway was built on the School campus which provides a safe and seamless drop off/pick up experience for School families in the morning and afternoon, yet serves as a large, functional play space for students during the school day.

## **Stage 2 – due for completion Term 4 2023**

Upgrades to the Senior School campus are underway which, once complete, will provide students with new outdoor covered learning spaces, seating areas and walkways, as well as lift access to the West and South Wing classrooms and library.

## **Stage 3**

A new Library and Resource Centre will be constructed adjacent to the Junior School. It will offer a Junior and Senior library, individual and group study and meeting spaces, a Makerspace (where students can develop creative projects) and a large meeting space for up to 100 students.

This building will also serve as the administrative heart of the school via a new Reception and Admissions Office easily accessible from the South Creek Road carpark.

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*“With so many things to consider, selecting the right school for your child can be a daunting decision. Fortunately, it’s one we are here to help you with.” – Mrs Kellie Finlay, Registrar*





# Enrolling Your Child

## Visiting Pittwater House

An Open Day or campus tour is an excellent way for you to experience our School as it is on any school day.

Led by Dr Hillier or another senior member of Pittwater House, you will have the opportunity to see our students in their classes, ask questions and tour the facilities in a small group setting.

Please discuss upcoming tour opportunities with the Registrar. Due to current building works, these are by invitation only, so we apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

## Intakes

Our main entry points into the School include our Early Childhood Centre, Kindergarten, Year 3, Year 5 and Year 7. Places may also become available in other years.

## Alumni

As valued graduates of our School, the children of Alumni are eligible for a discount on their enrolment fees. Please contact the Registrar for further information.

## Scholarships

Each year, we offer a limited number of scholarships to students for outstanding academic potential, as well as general excellence scholarships in sport and performing arts (music, dance or drama). They are

open to students entering Years 7, 9 and 11.

All scholarship applicants must register and apply to sit an exam with the Australian Council for Education Research (ACER).

## Enrolment Procedure

We welcome enrolments from Australian residents and overseas students. It is recommended to submit enrolment applications well in advance\*. Applications are then processed one to two years prior to the year of commencement.

All enrolment forms and detailed enrolment procedures may be found on our website on the 'Enrol' page.

\* For Year 7 applications, please apply up to four years prior to commencement.



## Pittwater House

# Want to find out more?

Book a Zoom Q&A with our Principal to learn more about our unique approach. Alternatively, view the Virtual Tour on our website. To see our campus in action on a tour, contact our Registrar or join the waitlist on our website.

+61 2 9972 5789

[enrolments@tphs.nsw.edu.au](mailto:enrolments@tphs.nsw.edu.au)

[pittwaterhouse.com.au](http://pittwaterhouse.com.au)

### Pittwater House

70 South Creek Road,  
Collaroy NSW 2097

PO Box 244,  
Manly NSW 1655 Australia

tel: + 61 2 9972 5789

fax: + 61 2 9972 5779