

Pittwater House

achieve a balance
co-educational campus
single-sex classes



a message

from our Principal



Pittwater House is an independent, non-denominational, school which 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 classes 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 smaller, fostering individual attention for each student and a real understanding of each student's abilities, talents and expectations.

Our staff are 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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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, 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: single-sex classes on a co-ed campus.

This unique educational environment showcases the best teaching practices of single-sex and co-educational learning.

Within the Pittwater House co-ed campus you will find three schools that run cohesively and yet uniquely offer single-gender classes. Pittwater House established this innovative learning environment to offer students the best of both worlds.

Boys and girls learn differently, particularly during their formative years. With the Pittwater House approach students see the benefit of less distraction in learning, improved student self-esteem and improved student achievements whilst offering greater leadership opportunities.

Our approach also offers teachers the opportunity to address the unique learning styles and interests of our students whilst creating further opportunities for teachers to employ gender-specific strategies that are designed for an all-boy classroom or all-girl classroom.

Students are taught in single-sex classes for all years from Kindergarten to Year 8.

Commencing in Year 9 there is a gradual introduction to co-education classes in elective subjects while English, Maths, Geography, History and Sciences continue to be taught in single-sex classes. In the senior years all classes are fully co-educational.

To ensure students get the best of both worlds there are many opportunities to socialise together during break time, whole school events and co-curricular activities.

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.

The Pittwater House approach to education allows students to be engaged in learning styles appropriate to their gender in their early years of education whilst providing the opportunity of a co-educational environment as they prepare for higher education and life beyond school.



"I wanted my son and daughter to benefit from a single-sex education because they learn differently - but I knew that socialising in a co-educational environment was also important. We now get the advantages of both approaches and we couldn't be happier."

Lara, Pittwater House mum



nurturing your child

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 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.

Transition to Senior School

By providing a blending of Junior and Senior School practices, Pittwater House gently introduces Year 6 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 6 and 12 and nurture 'older brother or sister' relationships with younger students in the school.

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.

Additional tutoring is 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.

academic excellence



Pittwater House has a reputation for outstanding and impressive academic performance. Success can be measured through excellent external examinations results achieved in the Higher School Certificate and the NAPLAN tests. However, the true measure of success is the value added to each student's results as they progress through the school and the number of students who achieve their goals after school.

A high priority is given to developing student capability in literacy and numeracy which begins from the earliest years of school and continues through to Senior School.

Pre-school Education

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.

Learning Culture

What differentiates Pittwater House is that we provide quality education that caters for every student's individual learning needs, including gender, ability and styles of learning.

Pittwater House wants all students to reach and strive to achieve their personal best in all areas of school life. It is this focus that has enabled Pittwater House to be ranked as the top performing Independent School on the Northern Beaches for the past few years.

At Pittwater House academic success has been attributed to

an increased emphasis on making learning the core aim of the School. Increasingly all academic decisions, professional development, class size, cohort structure, the use of technology and resourcing, have all been aimed at ensuring the academic culture of the school is enhanced and the actual learning taking place is the key priority.

Our focus is also strategically directed towards providing 21st Century education that will furnish our school leavers with strong academic grades and the critical thinking tools and technology skills that they will need to be successful.

Pittwater House students have continued to be named in the Distinguished Achievers and All-Round Achievers List for the Higher School Certificate over the years. Also a high percentage of our Year 12 students have consistently achieved band 5 and 6 in their chosen subjects. Due to such strong academic success the majority of Pittwater House students are offered their first choice at University.



"We were looking for a school with a strong academic record and enviable sporting facilities – we found it at Pittwater House."

Karen, Pittwater House mum

technology

Technology is included throughout the school and the curriculum, making every lesson an exciting adventure and engaging students in their learning.

Pittwater House students are growing up in the digital age and with this brings new opportunities for innovating the traditional classroom and further engaging our students in their learning. At Pittwater House we continue to invest in emerging technologies that will enhance learning and communication with students and the wider Pittwater House community.

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.

Technology in the Classroom

Pittwater House for many years has furnished classrooms with technology to support everyday teaching. All rooms are fitted with interactive white boards and data projectors which access e-platforms and e-resources.

Laptops, tablets and desktops are widely available throughout the school for student use during class and for study sessions outside of class time.

Bring your own Tablet/Laptop

Pittwater House has introduced from Year 9 the opportunity for students to bring their laptop/tablet of choice to assist with their classwork. Students will have access to the Pittwater House wireless network and all the e-resources that the internet offers.

e-Learning

Pittwater House provides an e-learning platform called MyHouse. MyHouse complements both the use of technology in the school as well as the need to make information, class handouts, homework and assessment information available to students anytime and anywhere. MyHouse provides login access to students, parents and teachers, facilitating collaboration, communication and access to learning tools.

MyHouse also offers parents access to necessary school information and the ability to follow their child's progress.





sporting program

Pittwater House believes active students are confident students so we maintain 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 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 state of the art sports complex further enhances our numerous sports programs. The sports complex is used for many sporting activities such as basketball, futsal, dancing, 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 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.

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, although please note that some sports may have skill requirements for participation.



"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 pool and quality sporting facilities we were convinced."

Karin, Pittwater House mum

the arts

The curriculum encourages all students to participate in cultural activities and caters specifically for students who have 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 and drama as well as theatre set design and construction. Further complementing the dramatic program are school bands, various ensembles, choirs and an orchestra. These activities supplement the School Music Program by providing performance opportunities for students.

Other skills gained through our Arts program include Visual Arts, Photography, Multimedia and Industrial Technology Multimedia



broader curriculum

To achieve a balanced, well-rounded education, children are provided with the opportunity to explore more at school.

At Pittwater House, we offer a wide selection of co-curricular activities for students throughout the year.

Co-curricular Activities

Our programs are designed especially for our students and are run by staff members who can work with individuals to broaden their experiences and assist them in reaching their goals.

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

Many of our Senior School co-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.

Further information on co-curricular activities can be found on our website.

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.

Community Service

Pittwater House students are involved in a wide variety of community service programs. Each year the Senior Prefects nominate a charity worthy of support and co-ordinate a range of events and programs to raise money to assist with its objectives.

The School's Skills and Service Program also provides opportunities for students to elect to work on projects to support a vast array of community programs including the environment and aged care.

World Challenge educational expeditions are also available to students in Year 8, 9 and 10. The expeditions include fundraising, planning, skill development which culminate in visiting a third-world country to assist with community projects.



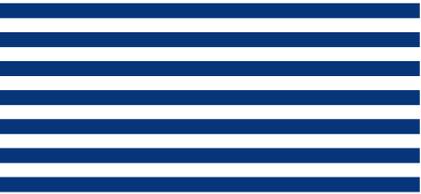
Cadets

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.

room to move

Pittwater House has more open and green space on campus per student than any other private school on the Northern Beaches.



All Pittwater House students share the use of buildings and resources on the 3.5 hectare campus bounded by Westmoreland Ave, Parkes Rd and South Creek Rd in Collaroy.

Special Features

- **Swimming pool**- eight lane short course heated swimming pool built to FINA specifications.
- **Full size oval and large multi-purpose playing field** on campus catering to all sports including rugby, cricket, soccer.

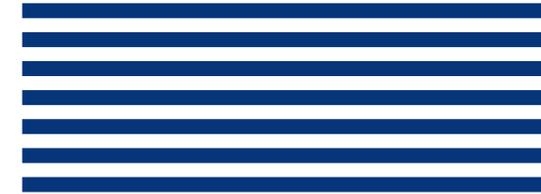
- **Multiple Playgrounds**- for pre-school, Junior School and free space for Senior students.

- **Great Hall**- our multi-purpose hall is used by all areas of the school for assemblies, theatrical performances, displays 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 sound engineer for the Sydney Opera House.

- **Indoor sports complex**- a regulation sized, rubberised court,

which has been designed for multiple uses including basketball, netball and futsal. The sports complex is also used for dance and gymnastics.

- **Outdoor tennis** and all weather netball/basketball courts
- **Health Centre** with full time nursing sister.



pastoral care

At Pittwater House, we recognise the importance of building character, leadership skills and all round personal development of our students.

The Pastoral Care of our students is always at the forefront of our thinking. Pittwater House is concerned with the total wellbeing of each student and we are committed to providing a safe and supported environment where students are aware and respectful of the needs of others.

A hierarchy of care has been established for the wellbeing of all our students. Every student is placed in a 'Form Class' as the centrepiece of the Pastoral Care Program. The Form Teacher is responsible for all students within their class. They are the first point of contact for parents and regularly communicate with home through the Student Diary. The teachers know each of their students and are best placed to deal with any concerns as they arise.

The School is divided into a number of Houses and each student is allocated to one House. The Houses play an important role in the student's life at School. Essentially, the Houses were formed for internal sporting events but now the Houses are seen as an opportunity to focus on wellbeing and collaborative relationships with students of all years.

To reinforce the Pastoral Care

Program we have introduced many activities to assist our students.

Buddy Program

The Buddy Program is an initiative that will help student entering their next phase of education. This program is designed to help students feel confident and connected to the Pittwater House community.

The Buddy Program starts with Year 4 and 5 students befriending our youngest students in the ECC. Again in Kindergarten, students are paired with a Year 6 student who will help them to feel safe and cared for in the Junior School environment.

When commencing in Year 7, students will work closely with Year 11 students to settle into life in the Senior School and learn about things such as organisation, homework and more.

Leadership

Leadership starts from within and we believe all students can become great leaders. The Leadership Program at Pittwater House is available to all students from Year 9.

This Program helps students develop the confidence, skills and professionalism to be an aspiring

leader. These skills will assist them in school and in their chosen career after school.

RUA - Respect Understanding and Acceptance

RUA was designed to give students the opportunity to develop greater awareness of learning beyond the classroom. This unique program cultivates teamwork, resilience, and a sense of belonging and an increased awareness of diversity within our community.

Our Journey

Our Journey is another addition to our Pastoral Care Program. Working with Reach, which is an independent youth organisation, our students learn about the importance of believing in themselves. The Program inspires all young people to get the most out of life, go beyond their comfort zone, create connections, discover their strengths and build their self-worth.

Outdoor Program

The aim of the Pittwater House outdoor education program is to support the development of our students. The program is run by the Outdoor Education Group, which is an independent not-for-profit organisation, that focuses on outdoor experiential learning.

The program supports and reinforces the School's pastoral curriculum in the most practical of settings. It deals directly with concepts such as leadership, team building, initiative, resilience, problem solving and the value of working towards a common goal.

Each program is hosted in a semi-remote location within New South

Wales to remove the participants from 'normal' life.

The outdoor education program will run throughout Junior and Senior Schools and will build to a final optional expedition in Year 11. All programs will be run with small groups of around 12 students, each accompanied by a qualified Outdoor Education Leader and a school staff member. Specialist instructors join the group wherever necessary e.g. abseiling.

The outdoor education program at Pittwater House is a sequential program (i.e. each phase builds on and reinforces previous learning) which runs from Year 3 to Year 11. Each Year group has its own tailored program that aims to extend the pastoral (and where practical, the academic) elements of the school curriculum into a guided 'learning by doing' environment outdoors. Soon the Program will incorporate day trips from Kindergarten to Year 2.



today and beyond

Our Own Bus Fleet

Students can travel to and from the campus on one of the School's 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.

Alumni

The Association was created as a forum to bring together Pittwater House Alumni. The Association has grown over the years with the support of the School and its many alumni who organise reunions and functions throughout the year.

The Pittwater House Alumni Association also offers opportunities for networking and a means for Alumni's to give back to the school through mentoring of current students and recent graduates.

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.

Junior School - our smaller class sizes, twin schooling approach and nurturing environment provide the perfect environment to start school life.

Kindergarten is the key entry point for the Junior School but admission may be possible in other years in the Junior School depending on availability.

Senior School - 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.

Year 7 is the key entry point for the Senior School but admission may be

possible in other years up until Year 11 depending on availability.

Next Step

Join one of our weekly tours to experience the Pittwater House difference.

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

To book a tour or find out more 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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