



**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, secular School catering for students from Pre-Kindergarten 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-gender 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 Corps, 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-gender classrooms in Junior School allowed me to build my confidence and learn in a way that was supportive and encouraging. It was also great to be able to share a campus with my brother which gave me a strong sense of community, specifically by being in the same House.”*

*– Isla Gillespie, 2023 Academic 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 focus and learn is for boys and girls to start their educational journey together in Pre-Kindergarten, then be taught in single-gender classes in their formative years, reconnect via co-educational Electives 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.

## JUNIOR SCHOOL

Pre-Kindergarten class co-ed

Kindergarten – Year 6  
Single-gender learning across most subjects

## SENIOR SCHOOL

Years 7 – 8  
All subjects single-gender

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

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 Junior and Senior teachers collaborate to ensure identified students are catered for, in and out of the classroom.

Lessons are tailored to challenge and enrich high potential students continuously.

In the Senior School, we offer a high potential stream for all mandatory curriculum classes from Years 7 to 10, accelerated Mathematics from Year 8, accelerated Dance from Year 9, and a compacted HSC Studies of Religion 1 course in Year 11.

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 offer supportive, collaborative learning assistance, working closely with families to create an environment where students can progress at a challenged level appropriate to them.

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 Walmsley, Mr Stephenson 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.

We prioritise relational learning, where every student is known by their teachers and by one another. This starts in the classroom, where our high student-to-teacher ratios foster 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 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-gender 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 James Walmsley, Acting 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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*“My teachers went above and beyond, and I am truly grateful to them. They are the foundation of my success.”*

*– Rory MacLennan, 2023 SRC Prefect and Tuckwell Scholarship Recipient, Australian National University*







# 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.



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

*– Ms Lea Munro, Pittwater House parent*

## 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-Kindergarten 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 dedicated play area for our Pre-Kindergarten 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 and cafe with chef and assistant chef
- New and second-hand uniform shop
- After-school care (Pre-Kindergarten and Junior School students)
- Private service of five buses that cater to families living between the School and Avalon, Forestville, Manly, Mosman and St Ives.



# 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. These are by invitation only, so we apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

## Intakes

Our main entry points into the School include our Pre-Kindergarten, 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, to see our campus in action on a tour, contact our Registrar or join the tour waitlist on our website.

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