

Principal's Report

Congratulations to the Graduating Class of 2024.

There is an expression that reads: you will spend the majority of your life knowing your children as adults, but for a brief moment you will know them as kids. That moment is drawing to a close for our parents of Year 12 students and I congratulate and thank parents and carers for their support of both their children and the school, and for choosing to educate their child at a great public school close to home.

I am incredibly proud of this year group and acknowledge the outstanding leadership Year 12 has shown the rest of the school. I'd like to particularly thank the captains and vice captains Cohen, Jack, Chloe and Jonah for their outstanding leadership of the prefect body and the prefects, for their leadership in the school.

This week, Year 12 students have engaged in final lessons, rehearsals for ceremonies, a day out at Taronga Zoo, their final school assembly, the graduation ceremony and their school formal, and conducted themselves in an exemplary manner. I am particularly proud of this Year 12 cohort for raising \$1134 for Bear Cottage. They have helped embed a new tradition and left the school a better place than they found it by giving back. If you would like to further support their efforts, donation can be made using the link on Instagram or Facebook.

I also acknowledge the dedicated teachers who have supported Year 12 in their learning. Thank you to the Year Advisors Ms Gegan and Ms Rous, and Deputy Principal Ms Bromley, for everything they have done to help Year 12 successfully ride the rollercoaster of high school.

Every year over 400 students take centre stage as part of the HSC Showcase season. SHAPE is a selection of outstanding works from HSC Design and Technology, Industrial Technology and Textiles and Design students and will be held at the Walsh Bay Arts Precinct from March 2025. Congratulations to the following students who have received nominations for possible inclusion in SHAPE: Rebecca B-P (Industrial Technology Multimedia), Amelia B (Industrial Technology Multimedia), Auriella B (Industrial Technology Multimedia), Sophie C (Industrial Technology Multimedia), Taali L (Industrial Technology Multimedia), Holiday N-V (Industrial Technology Multimedia), Ella P (Industrial Technology Multimedia), Elissa R (Industrial Technology Timber), Julia S (Industrial Technology Timber), Anika S (Industrial Technology Multimedia), Joshua T (Industrial Technology Timber), Lily T (Industrial Technology Timber) and Beau VDK (Industrial Technology Multimedia).

Principal's Message cont.

Congratulation's also to their dedicated teachers Ms Samojlowicz, Mr Hunter and Mr Hamed.

Congratulation's to all Year 12 students and I thank you for the privilege of sharing a small part of your lives.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all staff, students and their families a very happy and safe holiday.

Alison Gambino

Principal

Coming Up in Term 4

Week 1 Tues 15 Oct - HSC Exams begin

Week 1 Wed 16 Oct - Year 12 2025—Information Evening

Week 5 Mon 11 Nov - Year 9 Smashed Incursion (PDHPE)

Week 7 Wed 27 - Fri 29 Nov Year 9 Camp

Week 8 Wed 4 Dec - Annual Sports Presentation Assembly

Week 9 Mon 9 Dec - Annual Presentation Evening

Week 10 Wed 18 Dec - HSC Results morning tea and **final day of the year for all students**

Year 12—Industrial Technology Timber & Furniture Major Works (Nominated)



**Elissa Rich - Custom Design American
White Oak & Purple Heart Coffee Table**

**Julia Scott - Custom Design
American Oak Hallway Table**



**Lily Taylor - Custom Design American
White Oak Dressing Table with Mirror**

**Josh Tailby - Custom Design Scotland Island
Sourced Timber Hallway Table**



Farewell – Class of 2024



Year 12 Year Advisor Speech— Mel Gregan

Year 12, as everyone keeps reminding you - you made it! And so did your parents, Mrs Rous, Ms Bromley and I, just. What an experience the last 2 years has been, I am so glad I was able to be a part of it.

At the end of 2022 Mr Fairley tapped me on the shoulder and asked if I had thought about being the year 11 Year Advisor for 2023. I hadn't. My first question after "are you serious?" was "will Ms Rous still be around to talk to?" I knew I would need her knowledge and support if I was going to succeed. Secondly I rang my husband to ask for his advice, he said I should go for it, then he laughed and reminded me that there was a camp in year 11. Mr Fairley had left that detail out. I said yes anyway. Your year 11 camp was my first camp since 2006 and I have to say that despite the stress involved with organising it, it was the best camp I have ever been on and prior to becoming a mum I had been on many camps.

The reason I said yes to becoming your year advisor was because I already knew you were a great group of kids, a year group who I had (usually) enjoyed teaching. I remember you as wide eyed, often cheeky, year 7s. I shared 2 year 7 classes in 2019 so I met a lot of you. I have taught your year group every year from 7 until now, which doesn't always happen. Sharing with you the highs, and the lows, of your high school journey is something I have been privileged to be a part of. Seeing so many of you overcome challenges, both academic and personal over the years, and making it to this point makes me very proud.

As your year advisor for 11 & 12 I have been both infuriated with you and delighted with you, sometimes at the same time! More often delighted than infuriated thankfully. I was especially proud of you for getting behind the Bear Cottage fundraiser last week. Thank you to all of you and your families for that fantastic effort, the Children's Hospital Foundation who are in charge of raising money for Bear Cottage have also asked me to pass on their thanks for your amazing effort.

2022 was a very difficult year for me with my health, I wasn't sure I was up to the challenge of taking on the YA role for 2023. But I am so glad I listened to those who encouraged me to do it. 2023 and 2024 have definitely made me forget some of my challenges of 2022. I haven't always got it right in the last 2 years, but I've always had your well-being at the forefront of my mind and I've always done my best. That's key to what I'd like you to take away today - in life we don't always have the answer, we don't always get it right, but the important thing is to keep trying, take advice from those more experienced than you, keep doing your best, own your mistakes and learn from them. I hope I have set an example of trying to do that.

*Today marks the end of your 13 years of formal schooling, aside from those pesky HSC exams, however it also marks the beginning of your adult lives and all the things you will achieve there that you haven't even dreamed of yet. I am going to take my lead from Ms Rous and finish off with the words of Dr Seuss, **"Kid, you'll move mountains! Today is your day! Your mountain is waiting. So get on your way!"** Mel Gregan*

To the Graduating Year 12 Class of 2024

Congratulations! You made it. 13 years of schooling,

It has been my absolute joy and privilege to have been your advocate for your time at PHS. I have so many happy memories of our time together. I will cherish them and never forget the feeling I have right now as I reflect on all we have shared together and the friendships we have formed for life. In the words of A. A Milne, "How lucky am I to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard."

We did Canine Dogs, Peer Support, Rock and Water, RAISE mentoring, Y-Lead Experiences, Legal Aid, Headspace, had meetings with the Police Youth Liaison Officer, Goal setting interviews, subject selection Interviews, attended Brainstorm Productions and went on some fabulous excursions and camps together.

Trying to keep us all connected during Covid and the unprecedented lockdown, I sent out quizzes and quotes every day to you. That tradition stuck, as did having our 'word of the term' - respect, Just do it, Resilience, Perseverance, Courage, Confidence, Commitment, Smile, Choices, Attitude... Words that I hoped you would take on board and use to inspire your journey at school and in life in general.

I've loved seeing you at your award evenings and musical recitals and drama recitals and swimming and athletics gala days. I've loved hearing about your achievements away from school too -ice-skating, skiing, rowing, sailing, volunteering, Duke of Ed, and so much more.

Look back at how life became more serious – jokes and riddles during Year Meetings were replaced with NESAs requirements and N-warnings. How proud we were when we got to design our Senior Jackets and wear our senior uniforms.

Your camaraderie with each other has been next to none. With young people like you going out into the world I have so much faith in the future. Never underestimate the influence you have – whether you are working on a building site or in a board room, make yourselves heard and make the positive change that you know is right for yourself and those you advocate for. "How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world." Words from Anne Frank

To continue in my tradition, I'll end with two quotes that say it better than I possibly could.

"We all take different paths in life, but no matter where we go, we take a little of each other everywhere" - Tim McGraw

"Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened" - Dr. Seuss

Samantha Rous

2024 Captain's Speech— Jack & Cohen



Jack: Good evening, Ms Gambino, Ms Bromley, Ms Gegan, Ms Rous, teachers, parents, siblings, extended family and of course the greatest graduating class of all time, the class of 2024.

Cohen: Now graduates, I would like to think that you would know us by now but for all the parents, my name is Cohen and this is Jack and we were Pittwater High Schools 2024 school captains.

Jack: As we gather today, it's hard not to think back to that late January morning nearly six years ago when about 180 of us, aged 11 and 12, stood here, unsure of what lay ahead. Do you remember putting on your new uniform before it became worn from lunchtimes on the playground? I remember looking up at the seniors, thinking we'd never be that old or experienced. And yet, here we are. Over these six years, we've had countless unique experiences at Pittwater High that have shaped who we are today.

The past six years have taught us resilience. We survived a pandemic, even if most of it was spent cranking 90s in Fortnite or binge-watching Netflix while Ms. Savage's lessons on tectonic plates echoed through the empty halls of B Block, and Ms. Rous's riddles woke us up each morning.

They taught us teamwork. This was through group projects where some only presented the slides, and school camps where late-night sneakouts forged bonds deeper than blood, even if a bed frame broke and we were saved by Hugo van Geest's COVID incident. The laughter, support, and mateship in our community showed us that the most important aspect of life is the people we surround ourselves with.

They also demonstrated how to make the most of our time in whatever we do. Whether it was splattering colours at the Colour Run after an ambitious trampoline flip, cheering at carnivals, tackling the ultimate sushi roll challenge which was broadcasted to the world thanks to Reef Luedeke, or studying hard only to get 50% on our integration exam, these experiences pushed us to strive for greatness in everything we do.

Our time at Pittwater has taught us who we are and who we want to become. We've been guided by some amazing teachers and executives who not only taught us lessons from textbooks but also about life, teachers and executives who showed us more than just how to find the number of moles or the importance of the Crucible's form. They encouraged us to ask questions, to challenge the status quo, and to always be curious. They've shown us that it's not just about finding answers but about embracing the journey of discovery.

I want you now to take a moment to look around. Take a moment to think about all the memories of these halls. Now turn to the people around you. The friends and family who stood by you through challenges, celebrated your successes, and laughed with you along the way. Personally, I look around this room and I see the friendly face of Mr Christainsen whose mentor meetings were the reason for my sanity, I see the beautiful faces of my friends whose laughter and support dragged me through the even most stressful times, and I see my family who encouraged me to try my hardest in whatever I dreamt to achieve, all of whom I am truly forever grateful for.

2024 Captain's Speech continued.

Cohen: Now that our time at PHS has drawn to a close, it is a privilege to share these final farewells and reflect on what has been an incredible past six years. As we gather here, we are reminded of the countless memories, challenges, and triumphs that have brought us to this significant moment.

As we embarked on our high school journey, we were met with a world of possibilities. We found ourselves navigating through the rigours of academics, the excitement of extracurricular activities, and the invaluable lessons of personal growth. Together, we have laughed, learned, and grown. We faced challenges that seemed insurmountable, yet here we are, a testament to our resilience and determination.

Our journey would not have been possible without the unwavering support of those who believed in us. To our dedicated teachers, who have not only imparted knowledge but also inspired us to reach for the stars, we thank you. To our dedicated year advisors, Ms Gregan and Ms Rous, thank you for your support and kind words. Thank you to our Deputy, Ms Bromley and our Principal, Ms Gambino for supporting us through the marathon that is the HSC.

To our families, who have provided us with love and encouragement every step of the way, we are forever grateful. And to our friends, who have been our pillars of strength and companionship, thank you for making our time here memorable.

On a personal note, I would not be the person I am today if not for all of the wonderful friends and teachers, and my parents of course, who helped me through the last six years of my life, especially during year 12. Thinking about all the mentor meetings with Ms Metcalfe, the hours of band rehearsals with Dr Hardy and the before and after school maths consultations with Mr Hyunh, I would like to truly thank you all for the time you have spent investing in my future and I cannot fully express how much it means to me to have had the strong support network that I did, both inside and outside of school.

As we stand on the brink of the future, let us embrace it with open hearts and minds, knowing that we are prepared for the challenges ahead. We've shared countless memories, learned invaluable lessons, and grown into the people we are today. Now, it's time to move forward with confidence and purpose, carrying with us the strength and support we've found here.

Yet, as we look toward the future, we can't help but reflect on the significance of this moment. The word "last" is a powerful one, often evoking feelings of sadness. Over these past few weeks, we've experienced many lasts—our last English or Maths lesson, our last school assembly, the last time lining up at the canteen. Each "last" was a milestone that brought us to this very moment, and now, it's time to turn the page.

Jack: But with the sadness that comes with all the "lasts", is the understanding that what has come before has been filled with joy. So, even though we won't hear Mr Christensen's jokes anymore, and we won't have Mr Lapedjian's wise words of wisdom to guide us, and this is our last official school function, let's celebrate all that we have experienced and all that we have achieved. I urge you to hold onto the memories, the lessons, and the friendships that we have forged during our time in high school as we are forever bound together as the Pittwater High School class of 2024.

Jack and Cohen: Congratulations, Class of 2024!

2024 Pittwater High School Leaders



Yr 12 2024—Bring a Bear for Bear Cottage Superhero Day — Raised \$1,134



Year 12 2024 – Book Week, Colour Run



Year 12 2024—Fun Days



Year 12 2024—Zoo



Year 12—Goodbye from Oscar



Year 12 2024—Formal



**Farewell Class of 2024
Good Luck**



P & C

Shop for your School

Exciting news! **Shop for Your School** campaign has officially launched at Pittwater Place, Mona Vale. You can now support Pittwater High while you shop by registering your receipt. Every purchase counts towards helping Pittwater High go in the running to win a share of \$9,000. Plus, every registered purchase puts you in the running to win your own \$500 Gift Card. Let's make a difference together!

*Conditions apply. Log your receipts at: <https://www.pittwaterplacesfys.com.au/home>

P&C Socials

The P&C are on socials! Follow us now to stay in touch and let us know if you would like to get involved in any way too.

[INSTAGRAM](#) and Facebook [FACEBOOK](#) search for Pittwater High P and C

P&C Meeting

The P&C General Meeting for Term 3 was held on Wednesday 21 August, minutes will become available on the school website:

<https://pittwater-h.schools.nsw.gov.au/supporting-our-students/parents--carers-and-the-community/p-c/p-c-committees.html>

The P & C meet Wednesday of Week 5 each school term. A reminder of upcoming meetings will be posted on the school website and in future Newsletters. If you are available, please feel free to join us, all welcome.

All the best, Steve Hall
President, Parent and Citizens Association
Email: pittwaterhigh.president@gmail.com

