

PINEHURST GRADUATES

CLASS OF 2025



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EXECUTIVE PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

TO THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2025,

Congratulations on reaching this important milestone. Your graduation marks the end of one chapter and the start of another filled with challenge, discovery, and most importantly, opportunity. You have worked hard to get here, and now is your time to celebrate.

Your time at Pinehurst has been rich with friendship, achievement, and growth in every way. You have excelled in all areas of school life, demonstrating yourselves as thoughtful, capable, and compassionate young adults. You have learned to lead, to listen, and to stand up for what is right. These are the qualities that will serve you well beyond our school gates.

Throughout your journey here, you have much to celebrate, not just your victories but also the challenges you've met with courage, determination, and humour. You've realised that progress isn't always a straight line, and success rarely comes without a few stumbles along the way. But each time, you got back up, supported each other, and kept moving forward. That resilience will serve you well on your path ahead.

As you move into the next steps of life, remember that you are capable, worthy, and needed. The world isn't just waiting for your arrival; it needs your ideas, kindness, courage, and voice. When it seems like there's so much that divides us, it's your character that will find ways to bring us together.

Wherever the future takes you, carry with you not only the knowledge and skills you've gained but also the values you've learned at Pinehurst. Take them proudly into your universities, workplaces, and adventures. They will guide you as you make decisions, build new relationships, and leave your mark on the world. Don't be afraid to dream boldly, fail bravely, and rise with resilience.

I offer you the simple advice of staying connected. The friendships you've built here are some of the most important you will ever make. Time can slip by quickly, with weeks and months suddenly turning into years. Don't let that happen to you. Keep in touch, check in on one another, and make the effort to reconnect because the chance to share time and stories is always worth it.

On behalf of all the school, thank you for the way you have led our student body. You have strengthened our community, brought joy and energy to our days, and left a mark that will inspire those who follow.

Congratulations, Class of 2025. Make sure you take the time together to pause, take it in, and then step forward with confidence. Wherever life takes you next, step boldly, stay connected, and continue to shine.

Mike Waller
Executive Principal



CLASS OF 2025



BACK ROW:

Damian Kim
Ella Deng
Lea Chapman
Cody Burnand
Chloe Birkenstock
Milly Ma
Alexander Lindsay
Alex Xu
Nasha Zhang
Jason Wang
Hyemin Park
Michelle Hao
Steven Xu
Kohtaro Nozaki

4TH ROW:

Yazen Nakasha
Allen Luo
Jack Zhao
Wanyu Liang
Charles Shen
Anna Gifford
April Yang
Tara Sabor
Yeenok Zhang
Kenneth Wang
Audrey Neal
Sherrie Li
Raymond Zhang
Colen Yan
Sam Yang
Andrew Yousif
Hyun Jae Lee

3RD ROW:

Benson Zhu
Roger Lin
Louisa Joyce
Zachary Taylor
Seth Lim
Eric Wang
Harry Teng
Joshua Leuchars
Jerry Yang
Kai Yu
Beilin Zhang
Anson Ji
Brian Wang
Arvin Bhuiyan
Edward Zeng
Jack Ji

2ND ROW:

Cynthia Zhang
Elizabeth Francis
Angela Jin
Emma Liang
Abigail Lai
Jessie Aakjaer
Churui Zhang
Lily Li
Evie England-Hall
Elaine Cao
Kelly Liu
Zoe Atkinson
Lianna Heng
Miso Ryu
Holly Yuan
Lucy Song
Sarah He

FRONT ROW:

Isabelle Wilcock
Veronica Xia
Alina Wang
Soraya Su
Crystal Su
Olivia Zha
Oren Dabbach
Sissi Yang
Daniel AlSammak
Brianna Lee
Monica Mu
Hermione Xie
Kita Weir
Hailey Li
Lisa Gu
Evangalina Clark

ABIGAIL (WING YAN) LAI

Started 2021



"Why is it so hard to accept the party is over?" - SZA

An English poet once wrote, *"'tis remarkable that they who talk least hear the most."* That seems written with you in mind, Abigail.

Though quiet at first, you were never passive. You listened and observed, and when your humour surfaced, it revealed your gift for connecting with others, always accompanied by that quirky delight in being in the know about the latest goings on in the school.

You've also left your mark on the school in very visible ways. From the walls you've painted to the decks you've stained; your handiwork is scattered around like little reminders that you were here. It became almost tradition to see you wandering the halls each holiday, often with your partner in crime, though just as often you were found in the staffroom, happily chatting over a meal. In many ways, you stopped being just a student and became part of the woodwork.

The trips to Houston gave me the chance to see your growth first-hand. You threw yourself into every challenge, with a wonderful naivety your friends adore.

And for me, nothing will ever beat the day I convinced you the urine samples you and your group were testing belonged to Mr Boden. The mix of shock and horror on your face was absolute gold, and a fitting reminder of that wonderful innocence with which you seem to see the world. Long may you continue to do so.

Peter Reynolds



"A new chapter begins as the prologue has come to an end"



ALEX XU

Started 2016

Since joining Pinehurst School in Year 4, Alex has maintained a quiet yet steady presence, consistently demonstrating thoughtfulness, resilience, and a strong sense of integrity. While he may not have been a regular on the sports fields, he has pursued excellence in individual disciplines such as fencing and snow sports, reflecting his commitment to personal growth beyond the classroom.

Alex's academic dedication has been a defining characteristic throughout his time at Pinehurst. His positive attitude, genuine smile, and calm demeanour have made him a valued member of the school community.

In moments of uncertainty or challenge, Alex has reliably offered his support with grace and enthusiasm, often bringing a sense of calm and optimism to those around him.

Looking ahead, Alex is determined to continue stepping beyond his comfort zone. With aspirations to become a pilot and explore the world, he is preparing to take control of his own journey—both figuratively and literally. His future is bright, filled with promise and guided by the same quiet determination and courageous spirit that have defined his years at Pinehurst.

Alex leaves behind a legacy of perseverance, kindness, and a deep commitment to self-improvement.

Jason Goforth



ALEXANDER LINDSAY

Started 2019



*"It's not about the journey
or the destination, it's about
the company."*

From the very start of his Pinehurst journey in Year 7, his first Homeroom teacher, Erica Cataloni, recognised his ability when she commented "Alexander is a polite, friendly member of our homeroom ... and he ... takes his specific roles of responsibility seriously and is sure to excel". And over the years Alex has excelled in both his academic work and in his extracurricular activities. He became a Y12 Scholar based on his excellent IGCSE results, has played guitar in both the college Rock and Jazz Bands from Y7 – 12, played tennis for the school in Y7 – 9, performed musical items during assemblies, and participated in numerous interhouse events over the years.

Alex has many qualities that will serve him well in the years to come – cheerful, positive, respectful, good-humored, organised, mature, self-disciplined, and calm.

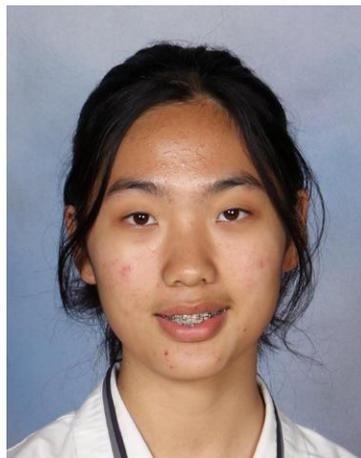
Alex will start a conjoint degree next year - a Bachelor of Commerce and a Bachelor of Global Studies. As his Global Perspectives teacher, I know that his perseverance and friendly manner will impress others and reward Alex with the success he deserves.

"The future depends on what you do today."
- Mahatma Gandhi

Paul Le Lievre



*"We take the best of us here,
wherever we go next."*



ALINA WANG

Started 2023

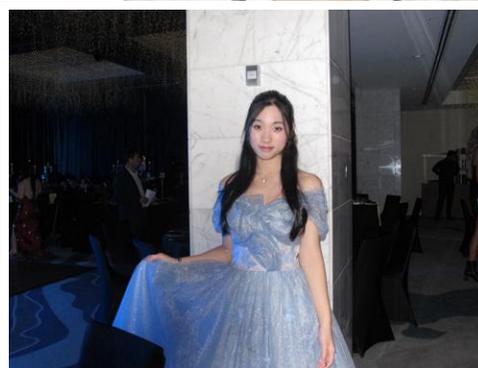
Alina is the kind of student whose quiet presence belies an impressive precision and dedication. Thoughtful, meticulous, and hardworking, she approaches everything with focus and care. Whether in Maths, Biology, or Literature, Alina has shown an incredible attention to detail that elevates her work and inspires those around her.

Over her final two years, her essays in English blossomed beautifully. They are insightful, articulate, and reflective of a mind that loves to engage with ideas deeply. She has consistently balanced her academic commitments with involvement in school life, showing skill and dedication across many areas. Polite, diligent, and quietly determined, Alina's work ethic is second to none.

One of the amazing things I have observed about Alina is how carefully she protects her friendships and cares for those around her. She is the first to congratulate others and being a selfless friend and champion of others is going to serve her well as she moves on to university and beyond.

Alina, your consistency, intelligence, and thoughtful approach to learning have been a joy to witness. Keep pursuing excellence, keep engaging with the world around you, and never underestimate the quiet impact you make. The future is brighter because of students like you.

Lauren Campbell



ALLEN (YUZHE) LUO

Started 2019



*"I'll let the breeze
decide the tale."*

Allen, you've been such a special part of our POD since you joined in 2021. From day one, you brought a cheeky energy that turned our quiet group into a place full of laughter and fun. You had a way of encouraging everyone to join in, whether it was a POD challenge, dressing up, or showing house spirit in inter-house events — even when some didn't feel like it, you managed to bring them along with your enthusiasm.

What stood out most was the way you cared for others. Behind the jokes and laughter was someone who genuinely wanted everyone to feel included and part of the team. You made our group stronger, not just through your energy, but through the way you looked out for people.

Over the years, it's been amazing to see you grow. By the time you were a senior, you showed a real focus on your studies and leadership, stepping up as a role model while still keeping that fun-loving spark that makes you who you are.

Thank you for everything you've given to our POD, Allen — you will be missed!

Bryony West



"The best moments in life happen when your eyes are closed."



ANDREW YOUSIF

Started 2020

Andrew arrived at Pinehurst in 2020 armed with a Canadian passport, a sharp wit, and a presence that could lift a room full of tired tweens at 9 a.m. In five years, nothing has changed. From the moment he joined our A2 Language class in 2025, he brought a spark of energy, great humour, and genuine kindness that made him an instant favourite.

Whether he was dissecting texts with surprising insight or cracking jokes that somehow made phonics bearable, Andrew has been a stellar addition to Pinehurst's classrooms. His ability to form strong friendships, lift the mood, and keep things real has made him not just a great student, but an excellent human being.

Andrew's impact at Pinehurst will be lasting. As College Prefect and Head of Sports council, students have continued to turn to Andrew for academic advice and sporting wisdom. In doing so, Andrew has led with excellence, and made those around him glad they came to school that day. As he heads off into the next chapter—armed with intelligence, humility and a Canadian accent that won't budge — we know he'll continue to light up every room he walks into.

Pinehurst will miss him terribly. But we also know the future is bright with Andrew in it.

Alex Pennycuik



ANGELA JIN

Started 2012



"This might as well happen."

Professor Angela. A wise owl.

If there was ever anyone to embody the proverb *"Still waters run deep,"* it is Angela Jin.

Angela began her Pinehurst journey as a new entrant and I bet even then, she was contemplating the meaning of life, wondering whether snack time was just a metaphor for the fleeting nature of joy, and if long division was humanity's attempt to impose order on chaos.

From those early days to now, Angela has remained unmistakably herself. Never without her trusty, non-uniform brown tartan scarf, she could often be found at the back of the class, gazing out the window... and just when you thought she wasn't listening ... *BAM!* she'd hit you with the most devastatingly insightful comment you've ever heard.

Of course, even deep thinkers need good company. Angela spent her time with an amazing group of friends who inspired her to get out of bed and come to school... *most* days.

Her mysterious aura extended even to her belongings, like the time she carried a book up the stairs and it vanished without a trace. We're still not sure what happened, but we suspect the book feared her intellect and fled.

Now, Angela is heading off to Australia to study History, which feels fitting, because one day, historians will be studying *her*.

Stephanie Curtis



"Bye."



ANNA GIFFORD

Started 2013

From the moment Anna stepped into Pinehurst as a new entrant, she quietly began a journey that would blossom in the most remarkable way. In her early years, Anna was shy and reserved, so much so that she once hid under a desk to avoid giving a speech. Her quiet nature was a defining trait through primary school, and when I first met her in Year 7, she was still very soft spoken. If I could get her to speak at all, it was often just a whisper.

Fast forward to Year 13, and Anna is now a confident, chatty young woman. I occasionally find myself trying to get her to stop talking. Her growth in confidence and self-expression has been quite impressive.

Over the years, Anna has explored many career ideas from florist to hair stylist, flight attendant to occupational therapist. Each idea has reflected her creativity, her care for others, and her curiosity about the world. Whatever path Anna chooses next, I know she will bring her unique spark and determination to it.

Anna, it has been a pleasure to get to know you and work beside you all these years. I will miss our chats and your humour. I wish you all the best as you step into the next chapter of your life. Good luck!

Colleen Kenney



ANSON (ZIHAN) JI

Started 2017



"I don't wanna end this season on a bad episode."

Anson has always known how to make an entrance.... and an exit. After all, not many students can say they were helicoptered out of the Kaimai ranges after being hit by a tree. It's a story that sums up Anson perfectly: dramatic, unexpected, and somehow still hilarious.

He started at Pinehurst in the last term of Year 5 and has grown into a social, loud, and slightly ditsy house captain.

He might have started out as a bit of a troublemaker, but thanks to Mr Johansen's influence, he's channelled that energy into the (slightly more) mature student we see today. Over the years Anson has made some forever friends, and I'm sure they will keep him on the straight and narrow as he heads off to Sydney to study finance.

Anson, we'll miss your antics and your ability to turn any moment into a story. Good luck in Sydney, try not to get hit by any more trees!

Nadia Perrin



"I take it back, I want to stay in school and complain about it all day."



APRIL YANG

Started 2014

I have taught April for four years, first for History and then for Classics, and it has been such a joy to get to know her. She is a hardworking, motivated student, but what really stands out about April is her kindness and positivity. She is always super friendly and excited to both learn and to just have a chat. April has so much historical empathy and has brought fascinating and fresh new perspectives into Classical Studies topics.

She started Pinehurst as a tiny little Year 2 student and has been consistently exemplifying the Pinehurst values ever since (at least, I assume she did so in the primary. I wasn't at Pinehurst myself then – nor for a while following, mind you – but it's hard to not imagine anything but a positive, friendly, happy 6 year old with a genuine love of learning and her friends. It's impossible for someone who shows those things so clearly now to have not had it start from an early age). April is extremely well liked by her friends, peers, other students, and teachers.

We will miss you so much, and the University of Auckland is lucky to acquire such a personable student of food science. I wish you all the very best, April.

Tayla McRae



ARVIN BHUIYAN

Started 2021



"I can't cry about having too much on my plate when my goal was to eat."

The first time I met Arvin, was as a new student to Pinehurst in my Year 9 English class. Lucky for him, he got to stay for a whole three years. I had the pleasure of watching him grow from a baby-faced, unsure newbie to a confident, smart and charming young man. Over the years he learnt to articulate his ideas and share his opinions and developed his go-to excuse for unfinished homework: "My work never saved online." This is one of those universal lessons that I am sure will serve him well for the trickier moments in life.

Arvin is planning to study law when he leaves Pinehurst. Just add a pair of glasses and he will pull off the look – suave, smooth and ready for business. Just don't split your pants on the job like you did at the aBall and you will be all good.

Besides confidence, charm and the gift of the gab, Arvin does have other qualities that will make him successful in life. He is perceptive and empathetic and just a genuinely nice person. I am excited for you as you move onto this next chapter in your life. I know you will make a positive difference wherever you go, and in whatever you choose to do! Don't forget where you learnt to be brilliant and come and visit!

Karen Schulte



*"She don't believe in shootin' stars.
But she believe in shoes and cars."
- Kanye*



AUDREY NEAL

Started 2021

Audrey started Pinehurst School in Year 9. I remember meeting her with her parents before school started. I was told she liked swimming and dance. I also noticed how quiet she was. As the years progressed, I would see Audrey in the morning with wet hair from early morning trainings at the pool. Her name appeared next to all of the swimming events with great success. She was still, very quiet. Before I knew it, she was in year 13. Still arriving with wet hair but driving herself to school now.

Audrey, it has been an honour watching you progress through your college life as both your POD teacher and maths teacher in Year 11. I wish you all success in your endeavors outside of school.

*"Go confidently in the direction of your dreams.
Live the life you have imagined."
- Henry David Thoreau*

Paige Bayliss



BEILIN ZHANG

Started 2021



"Shoutout to Google and YouTube for always being there."

Beilin, who joined Pinehurst in Year 9, has built a treasure trove of memories and takes pride in completing a Duke of Edinburgh tramp. Known for his sharp wit and sense of humour (including the unforgettable moment he meowed in class), he brings both focus and laughter to every lesson.

Though few may know it, Beilin has, on occasion, missed school, not due to illness, but because his alarm clock occasionally wins their morning battles. These rare absences aside, he's consistently funny, hardworking, and a joy to have in class. Whether tackling complex coding challenges or delivering perfectly timed one-liners, Beilin always gives his best.

His ability to balance academic dedication with a light-hearted presence has made him a standout in the classroom. He lifts the energy of those around him, making learning not only productive but genuinely enjoyable.

As he graduates, we will miss not only his talent and effort but also the unique spirit he brings to every day. While his future career path is still unfolding, there's no doubt success awaits him. May his journey ahead be filled with clean code, minimal bugs, and just the right amount of whitespace.

Michelle Gallagher



"Set your heart ablaze. Go beyond your limits." - Rengoku Kyojuro



BENSON (BINGCHENG) ZHU

Started 2021

Bingcheng, did you lose your ear-pods again? Not sure how many times this notice appeared on the Schoolbox News in 2025. With hopes of becoming an engineer, here is your first design challenge.

He left Shanghai just in time to join New Zealand for a 3-year travel ban to China during Covid, at 11 years of age. The saying goes, what doesn't kill you, makes you stronger. For Bingchen this meant adopting the Kiwi culture. Seven years later we can say, he is one of us.

Bingcheng started his Pinehurst journey in Year 9. His friendly and easy-going nature quickly helped him find a tribe, with whom he had volleyball, table tennis, robotics and a love for all things meat related in common. Someone once said "BBQ is not just a meal; it's a memory in the making". Bingcheng whole heartedly agrees.

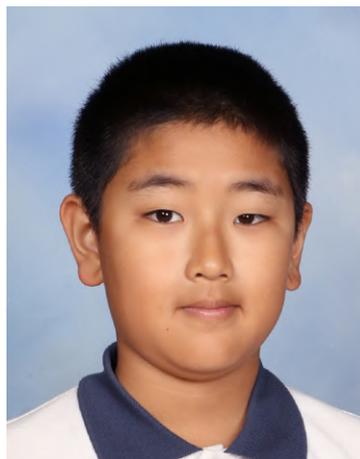
My time with Bingcheng in accounting, showed me that he was one of the most respectful and sincere students, I have had the privilege to teach. Bingcheng, I know that your logical approach to problem solving and love for numbers, accounting included, will steadfastly support you in fulfilling your dream. Dream big.

Jacqui Rea



BRIAN (ZHISHUO) WANG

Started 2017



*"I have been very happy
in school these 7 years."*

Brian started at Pinehurst in the last term of Year 5, and although he has always been one of the quieter students, he is also one of the most cheerful. If you have ever walked past him on campus, you'll know he is the first to smile and say hello. Brian can regularly be found at the back of a classroom (because his laptop needs charging?) with his screen on the dimmest setting. Of course, we are all confident this was not a work avoidance tactic!

Brian is aiming to study Electrical Engineering at the Auckland University of Technology next year, but his mum is the one who deserves an honorary degree too, she has managed to make him a different breakfast every single day, which is possibly the most impressive academic achievement in this entire book. Brian, your quick smile and cheerful nature will be missed. I hope AUT appreciates your good manners and your excellent breakfast routine.

Wishing you all the best as you wire up your future!

Nadia Perrin



*"How lucky am I to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard."
- Winnie the Pooh*



BRIANNA LEE

Started 2022

Brianna is one of those students who lights up every room she enters. Those braids though! Brianna's laugh, her warmth, and her sheer joy are impossible not to notice. Humble to a fault, she was genuinely shocked when she was named Deputy Head Girl—though, of course, it was the perfect choice.

Quietly intelligent, Brianna has an inquisitive mind that keeps her engaged in every lesson. There was only one time I saw the dark side of Brianna: the time she declared my tutorial a "low key waste of time". Shocking. The best part about this transgression was the fact that it created a need for Brianna to atone. The mileage I have gotten out of making her feel bad for this comment is unmatched.

Brianna, your warmth, humour, and curiosity have been a joy to witness. Thank you for not rolling your eyes whenever I got something maths or science related spectacularly wrong. Your service to the school has been exemplary and your integrity has been noticed by so many.

I can't wait to see where your intelligence, kindness, and spirit take you next.

Lauren Campbell



CHARLES SHEN

Started 2017



*"Tis in ourselves we are thus
or thus." - Lago*

Charles has been part of Pinehurst since Year 5 and joined my POD in Year 9. I also taught him in Year 10 Mathematics and AS Mathematics, and let's just say—there has never been a dull moment with him in class.

Charles describes himself as talkative, charitable, and "awesome sauce," and honestly, it's hard to argue with that. His proudest achievement at school was winning Best Dressed POD on POD Challenge Day this year—a moment he will probably remind us about forever. He also invented the birthday tradition in our POD, which has made celebrations just a little more special (and sometimes a little louder).

What makes Charles unforgettable is his ability to make anyone laugh and turn even the most awkward silence into something fun. He can hang out with any group of students, bridging gaps and making sure everyone feels included. Simply put, he's the glue (and the comic relief) that holds a POD together.

Next year, Charles will be off to UNSW to study Mechatronics Engineering—because of course someone this awesome needs a degree that sounds just as impressive. It has been such a pleasure to watch you grow from Year 9 through to Year 13, Charles! Pinehurst won't be the same without you.

Karen Park



*"Sometimes you will never know the value of a moment until it becomes a memory."
– Dr. Seuss*



CHLOE BIRKENSTOCK

Started 2019

Chloe, you have been the kind of student every teacher hopes to have — kind, considerate, and always ready to step up. Your peers hold you in such high regard, and it's easy to see why. You've embraced every opportunity with ease and enthusiasm, always the first to volunteer and the last to leave when help is needed.

Your commitment to Pinehurst has been nothing short of outstanding. From your dedication to Netball, to your work at the Busy Bean, you've shown what it means to be a true team player. Achieving your Duke of Edinburgh award was a proud moment, and a reflection of your determination and spirit.

Your leadership has been exemplary throughout your schooling, but it was your time as Student Council leader that truly shone. You led with strength, dedication, and a sense of fun that made every meeting better. You brought people together and made things happen.

I will miss our Business classes — your passion, your humour, and the way you made learning enjoyable for everyone around you. Chloe, you are destined for great things, and I can't wait to see where your journey takes you next.

Kate Hawthorn



CHURUI ZHANG

Started 2019

My first memory of Churui is when she arrived into my Year 7 Digitech class (not at the start of term I think) looking shy, bewildered and somewhat uncomfortable with all the new things around her, especially speaking English. Over the next 7 years I have seen her grow into a quietly confident, articulate and thoroughly accomplished member of our school community who is a pleasure to work with.

During that time, Churui has had many experiences that will stay in her memory, from making her own custom pizza with Elaine on Year 9 camp, strictly avoiding pineapple, to the sense of pride and satisfaction after enduring over 20 IGCSE exams at the end of Year 11. She can no doubt also add many times when she was quietly pleased with examination results that attest to her academic prowess as well as her steely determination to succeed. For me, I was especially impressed with the way that she volunteered to coach the, sometimes rowdy, Mathex teams in her last year at school - which might have been outside her comfort zone.

Churui is still working out how she might use her intellectual gifts in a career that makes an impact on others, but I'm sure we will all be impressed by her achievements in the future and wish her well.

Peter Jaques



"We live in the world when we love it." - Rabindranath Tagore



*"Been here 13 years...
Finally found the exit!"*



CODY BURNAND

Started 2013

Cody has been part of Pinehurst School since Year 0, and her bubbly, excited energy has lit up the corridors and airwaves ever since. Always seen with a bright smile and often walking alongside her close friend Anna, Cody brings warmth and joy to those around her.

Not every rule has always been adhered to, but there is also the 'Cody' way. She has developed a knack for skirting around the edges of the rule book (hopefully not a trait for the future lawyer). In year 10 she set herself an underwhelming target of 'Ds for GCSEs'. She responded well to encouragement and has grown in confidence to far outperform this at IG and AS level. Belief and determination were all that was needed.

Cody's beloved Pandora bracelet got tarnished on a Geography trip. She tried everything—polishing, pleading, possibly witchcraft for over two hours. It took her mum less than a minute to remedy it on Cody's return.

That moment, both funny and humbling, perfectly captures Cody's spirit: full of heart, persistence, and a touch of drama that makes her so endearing. Pinehurst won't be the same without her.

Nicole Lorimer & John Foden



COLEN YAN

Started 2019



"Group work is a public good."

"The single most powerful asset we all have is our mind. If it is trained well, it can create enormous wealth"
- Robert Kiyosaki

And so Colen began his Pinehurst journey with a clear mission: become an investment banker, make money, network, land a corner office at Goldman Sachs, launch a hedge fund, secure others' futures, make more money... and eventually explore space. Simple. His strategy? Be organised, efficient (time, after all, is non-renewable), seize every opportunity, stay curious, smile often, and study hard. Repeat as needed.

I met Colen in Year 10 Accounting, where his mature, methodical approach stood out. However, I also found his twin who is a spaghetti-and-tiramisu-loving Frozen fan with a karaoke addiction (good luck getting the mic back). A budding artist, who has a flare for the dramatic based on the art on my whiteboard. And a die-hard action movie enthusiast, known to host movie marathons that run longer than my accounting exams.

In summary, he's a loyal friend, a logical thinker, and a man of many talents. Colen, remember; while the fast lane may get you to your goals quicker, it's the scenic route — with its unexpected detours — that often brings the richest rewards.

Jacqui Rea



"When's this due again?"



CRYSTAL (XINYUE) SU

Started 2017

I have known Crystal since Year 9 and have been privileged to be her POD teacher for this time. She started her college journey being very quiet, but through the years had become very comfortable in POD and with me. Crystal is my trusted senior who I can count on to ensure 'appropriate' behaviour every POD time. She can be trusted to hold people to account and to also have a huge laugh with them.

Crystal has participated in all activities such as athletics day and buddy class. She was clearly very liked by her primary buddy and it was nice to see her in this role. Crystal has also been the source of many great photos of RPB with her selection of cameras.

It has been my honour to see you grow through the years and I wish you all the best with your future endeavors.

"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."

- Eleanor Roosevelt

Paige Bayliss



CYNTHIA ZHANG

Started 2022



*"They say good things take time...
no wonder I'm always late."*

Cynthia joined Pinehurst in Y10, and it has been a privilege to witness her grow from a bubbly and friendly girl into a mature and poised young woman who is ready for the next adventure.

Although she had many cultural successes throughout the years, notably her involvement with the KBB Music Festival, College Orchestra, Mooting Club, and as a Prefect, it was her badminton skills that initially caught my attention. Cynthia was soon selected for the Girls Premier Team, winning the North Harbour competition 3 times. This year at the NZSS National Badminton Tournament, the team finished 2nd in NZ, an accomplishment Cynthia should be extremely proud of. Her sporting excellence was also matched by her academic achievements as a Pinehurst Scholar, and highlighted by her POD Teacher Mrs Sandy Liu, who wrote ... "Academically, Cynthia's performance has been exceptional, indicative of her dedication, high standards, and intellectual curiosity."

As if this was not enough, Cynthia was placed Top 3 in NZ for the International Psychology Olympiad. Next year, Cynthia is thinking of studying either Psychology or Math in America.

*"The future belongs to those who believe
in the beauty of their dreams."*

- Eleanor Roosevelt

Paul Le Lievre



"The goal in life is not to live forever but to create something that will." - Juice WRLD



DAMIAN (JIHOO) KIM

Started 2019

Damien began at Pinehurst in Year 7 and has created many lasting memories. A standout experience was completing tramps with friends as part of the Duke of Edinburgh Award. One particularly cherished moment was spending a night on a sand dune during Year 9 camp. Falling asleep under the stars to the sound of waves remains an unforgettable highlight.

A moment of academic pride came in Year 8, when he achieved 100% in a mathematics exam, showcasing his strong focus and determination. Among the lighter memories, his performance in the Year 7 camp play stands out as both entertaining and slightly embarrassing. Though fondly remembered by all.

Few might know that Damien is a fan of the Trash Taste podcast, offering a fun glimpse into his interests beyond school. Looking ahead, he aspires to become a software engineer, a field perfectly suited to his analytical strengths.

You have grown tremendously over the past few years, both in skill and confidence. Your quiet determination, respectful nature, and consistent effort have set you apart. The progress you have made in programming reflects not only your ability but also your perseverance. Keep challenging yourself. You have everything it takes to succeed.

Michelle Gallagher



DANIEL ALSAMMAK

Started 2019



*"You will never know the value of a moment until it becomes a memory."
- Dr. Seuss*

Your potential was clear to me from the start Daniel... way back in Year 7 when you were cooking damper over the fire with your friends. Your kind and generous spirit and your innate ability to connect with others, adults or students, drew people to you.

Seven years later, it comes as no surprise that you've led our student body and served as an exemplary figurehead for the school. Thank you for your leadership and service Daniel - your power of influence has been far reaching. Discerning, poised, charismatic. Zero pretence, authentic by nature and never taking yourself too seriously. Not only did you embody our school values, you also brought a rare blend of maturity, light-heartedness and boyish charm to your role as Head boy.

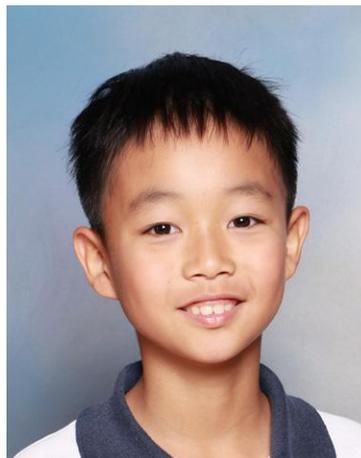
It's not just as a leader that you have impressed. Your tireless work ethic and commitment to your studies have resulted in excellent academic achievement. Combined with your insatiable appetite for new experiences and to be challenged, these qualities that will undoubtedly serve you well in the future.

It's been a privilege to watch you grow and become the young man you are today, Daniel. Keep being consistent, determined, and willing to work for what matters - I have no doubt you will be successful at anything you put your mind to.

Joe Johansen



"We've met the best of each other in the best of times."



EDWARD (QING TAI) ZENG

Started 2016

Edward is quietly remarkable—someone who doesn't need to make a fuss to make an impression. His essays were long, thoughtful, and meticulously crafted, reflecting a mind that is both analytical and patient. Beyond the classroom, he's been involved in chess club, served as Senior Librarian, and contributed meaningfully to UNICEF initiatives, showing a generosity of spirit and a commitment to community.

Confident in himself yet always a great listener, Edward has a presence that reassures those around him. He spent many lessons with his eyes fixed on his laptop screen, which was slightly unnerving- 'am I being fact checked?', I wondered. Is he quietly planning world domination? Each time I thought he might be off task, he would share a genuinely thoughtful insight and my off-task radar would quieten. Edward gets things done, quietly and effectively, while still making everyone feel valued.

Edward, your intelligence, integrity, and calm confidence have been a joy to witness. Keep leading, keep listening, and keep excelling. You are sure to make a difference wherever you go.

Lauren Campbell



ELAINE (LEYI) CAO

Started 2021



*"Get out of your comfort zone
and let me in."*

Elaine started school here in 2021 in Year 9, bringing a quiet cheeriness to our community. She has really treasured all the friends she has made and the time spent with them, both enjoying their camaraderie and also learning from them and others. She has proudly represented the school in the Mathex team and has enjoyed learning about Literature (although she claims she is not that good at it) – and it seems just like the Elaine we know to sense the pride and simple enjoyment that she has gained from these things.

Over the years, Elaine's sense of humour has also become more pronounced and she is often to be seen laughing and joking with friends (although sometimes that laugh has fallen into an awkward silence which has embarrassed her severely!) Not only this, but she has become a more confident, self-assured person who is not afraid to make the joke, even a mathematical one, at an appropriate time.

Perhaps she is joking when she says she wouldn't mind being a landlady in the future, so that she can collect the rent every day, but I'm sure none of us would be surprised if Elaine takes some of her spark and heads off in an unheard-of direction to use her talents and her wit.

Peter Jaques



*"The world is a magical place,
be the bravest you've ever been."*



ELIZABETH FRANCIS

Started 2013

"You're too precious to put into words. I think ... it's like one of Theodore's buttons. If you asked him why he cared about them so, he would tell you it's because they exist at all."

- T.J. Klune, *The House in the Cerulean Sea*

If you happen to happen upon 302 at 7:30am, you might capture a glimpse of Elizabeth. She will be either immersed in her latest literary feast, transported into a world of fantasy, or she will have a pencil or brush in hand, infusing her ideas onto paper.

Elizabeth should not be underestimated. She is keenly observant. Although she might not share her thoughts for all to hear, her voice is strong, confident and insightful. Sometimes these insights have led to 'rolling around on the floor laughing' moments. Sometimes these insights have sparked a train of dialogue into the nature of people and the world.

There is a wall in the art room, engulfed in the work created by Elizabeth. It has been a year of self discovery for her. Discovering that exploration and experimentation, means leaving behind doubts and uncertainty and stepping into the unknown. This is what creativity is all about. Leaning into what might exist if you let yourself try.

Time spent observing Elizabeth create art has been like one of Theodore's buttons. Precious.

Kei ōu ringaringa te ao - The world is yours.

Nicole Rakete



ELLA DENG

Started 2019



"...Tell me this is the end."

In just two years of teaching Ella in Design and Technology, I've witnessed a remarkable journey of growth, resilience, and understated brilliance. Though naturally reserved, Ella found her voice through creativity—her ideas flourished in Technology, where she could express herself through design rather than words.

Ella's subtle leadership stood out. Peers often sought her help, and she gave it generously, yet wisely knew when to step back and encourage independence. Her ability to balance kindness with firmness is a rare trait.

Despite facing challenges of varying nature, Ella never let adversity define her. Her perseverance shone brightest when she lost access to her laptop—and months of work—with no complaint, no drama. Instead, she adapted, re-planned, and succeeded. That kind of grit will serve her well in life.

Ella's dream is to study architecture, and I have no doubt she will thrive. Her calm determination, thoughtful approach, and ability to overcome setbacks make her a future force in the field. I look forward to the day her name is spoken alongside the likes of Zaha Hadid.

Ella, keep refining those wood joints—and keep building your future with the same grace and strength you've shown here.

Yvonne Berger



"I wait every year for summer and it is usually good, but it is never as good as that summer I am always waiting for."



EMMA (SHIYU) LIANG

Started 2018

Emma is a force to be reckoned with. She is quietly fierce, impossibly capable, and always several moves ahead of everyone else. Her achievement as top in New Zealand for IG Literature is a stand-out moment during her time at Pinehurst. Her academic success speaks for itself, but it's her character that truly stands out. She gets on with business without fuss or fanfare, approaching every task with precision, focus, and grace.

Emma has been involved in debating during her time at Pinehurst and can be credited with helping to build the school's reputation as formidable in the Debating sphere. She is calm, unflappable, and armed with arguments so sharp that the opponents wish they'd stayed home. You'd never see her boast, but if you've faced her across a debate floor, you'd know she's one of the fiercest minds in the room.

Beyond her intellect, Emma is a careful listener and a wonderfully supportive friend - steady, thoughtful, and kind. Emma, your quiet strength and brilliance will carry you far. Keep speaking with that quiet authority the world needs more of.

I wish you all the very best.

Lauren Campbell



ERIC WANG

Started 2017



"Remember - even if you're done with school, you're never done learning... or procrastinating"

Eric's Pinehurst journey began in Year 6 and in the blink of an eye, his final year of secondary education arrived. In this whirlwind of camps, tramps, exams, leadership roles, friendships, and the occasional romantic subplot, Eric has collected a treasure trove of memories and life lessons that has helped shape him into a polite, conscientious and driven young man.

Eric joined accounting in Year 10. It was more about the camaraderie of friends, than learning about the language of business. However, his love for numbers and all things money related, soon cemented his relationship with the subject, or so he claims!

Over the past four years, I've come to understand a few key truths about Eric: punctuality is more of a suggestion; he doesn't let fear of the unknown stand in the way of new experiences; when he fully commits to a task he is passionate about, he gives a 101% and he can be swayed with most forms of sugar.

Eric, may your future be packed with wild adventures, meaningful moments, and a Time-Turner to fit it all in.

Chase your passions like they owe you money!

Jacqui Rea



*"Thank you to my sponsors:
ChatGPT and Save My Exams!"*



EVANGELINA CLARK

Started 2019

Evie is the kind of student every teacher dreams of- clever, diligent, and quietly brilliant. She's never needed the spotlight, happy to fly under the radar and let her work speak for itself- but I wasn't about to let that happen. Someone this talented deserves to be seen. Cue my constant declarations of Evie as my favourite.

A beautiful writer with an analytical mind, Evie has consistently produced work of the highest standard. Every essay, every response, every quietly thoughtful contribution in class showed not just intelligence, but genuine insight. She never missed a deadline- ever- and her calm, steady presence often anchored the room when everyone else was losing focus (myself included).

I'll never forget her Year 10 wheelie bag days, marching to the front row like she owned it- organised, prepared, and determined. That same quiet drive has carried her all the way through her senior years, earning her a place in a conjoint degree at university, where I have no doubt she'll continue to shine.

Evie, you've been a constant reminder that success doesn't always need noise or drama- it can come softly, through kindness, consistency, and quiet excellence. Thank you for your warmth, your calm, and your endless reliability. I look forward to hearing about your amazing successes.

Lauren Campbell



EVIE (EVELYN) ENGLAND-HALL

Started 2023



"It's very important to surround yourself with people that see you fully." - SZA

Evie will forever be remembered as the Glinda - sparkly, confident, and completely magnetic on stage. Her performance was so good it felt like she'd been born with a wand in one hand and perfect comic timing in the other. That same charm shines through in everything she does.

As Kauri House Captain, Evie has been nothing short of outstanding. She led her house to victory in the Waiata Challenge with energy, creativity, and just the right mix of humour and authority. She has that rare ability to make people laugh while also inspiring them to do their best - a true leader in every sense. It was no mean feat organising actions and encouraging others to actually raise their voices above one solitary decibel. She even made an accompanying video for Kauri House students to use when learning the actions. Youtube's next big thing?

I think it is worth mentioning two rebellious moments from the archives:

1. Evie was once told to remove non-uniform bracelets. TWICE IN ONE DAY.
2. Evie said a swear word in the PE changing rooms.

Who knows if these transgressions will hold her back from future success? Evie, you best hope not.

Funny, grounded, and effortlessly likeable, she's left a big mark on the school. Evie, keep leading with laughter and light—you really are Glinda-level golden.

Lauren Campbell



"Just Fiona."



FIONA (FENGYU) YANG

Started 2020

Fengyu, it has been such a pleasure to watch you grow during your time at Pinehurst. You bring a fun, playful energy to school life, and your warm "hello" — no matter where I was — never failed to brighten the day. You've always shown such respect and positivity, even when things weren't easy, and that quiet resilience is something truly special.

Your generosity and kindness are what make you shine. Whether it was supporting a new student, spending time with your buddy class, or simply being there for your friends, you always made others feel seen and valued. These moments were a delight to witness.

Through your time at school, you have been involved in the wider life of the school — from your commitment to the Basketball team to your involvement in the Environment Council, you've shown that you care deeply about your community and the world around you.

Fengyu, you are stronger than you think. You've already proven that you can face challenges with grace and humour. I know that wherever life takes you next, you'll bring that same kindness, strength, and spark that makes you so memorable.

Kate Hawthorn



FINN FALLWELL-KEARNEY

Started 2013



"I'd rather die before I come in last." - Playboi Carti

Can the real slim shady please stand up?

Finn has always been an entertaining character. His sense of humour, willingness to take a joke too far and good-natured antics are the characteristics of a young man who knows how to make the most out of life.

Finn is a social guy who enjoyed getting involved in everything at school from Water Polo to UN Youth. From a young age he made the most of the opportunities afforded to him and this is shown in the well-rounded young man he has become. He will miss all the people at school, and we will miss him too.

Finn is known for his insightful contributions. His knowledge is incredible, and I always enjoyed his one liners or 20-minute-deep dives, whether they were on topic or not – and you never knew which one you were going to get. Finn's best contributions always started with "I think we can all agree..." which would always be met with raucous laughter and vehement dissenting opinions from the rest of the class.

I know Finn will succeed in whatever he chooses to do in the future and wish him all the best.

Rachel Anderson



"The road to success is always under construction" - Lily Tomlin (Ms Frizzle)



HAILEY LI

Started 2019

Shiver me timbers! They say the medium is the message, but in this case, the message is loud and clear: Hailey has left her mark on this school in every medium possible – from the classroom to the stage, and everything in between.

Hailey's journey at Pinehurst started in 2019 and I've been privileged to work with her over her senior years, first in Enviro then in Media Studies. Hailey hasn't only been the first year 12 ever at Pinehurst to do AS Media, but also our first ever A2 Media student! She's fully participated in all aspects of media learning including deep and meaningful about social issues, postmodernism, and hatred for Mr. Beast. Across the school, Hailey's been heavily involved in her role as an Arts Council Leader, a prefect, and performed a variety of roles in our musicals such as Mr. Mayor in Seussical as her first lead role.

Her next journey is studying a Bachelor of Design Innovation where I know she will use her amazing critical thinking and creativity to do good.

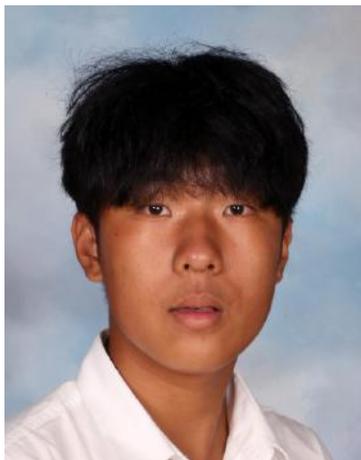
She wouldn't steal a car, she wouldn't steal a handbag, but Hailey has stolen the hearts of Pinehurst.

Laura Curwood



HARRY (YICHONG) TENG

Started 2021



"Fish and bear's paw cannot be had at the same time." -Mencius

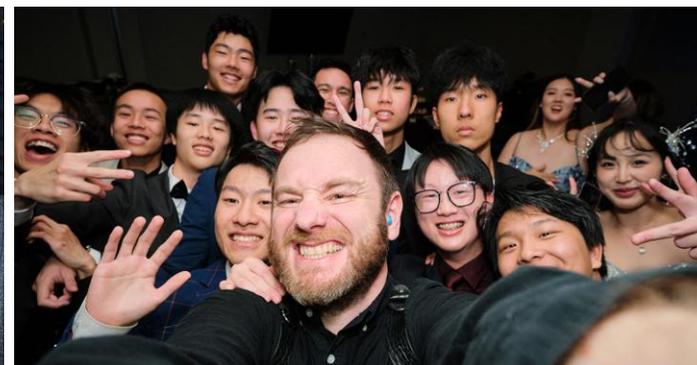
Harry, it has been a pleasure to see your quiet determination and growth over the years. You've always carried yourself with politeness and calm, but beneath that exterior is a drive to succeed that has never gone unnoticed.

Your talent on the basketball court is undeniable. The discipline and effort you put into training have made you an outstanding player. The energy during interhouse games when you stepped onto the court was next level — even the other Deans were keeping tabs, knowing their chances were slim! You've earned that reputation through hard work and consistency.

While many of our interactions may have involved reminders about your shirt, lateness, or wearing the wrong house colours, they were always paired with a quick apology. More importantly, I've seen you mature into a thoughtful and capable young man.

I know your next steps are exciting, even if you've kept that excitement well hidden behind your serious side. As LeBron James once said, *"Don't be afraid of failure. This is the way to succeed."*

Kate Hawthorn



"We didn't realize we were making memories, we just knew we were having fun."



HERMIONE (QIYU) XIE

Started 2019

Hermione is not one of those people who attract attention to themselves, but she is nonetheless a really solid, valued part of our school community. Since arriving in year 7 as a shy newbie – I still remember that Year 7 Digitech class – she has become a confident, accomplished and resilient scholar and friend.

On the outside, Hermione appears generally pretty serious and sensible in my experience, but there have been times, especially in conversation with friends, when she shows another side of herself – sporting a great big smile, laughing and joking around. This has been a highlight of her time at school giving her many treasured memories. And it epitomises her hidden depths to find out that she has an excellent idea for an improvement to school life: have an extra day off on a Wednesday as a respite of calm in the busy week.

There is obviously more to Hermione when you discover her career plan, which is to be a billionaire. No doubt she will have a plan in mind, but it will likely include some of the confidence she gained attempting Maths Competition papers when she had very little idea what to do.

I'm sure we can look forward to seeing her somewhere in the future, serious and yet also full of humour, doing something innovative and intellectual.

Peter Jaques



HOLLY YUAN

Started 2021



*"Your dreams are excited
to meet you too."
- Sunghoon*

Grace is an apt word to describe Holly. She is graceful in her movements, and her speech elegant. Holly moves through the world quietly and with dignity.

It was evident, right from the time that Holly began at Pinehurst as a Year 9 student, that she is a talented artist. Her work graces the walls and screens around campus. In her work you see the strength of her voice, the conviction in her purpose and steadfastness in her commitment to her craft.

Being in Holly's presence is like sitting inside the softest pearlesque pink. She brings warmth, calm and serenity with her into the spaces she resides. Her words are considerate, soothing and delivered with a smile that lights up the room. She is a presence that reminds others to slow down, to breathe, and to take each moment as it comes.

Holly, I hope you know that the world needs people like you. Ones that remind them that you can pursue excellence and remain centred.

What a gift you are. 宁静致远 (Níng jìng zhì yuǎn)

"Serenity leads to far-reaching goals."

Nicole Rakete



"Now I could let these dream killers kill my self-esteem or use my confidence as the steam to power my dreams." -Ye



HUNTER SAVILL

Started 2021

Hunter is one of those down-to-earth people who make such a difference to a school – he gets on with things, is generally cheerful and positive, and perseveres through challenges. He was a stalwart, reliable pod mentor through a turbulent time for his pod and continued with his low-key support of others around him well after official duties were expected of him. Some of this natural altruism is no doubt behind his treasured memories of the trip to Borneo, volunteering in small communities.

Hunter is clearly a well-loved member of his friend group – why else would they allow him to see exactly where each one of them was at any hour of the day?? No doubt those friendships were built up with shared experiences, perhaps including the landing of the helicopter on the Silver tramp, or running into Sean so hard that Hunter was concussed and had to go to A & E, or winning MVP in a volleyball competition. But most of us were unaware of Hunter's hidden talents in cheerleading, culminating in a top secret trip to the United States in April 2025.

Hunter's dream is to create a brand that really gets traction in the marketplace – we all look forward to seeing how his talents shine as he finds his niche and thrives.

Peter Jaques



HYEMIN PARK

Started 2023



"First Day Out"

Hyemin — you're late!

Always late to POD, but always arriving with poise, a smile, and a calm that made it feel like we were the ones rushing. She joined Pinehurst in Year 11 and made a memorable entrance by confidently walking into the wrong classroom on her very first day – a classic Hyemin moment.

Her secret superpower? The ability to nap anywhere, anytime. This rare and enviable talent was occasionally spotted in English class, where she somehow managed to look peaceful and stylish mid-snooze.

Hyemin brought warmth and energy to every lunchtime with her lovely group of friends, chatting and laughing about everything from the serious to the silly. She also served on the Sports Council, contributing her enthusiasm and team spirit to school life.

She's especially grateful to the teachers who believed in her and encouraged her every step of the way – and to Mrs Perrin, for turning every lesson into a one-woman comedy show.

Hyemin, your charm, humour, and resilience have made your time here unforgettable.



Stephanie Curtis

*"Hey, maybe school
wasn't so bad after all."*



HYUN JAE LEE

Started 2021

Before arriving to teach at Pinehurst School I requested my students to write me a small letter about themselves and their past Music experience.

Hyun Jae immediately impressed me with how much he had achieved as a cello player. He had already performed extensively as part of several orchestras, chamber groups and as a soloist. Hyun Jae was part of the first group performance who performed at assembly and along with Kai and Reynold, and while only in Year 10, that group went on to be part of the Chamber Music Finals!

Two years later our class had the pleasure of supporting him at one of his solo concerts where he played the highest quality music. I also particularly enjoyed being able to see Hyun Jae perform in the finals in both Wellington and the Auckland Town Hall.

Hyun Jae's quick wit and dry sense of humour is always well received and it is great to see him enjoying himself so much within his friendship circle. His hardworking attitude and friendly nature will ensure success for him in his chosen field!

Hadley Ronayne



ISABELLE WILCOCK

Started 2013



*"Life moves pretty fast.
If you don't stop and look
around once in a while,
you could miss it."*

I first met Izzy when I walked into my Year 11 Spanish class – my very first lesson at Pinehurst. She looked slightly petrified at the idea of dealing with this loud new teacher who insisted on making her speak Spanish from day one! But it didn't take long to see the spark behind that lovely smile.

If you know Izzy, you will know that beneath her lovely, smiley, and sometimes shy exterior is a truly amazing person – caring, loyal, and always ready to stand up for fairness and justice. She is the kind of friend everyone hopes to have: supportive, thoughtful, and someone who sticks around for life.

Izzy throws herself into everything, especially performing arts – drama and dancing are where her creativity and energy shine brightest. The Argentina exchange trip was definitely an unforgettable experience where she threw herself into every moment and now dreams of going back!

As Izzy graduates and heads off to new adventures, I have no doubt she will do incredible things. I just hope she comes back soon for our little Mexican dinner group – fajitas and chats won't be the same otherwise. *¡Buena suerte, Izzy!*

Marta Marino Grana



"Chapters end but stories don't."



JACK (ZULUN) JI

Started 2022



It all began in 2022 when Jack joined Pinehurst as a 14-year-old Y10 student, and already an U19 Badminton National squad member. He has represented Pinehurst every year since, as well as being a Regional and National Rep. Of course, who can forget that he has been the NZ U19 Singles Badminton Champion for the past two years.

Behind every successful person are people who support them. Jacks' parents have done this, and it is their guidance and love that provides Jack with the ability to achieve whatever he sets his sights on.

Due to his badminton commitments, Jack had less time for other pursuits but did manage to be a Sports Council member and an Academic Scholar, while spending hours at lunchtime and during holidays coaching badminton to our students.

Jack wants to study Medicine in Australia next year and he will make an excellent medical practitioner showing concern and empathy for his patients.

In summary, Jack is an exceptional young man with the skills, personality traits, and the academic, social, and emotional intelligence to succeed in whatever he undertakes.

*"Go confidently in the direction of your dreams.
Live the life you have imagined."*

- Henry David Thoreau

Paul Le Lievre

JACK (ZULUN) ZHAO

Started 2021

Jack is a quiet, thoughtful, and considerate student who has left a positive impression on the school community throughout his years at school. He has been a reliable POD member, always well presented and demonstrating respect for himself and his school. He will be remembered by his teachers for his calm and steady approach in all that he does, whether in the classroom, in sports, or when contributing to wider school initiatives. Jack has always demonstrated respect for others, showing patience, and a willingness to listen. These qualities have made him a valued and well-respected member of our school community.

In addition to his academic efforts, Jack has contributed in other ways to school. He has been a member of table tennis teams, where he displayed a commitment to aim for excellence and good sportsmanship. Beyond sport, Jack also gave his time and energy as a member of the Environmental Council. Through this role, he showed concern for sustainability and a readiness to be actively involved in initiatives that benefit the whole school.

Jack departs with our best wishes for continued success.

Dawn Sullivan



*"Pain is temporary.
Pride is forever."*



*"All your greatest art should satisfy nobody but yourself."
- Vylet Pony*



JACKSON EDWARDS

Started 2021

Jackson is an amazing musician and it has been great to have him as part of our department over the years.

His flash skills on both the bass the electric guitar have been put to good use during his time at school and Jackson has been part of the school jazz band and several school performances where he has successfully played both instruments. He has also readily performed during arts weeks and in Year 13 as part of the Arts council and Jackson also helped set up these performances for other students to shine too.

A very talented song writer – we have enjoyed hearing Jackson’s original performances at assembly and other events. His serious face for performances belies his virtuosity and excitement of his playing and his status as Pinehurst’s true rock star. From guitar to bass, school shows, rock and jazz, Jackson successfully covered it all. Not to mention his amazing shredding when he plays his chosen metal genre.

We know Jackson’s passion and great understanding for Music will ensure future success for him in his future career choice as an audio engineer and we wish him the very best in these and his other musical endeavours.

Hadley Ronayne



JASON WANG

Started 2021



*"Look in the mirror,
all demure, without a care,
I love my fluffy hair!"*

Jason is one of the most original thinkers I've ever taught. His mind operates about three steps ahead of everyone else's, often wandering into places the rest of us need a map to reach. His art is just as clever and layered- expressive, unexpected, and always tinged with his dry humour.

I'll never forget the haiku about lasagna: poetic, oddly profound, and art-worthy. I will forever cherish the portrait he painted of me- even if the artist's impression of the nose is triggering for my self-esteem. Jason's artistic skill extends beyond portraits. Top in the World for IGCSE Art is no mean feat.

He has a low tolerance for nonsense (and for people who can't keep up), but that's part of his charm. Beneath the sarcasm and that slightly intimidating glare is a student of immense intelligence, wit, and integrity.

And then there's The Perm. Jason's glorious curls deserve a paragraph of their own. He takes it very seriously, as he should; it's iconic. It's like his brain said, "Let's make art, but on my head." First debuted at the end of Year 10, it's been a permanent fixture, and quite literally, his crowning glory.

Jason, you've been one of my favourites- not just because of your brains or your humour, but because you've stayed unapologetically yourself. Keep thinking deeply, keep creating, and never lose that wonderfully sharp edge.

Lauren Campbell



"Thank you Pinehurst for teaching me Cambridge as well as unity, optimism, youth, kindness, community, understanding and friendship."



JERRY (ZHENJIA) YANG

Started 2021

It has been a true privilege to know and work alongside Jerry over the past two years. A true all-rounder, Jerry has led with distinction as House Captain, inspiring his peers with both his dedication and infectious enthusiasm.

On the tennis court, his competitive spirit and sportsmanship have earned him respect and admiration. But perhaps most memorably, it's his sharp wit and sense of humour that have brightened countless moments throughout his time here.

Jerry leaves behind a legacy of leadership, laughter, and lasting friendships. I wish him every success as he serves up the next chapter of his journey.

Chloe Xu



JESSIE (JESSICA) AAKJAER

Started 2012

I have had the privilege of teaching Jessie for four years: two History, two Classics. I have gotten to know her especially well this year during our one-on-one Classics tutorials. I have so enjoyed these tutorials which have consisted of a lot of giggling about the ridiculous nature of Classics: the bizarre emperor anecdotes, and the odd behaviour of some of our Homeric characters (especially Odysseus!). Not to mention the beetle umbrella and my constant tripping over words after reading Homer aloud for the twelfth time that week on a Friday afternoon. I have been particularly impressed by the ease in which she interprets and understands ancient sources.

Jessie has been a Pinehurst student since new entrants and has consistently upheld the values of our school. She is a hardworking, dedicated student. She has managed her constant battle – Classics vs. Computer Science – super well and has found a way to dip into both spheres at the University of Auckland next year. I am confident you are going to love the academic life and I know you will do fantastically.

Tayla McRae



*"And the game was over
and the player woke up from the
dream. And the player began
a new dream. And the player
dreamed again, dreamed better."
- Minecraft End Poem*



*"This weekend,
THE WAVES ARE FIRING!!"*



JOSHUA LEUCHARS

Started 2016

Everybody looks up to Josh, he hasn't stopped growing since arriving at Pinehurst in 2016, and who knows when he will. He will always be easy to find in a crowd, a good head and shoulders above the rest. He'd also be easy to find whenever there isn't a crowd as he'd most likely be tinkering with some contraption (his ute) or wherever the best waves are breaking.

Joshua is the epitome of laid back; nothing appears to have phased him (yet). I had the pleasure of being one of his ever changing 5 POD teachers in my first year at Pinehurst. 'Tuck your shirt in' became a common greeting in the morning with the very Joshua response of 'good evening' or similar to casually deflect what he should be doing. Being organised, beginning promptly and completing tasks featured heavily in his Year 6 report with the addition of the term 'sometimes'. Time has changed little, but Josh is an awesome young man, he has been a pleasure to teach Geography and learning about Coastal Environments has given him every excuse to distract me by talking about one of his favourite things in the World, surfing.

Kia Kaha. If in doubt, paddle out...!

John Foden



KAI (JIAHONG) YU

Started 2019



*"If one is afraid to fail,
they will never succeed."*

I first met Kai when he was in year 7. At that point I was his Maths teacher as well as his Digitech teacher. What struck me was the way that his brain seemed connected to his laptop, able to control the laptop to find answers to problems by coding brute force (sometimes ugly) solutions. Not to say that his brain was idle – it could be thinking about complex numbers, even at that age, just that it was adept at using a CPU to enhance its capacities.

It was that year in which Kai showed prowess in international competitions, gaining a Bronze for an International Informatics Olympiad competition for secondary students, even gaining an honourable mention from the markers. His Olympiad career has since grown into full New Zealand representation at international level, first in Informatics, then, very unusually in a second field of Astrophysics – truly an outstanding achievement!

Kai is an avid player of strategic/design games where he is able to put his Mathematics and Computing skills to good use solving complex trajectories, for example. He would like to take these talents further in the future to become a researcher in computer architecture design. I'm sure we can all imagine him, working on problems, hunting for solutions and giving a running commentary of his thinking, and his "magic" errors on very "aggressive" concepts.

Peter Jaques



*"Until we meet again,
because the world
isn't so big after all!"
- lyttkelly@gmail.com*



KELLY (YANTING) LIU

Started 2017

Teaching Kelly has been like trying to keep up with a very kind, very clever whirlwind—one armed with a sharp wit, a bottomless work ethic, and a heart the size of the library. She's the kind of student who finishes her assignments early, helps three other people with theirs, joins a club meeting, and still has time to crack a quiet joke that brings levity to even the driest linguistics lesson.

Her intelligence is dazzling, but it's her thoughtfulness and empathy that truly set her apart. Whether she's offering sage advice to a stressed-out peer or quietly making space for others to shine, she's the unofficial counsellor, cheerleader, and philosopher of Year 13.

Since her founding days as a wee year 5 student in our primary, Kelly's ideas and club initiatives have transformed our community—she's built spaces where students feel seen, heard, and supported. And she's done it all while maintaining top grades, a radiant smile, and a sense of humour that could revive a tired teacher on a Friday afternoon.

Kelly is off to do the most extraordinary things—with brilliance, compassion, and a fierce commitment to lift others as she climbs.

Alex Pennycuik



KENNETH WANG

Started 2021



*"Don't cry because it's over;
smile because it happened!"*

Kenneth Wang – the enigma.

It's nearly impossible to sum Kenneth up in 200 words; he contains multitudes. One moment he's using literary terminology I've never heard of, the next he's giggling at a rude word in the novel we're studying. His questions in A2 Literature often struck fear in my heart – not because they were off-topic, but because they cut straight to the core of the issue and left me scrambling for an answer. Or, when there was a word on the tip of my tongue – Kenneth was always able to so easily articulate what I couldn't.

Kenneth began his Pinehurst journey in Year 9 as a fresh-faced, eager young lad, ready to take on the world. Since then, he has swum his way to success – literally and figuratively – and consistently demonstrated leadership. As the KSC POD mentor, he was thoughtful, inclusive, and quietly influential.

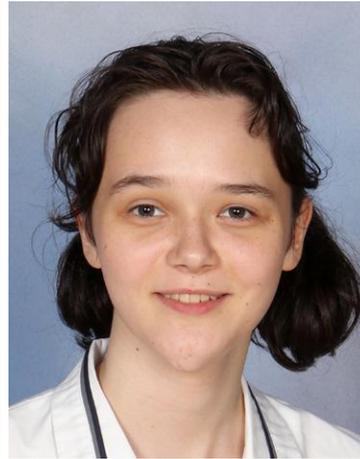
It's hard to imagine Pinehurst without Kenneth. He's embraced every opportunity: swimming, orchestra, debating, bikini modelling in a fashion show, mooting, prefect duties – so many extra-curriculars that I often couldn't fit them all into his POD report comment. And perhaps most admirably, he's built strong, lasting friendships that reflect his fierce loyalty and warmth.

With aspirations to study Medicine overseas, Kenneth gives us hope for the next generation. I'd even let him operate on me – though, he'd probably recommend a lobotomy.

Stephanie Curtis



"You can never be overdressed or overeducated"
- Oscar Wilde (paraphrased)



KITA WEIR

Started 2023

When Kita arrived at Pinehurst in Year 11, she had had a number of difficult years at other schools (to say the least). And yet, within months of arriving she was thriving – becoming more confident, catching up on her subjects, making friends and becoming a pillar of the POD. To the point that Kita was able to feel proud, and completely justified in doing so, of her examination results even that first year.

As this wasn't enough, Kita then went on to push her boat out into the uncharted waters of theatre. Within a year, the shy person who couldn't bear some of our POD activities was in front of audiences playing MacBeth (and others) with "the help of her friends, caffeine, blood, sweat and tears" – creating the best memories as well as discovering that she was capable of more than she had ever imagined with the safety and support of her school community around her.

I have enjoyed being alongside Kita on this part of her journey and know that, whatever she takes on next, she'll be amazing. Can't predict what that will be, but looking forward to finding out!

Kia kaha Kita. We'll miss you.

Peter Jaques



KOHTARO NOZAKI

Started 2013



“While my life wasn’t the one I intended, it was the one that wanted me - and I think I like that.”

Kohtaro – your name exemplifies who you are. In Japanese, a great and happy first-born son.

You have embodied our school values and taken every opportunity on offer to contribute to our community, challenge yourself, and grow into the fine young man that you are today.

I have fond memories of your time at Pinehurst Kohtaro, especially your early years in the JC. From teaching you how to build a soccer playing robot back in Year 7, selecting you for our first ever Ethics Olympiad team back in 2019, watching you play hockey at AIMS Games, to the \$450 you raised for hungry children in Sudan, and most notably your leadership as Head Boy in the JC just as COVID hit in 2020. You were in “boots and all” Kohtaro. Your zest and energy continued into your Senior College years - Table Tennis, Volleyball, Hockey, Young Enterprise Scheme, DOE, numerous councils, leading the Citizenship Council, the collab Pixel Pawject, Ball Committees and more. It’s hard to think of a student who has contributed more to Pinehurst as you have Kohtaro.

Everything you did was always done with commitment, passion, and a sense of light-heartedness - you always had a smile on your face. Thank you for not taking yourself seriously and for bringing both a sense of warmth and balance to Pinehurst School. The Pinehurst community has been blessed by your continued and committed involvement. I have no doubt you will continue to be a positive influence on others and succeed in whatever you choose to do.

Joe Johansen



*"All panic.
No disco."*



LEA CHAPMAN

Started 2019

This is the only year I have taught Lea, and it has been a delight to get to know her. She adjusted to studying Classics like a duck to water, and it's a shame that she was unable to do A2 as well. The passion she has for the subject is fantastic, and she has worked so hard. I'm not sure I'll ever encounter a student with as much love for an ancient family tree (or, in some unfortunate cases, family squares) as I have; sometimes she physically could not stop herself from doodling them and I recognised something of myself in this.

Also much like myself, this girl lives for the ancient drama and finds ancient warfare rather lacking in excitement. Aesthetics also mean a lot to her – I particularly enjoyed watching the bewilderment on the boys' faces when she insisted that her group's presentation on the Siege of the Sogdian Rock be pink and pretty.

Lea started Pinehurst as a tiny little Year 7. Next year she plans on studying Anthropology and Law which I think is such a perfect combination for her. As evidenced in Classics classes, she is adept at arguing and debating, and would be a formidable opponent in any courtroom.

Tayla McRae



LIANNA HENG

Started 2019



*"Better late than never,
but never late is better."
- Drake*

If you put together the words cheerful, bubbly, vital and friendly, the mental picture you get is Lianna. That mental picture may not include her with her hair up however, as she avoids that whenever possible (and wishes the school could be less strict on that rule, among others!).

World famous at Pinehurst for being a dance coach for Year 13, Lianna exudes confidence and vitality, and has done so ever since arriving in Year 7 in 2019. Since then, she has become an unforgettable part of her friend group and formed indelible and treasured memories with them, especially at events like the Great Barrier Camp.

Lianna has a certain quiet assurance in her bearing that culminated in being appointed Matai House Captain - one of her proudest moments. On the other hand, some of her experiences in Maths have tended to rate at the other end of that scale but, to her credit, she grasped that particular piece of trauma and dealt to it with hard work and perseverance.

For the future, Lianna will move on from Pinehurst with hopes of pursuing a career in something she enjoys as well as seeking to fulfil a long-held ambition to have a pet cat. Somehow both those things seem to fit perfectly with the Lianna we know and love!

Peter Jaques



"An amazing chapter of my life - I gained knowledge, friends, and eye bags. Now I shall retreat into hibernation, only to emerge in 2026...older, wiser, and hopefully caught up on sleep."



LILY (YUFEI) LI

Started 2021

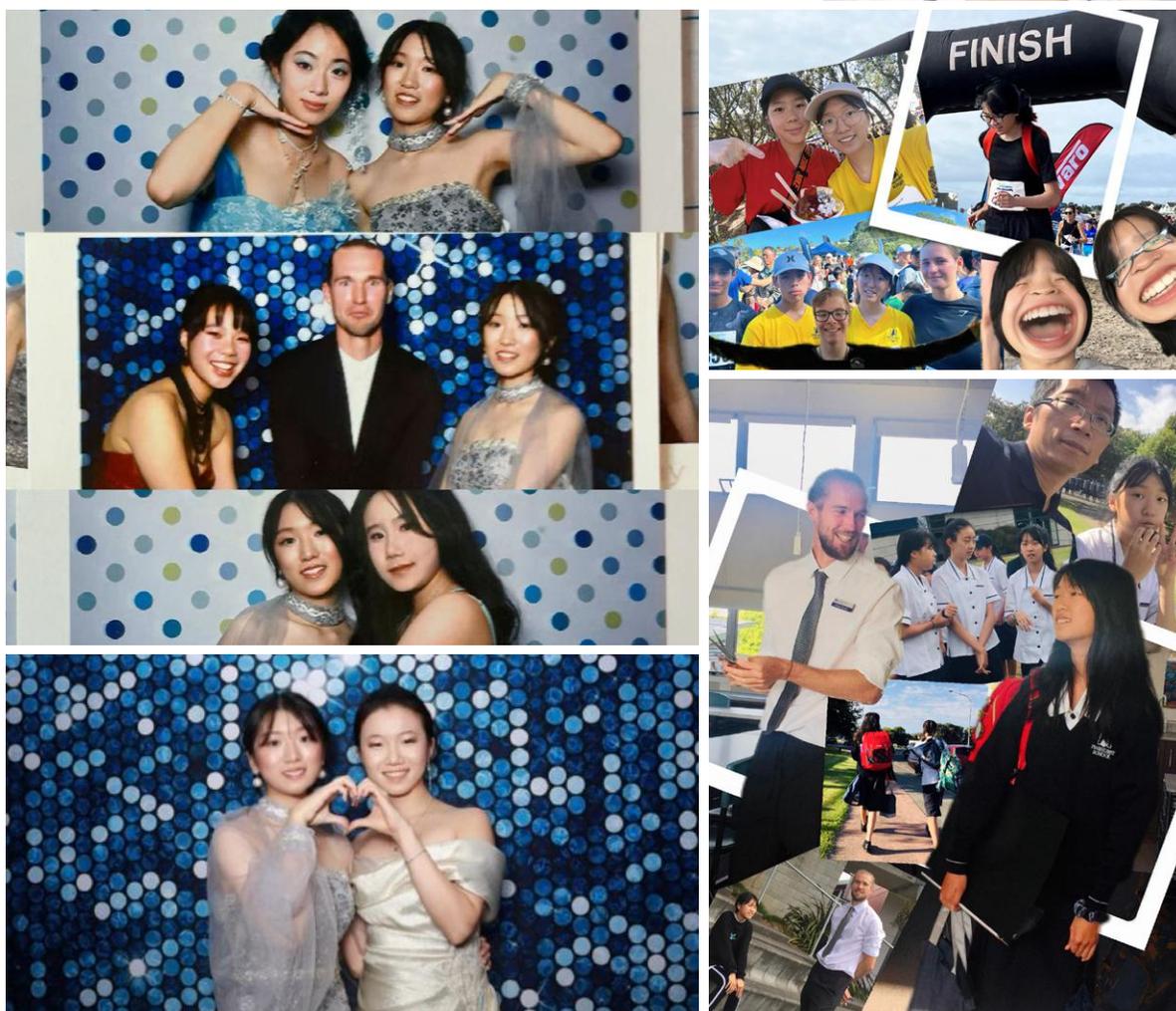
Lily's first day as a Year 9 student stands out. Typically, new students take a few weeks to settle in and find their footing. But Lily was different. Whether she was nervous or not, she didn't show it. She quickly formed connections and friendships, a testament to her natural communication skills and the early signs of a great leader. She also mentioned her hobby was Latin dance—though to this day, I've yet to witness her dancing talent firsthand!

This year, after knowing Lily for five years, I finally had the pleasure of teaching her—and what a fantastic year it has been. Attentive, proactive, and independent, Lily embodies the qualities of a dedicated academic. Her commitment to excellence has been truly inspiring.

And then there's the laughter—so much of it. It doesn't take much to make Lily laugh, and one moment in particular stands out: she laughed for nearly 30 minutes straight, tears of joy streaming down her face, unable to look at her friend without bursting into giggles. Even I couldn't help but join in.

Lily, you are an incredible person. Your positivity and cheerful nature light up any room. Never change. I wish you all the success and happiness in your journey ahead.

Oliver Boden



LISA (XINYUAN) GU

Started 2019



"May the flowers remind us why the rain was so necessary."

I first met Lisa three years ago, when she was in Year 11 Spanish. Back then I wasn't sure if my "craziness" in the classroom would scare her off—but thankfully, she decided to stay with me and with Spanish all the way through to A2 Literature! Over these years I have seen Lisa's determination and commitment shine through. She is without doubt one of the most driven students I have had the privilege to teach.

I have been lucky not only to be her Spanish teacher, but also her POD teacher, which has given me the chance to know her beyond the classroom. Lisa cares deeply for others and has shown her leadership skills time and time again, especially in her role as a POD mentor.

What I love most about her is the way she embraces learning with enthusiasm, always ready to share her own culture and make links to Spanish in creative ways. In class she has been both a steady presence and a great companion—particularly when it came to keeping Alex in check!

I will miss the laughter and the energy she brought to every lesson. Lisa, I wish you all the best for what comes next—you will be greatly missed! ¡Buena suerte!

Marta Marino Grana



*"Always stay gracious,
best revenge is your paper."
- Beyoncé*



LOUISA JOYCE

Started 2024

Louisa might have arrived late to the Pinehurst party, but she wasted no time making her mark. Joining us from the far north (well Kerikeri) in Year 12, she quickly formed close friendships, with Chloe and Arvin being her ride-or-die duo.

Her secret talent? Knowing every song and artist. Great if you need a member for a quiz team, not so great when she feels the need to judge your (questionable?) Spotify choices. You've been warned.

Despite her short time here, Louisa has thrown herself into every opportunity. She was involved in both Suessical and The Wizard of Oz productions, served on the ball committee, participated in UN Youth, and was a fantastic prefect this year.

Next year, Louisa is heading to the University of Auckland to study Mathematics and Statistics, following in the footsteps of her favourite teacher (or... not?). I have no doubt she'll succeed at whatever she ends up doing - decisiveness may not be her strongest skill, but enthusiasm certainly is. And here's hoping she never brings that opaque drink bottle into an exam!

Nadia Perrin



LUCY SONG

Started 2016



"You're waiting for a train."

'The connection felt between people who have shed their layers of shielding and allowed the other to see the different parts of them that make up their authentic self is priceless. It is an intimate closeness filled with love and acceptance that cannot be expressed through words alone.' LS – 2024

Getting to know Lucy has been like opening a valuable gift. The depth of her emotional and intellectual world, and the thoughts and feelings that she has are not given away frivolously. Lucy is introspective, observant and intuitive and thoughtful about who she lets in to see the richness of her inner self. I have been blessed to have been given moments where she has shared the richness of who she is, what she believes and how she feels.

The talent that Lucy has for art has been evident since she started at Pinehurst. When a person with exceptional skill also has a creative and inquiring mind, the outcome is brilliance. Lucy's work breathes strength. It roars with confidence and makes you feel. Not everyone can make people feel something with the marks they make on paper – Lucy can. Her work is harmony and tension. Balance and aesthetics. Suggestion and detail.

Thank you, Lucy for sharing your talent. For letting your artwork provide a glimpse into the depth of you. You are all kinds of majestic.

Kia mau ki nga mahi toi.

Nicole Rakete



*"Surrounded by all twilights,
bloom toward the light."*



MICHELLE HUO

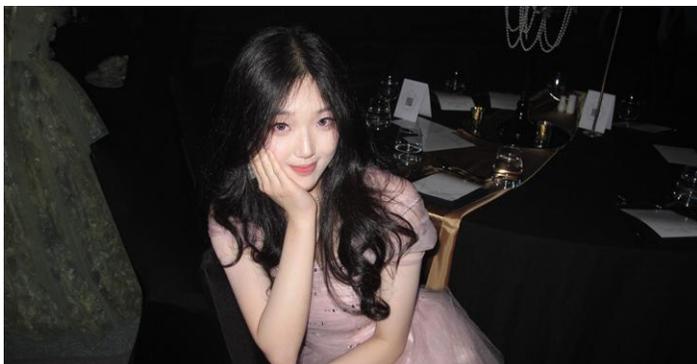
Started 2013

Michelle is, quite simply, an angel - though one with a mischievous streak. Caring and quiet, she moves through the world with kindness and calm, her signature cat-shaped handbag adding real 'flair' to any outfit. She's the kind of student who makes every day brighter just by being there.

That said, no angel is perfect. Michelle did secretly record me singing Ophelia's song from Hamlet- a betrayal I'm still recovering from. But since she's otherwise flawless and made a point of bringing in food items for the food drive, I've decided to forgive her (mostly). Her gentle humour and warmth make it impossible to stay cross for long. Her time at Pinehurst has been marked by a desire to do well academically, be a good friend to others, and role model selflessness.

And, of course, I couldn't write this valedictory article without adding the most important news: our mini schnauzers, Luna and Wilbur, are destined to be wed. It's a perfect match- just like any friendship with Michelle. Thoughtful, loyal, and full of quiet laughter, she's been a joy to teach. Michelle, the world needs more of your gentle confidence and happy demeanour. I look forward to hearing all about your new adventures at university.

Lauren Campbell



MILLY MA

Started 2021



"When you realise there is nothing lacking, the whole world belongs to you."

Milly is a vivacious, fun-loving force of nature. Articulate and thoughtful, she possesses a strong sense of self and an unwavering commitment to justice. Her time at Pinehurst has been filled with unforgettable memories, made richer by the company of lifelong friends. Whether tramping, camping, sailing, sipping coffee, or studying, Milly throws herself into every experience with enthusiasm and heart.

To me, Milly is a tramping icon. Three days into a hike, when the rest of us are surviving on dehydrated rations, she'll casually produce a container of fresh vegetables from her backpack—much to everyone's delight. A true foodie, Milly's love for food, is a gift to her tramping companions.

Her favourite memories are those shared with friends: bushwalks, sailing adventures, glamorous nights at the ball, and her leadership at the Busy Bean—whether serving coffee or acting as one of its CEOs. Milly sees adventure in every opportunity and approaches life with boundless energy and optimism.

Milly, continue to pursue your passions with the same spirit. With your zest for life and love of adventure, the world will rise to meet you.

Jacqui Rea



"5'2 but my attitude is 6'7."



MISO RYU

Started 2019

Miso is a polite, cheerful student who is quietly confident in her ability. (2019, Term 1 Report)

When I first met Miso, I assumed she was the classic quiet achiever — serious, studious, and probably the type to have a favourite pen and a colour-coded highlighter system. But just a few weeks in, I overheard her delivering a Netflix critique so sharp it could have earned her a spot on a review panel. My casual classroom stroll quickly turned into a full-blown Rotten Tomatoes session. That was the moment I realised: Miso isn't just smart — she's hilariously smart.

Beneath her calm and composed exterior lies a razor-sharp wit, a delightfully quirky sense of humour, and an unwavering refusal to discuss the "Wednesday" series with me, despite my best attempts.

It's been an absolute joy teaching Miso this year. I only wish it had been longer. Whether she is using ear studs as emergency screws, dropping one-liners that make you pause in philosophical reflection, or dismantling a TV plot with surgical precision, Miso brings a unique spark to everything she does.

As she heads off to conquer new challenges, I hope she never stops being unapologetically herself. And remember...

"Challenges are what make life interesting and overcoming them is what makes life meaningful."

— Wednesday Addams

Oliver Boden



MONICA (XIANGNING) MU

Started 2023



*"Don't count the days,
make the days count."*

Monica arrived at Pinehurst school when she was in Year 11. She was quickly welcomed into RPB and made friends instantly. In those three years that she has been at Pinehurst school she has been a quiet and consistent presence in POD time.

Monica has participated in every activity such as POD challenges and athletics day. She was a great buddy to our primary buddy classes each year and her calm nature made her primary buddies feel comfortable with her.

Monica, it has been a pleasure having you in POD and watching you grow through the years. I wish you the best in your future endeavors.

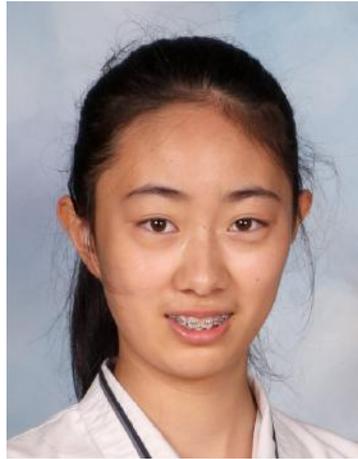
*"Keep your face always towards the sunshine,
and shadows will fall behind you."*

- Walt Whitman

Paige Bayliss



*"If you own this story
you get to write the ending."
- Brené Brown*



NASHA (SICHUN) ZHANG

Started 2021

I've always called Nasha the novelist—there's something to be said for the way she takes an idea and expands on it with such insight, fervour, and dissection. Was I happy that all of Nasha's essays were 5 pages long? No. Did I appreciate her effort? Yes. To teach Nasha is to watch a truly analytical mind at work. I would often see her walking with her little sister from the primary school, chatting and laughing, and it's clear she's the kind of big sister everyone wishes they had: caring, protective, and endlessly kind.

In class, Nasha is the picture of focus and dedication. She studies with a quiet intensity, never losing sight of her goals, and approaches every challenge with patience and determination. Her empathy, intelligence, and steadiness make her one of a kind. She has always given her absolute best at Interhouse competitions, represented her House enthusiastically at athletics day, and crunched the numbers in Accounting with aplomb!

Nasha, you have all the qualities that will make you an exceptional doctor—compassion, precision, and a calm strength that puts others at ease. Keep living your life with that same grace and purpose; it's going to be a remarkable one.

Lauren Campbell



OLIVIA (SHUXIAN) ZHA

Started 2021

Is it talent? Or, is it magic? When you view the work created by Olivia, you might just wonder which of the two is true.

Observing Olivia is like witnessing time being harnessed. Every action she takes is mindful. Each conversation and brushstroke weaving together intentionally without a second wasted.

If you come down the stairs in the 500 block toward the Theatre, your gaze will be met with one of Olivia's A Level art works. I have taken great pride in taking in the faces of people who have seen this work for the first time. It takes your breath away.

Olivia is the epitome of humility. She is humble about the extent of her talents that have been refined through passion and time. I have relished the many conversations about the direction and purpose of her artwork that she creates and will miss these conversations dearly.

I know, at some stage, I will be met again with one of Olivia's creations, and will once again have my breath taken away.

"Te toi whakairo, ka ihiihi, ka wehiwehi, ka aweawe te ao katoa" -

Artistic excellence makes the world sit up in wonder.

Nicole Rakete



*"Fret not for lack
of kindred souls along the way;
For who beneath the heavens
shall deny thy light?"*



"Hi hungry, I'm Oren!!"



OREN DABBACH

Started 2022

If there were ever a student destined for greatness- doctor, lawyer, or possibly both at once- it's Oren. His intellect is something to behold. I'm convinced he could qualify for Mensa before breakfast, ace a med school entrance exam before lunch, and still have time in the afternoon to correct my grammar.

For four years, Oren has humoured my lessons, though I sometimes wonder if he ever actually needed me. He'd sit there, politely listening, while clearly five steps ahead. Whenever I dared to ask a follow-up question, he'd panic and say, "Why are you interrogating me?" as though he were at the witness stand rather than in English class.

Oren's study habits are the stuff of legend. He works harder than anyone I've met- and somehow found a way to monetise that effort by selling his impeccably organised notes to younger students. That's the kind of entrepreneurial spirit that'll make him unstoppable.

And then there was the fashion show. I'm still trying to unsee that outfit - a bold combination that made me question both his taste and the teachers' roles as responsible adults for letting it happen.

Oren genuinely loves school. His meticulous organisation, sharp mind, and exceptional contributions to mooting have raised the bar for everyone around him. He could single-handedly organise a whole school, and yet was humble enough to stay very quiet when a primary student from his buddy class implied he was a moron.

Oren, your drive and brilliance are matched only by your humour and humility. Whatever path you choose - courtroom, operating theatre, or global domination- I know you'll succeed. Just promise you won't cry if perfection isn't attained. You're perfect the way you are!



RAYMOND ZHANG

Started 2019



"U can't be chalant if u got non."

Raymond is a student who proves that quiet doesn't mean unnoticed. Witty, serious, and thoughtful, he carries himself with a calm confidence that earns respect without ever needing to demand it. That said, occasionally he'd respond to the question in class of 'would you like to share your idea?', with a simple, deadpan "No", reminding us all that brevity can speak volumes.

A deep thinker (still waters indeed run deep and all that) Raymond has contributed significantly to the school as a prefect, and member of the Sports Council. As a Duke of Edinburgh leader, Raymond made caring for and leading others a priority. His willingness to help and guide other adventurers says a lot about his integrity. 'Where does he falter?' I hear you ask. Given the opportunity, Raymond doesn't mind the odd late arrival to school- or even worse, playing a game on his laptop in the moment that I leave the class to get a drink of water.

Raymond, your quiet strength and intelligence have made a lasting impression. I am wishing you all the best as you begin your new adventure. It's safe to say that you clocked high school.

Lauren Campbell



"Not enough yeast in the world for how much bread I'm boutta make."



ROGER (JIAZHANG) LIN

Started 2013

For the first four years of his time in RTM, Roger was studious, polite, respectful, and borderline obsessive about drawing koalas anywhere he could.

Imagine my shock when early 2025 I discovered that that characterisation no longer applied. Although it has been nice to see him relax, I have suffered for it. The main consequence of his calmness this year has been that the vast majority of my energy has been spent verbally sparring with Roger. It became an expectation, not a surprise, that every morning I walk into POD he would greet me with some fresh new snarky comment, but luckily he can take them, too.

He asked me three times in ten minutes whether the stairs were okay after I fell down them, leading me to believe that it was actually Roger who had at some point hurt his head. It's going to be bizarre next year not having him turn up at the door of 514 at all times of day to steal my stapler. Roger is an integral part of Pinehurst, having been a student here for 13 years, and has made a big impression in the POD. He is well liked, funny, and supportive of other students.

Thank you for keeping me on my toes this year.
You will be so missed in RTM.

Tayla McRae



SAM (SI XING) YANG

Started 2023



"All moos are boos. Some choos are foos. No boos are choos."

'In prima facie, Sam seems to be a quiet student. And yet... still waters run deep.' It would be remiss of me not to begin this article with *'In prima facie'*. It is, without doubt, Sam's favourite phrase.

Sam has a way of making even the most ordinary moments memorable—like the time he casually ate fried chicken in class as if it were the most natural thing in the world. His deadpan sense of humour has kept both teachers and classmates entertained (and occasionally bewildered). Quoting philosophers at random and gleefully pointing out spelling mistakes only adds to his unique charm.

A loyal and caring friend, Sam is diligent and mostly hardworking, though his relaxed attitude means he's never quite mastered the art of punctuality- no detention, reminder, or stern glance has ever changed that. And yet, somehow, everything always seems to work out for him, as if the universe conspires to agree with his laid-back approach.

Sam, your humour, intellect, and easy-going nature have made the classroom a brighter place. Keep pointing out the typos, keep quoting philosophers, and keep being the effortlessly brilliant friend and student we've all enjoyed having around.

Lauren Campbell



*"Why fall in love when
you can fall asleep."*



SARAH (JIAHUAN) HE

Started 2024

Sarah arrived in Year 12 like a whirlwind, ready to conquer the world. She's a true ChatGPT whizz, capable of finding answers and insights faster than anyone else, and yet she somehow manages to look perpetually surprised when I call on her for a chatGPT answer vs. her own answer. Despite being infinitesimally smarter than the robots, Sarah's mastery of CHATGPT (even PAYING for v.5) won her the nickname ChatGPHE. (Sarah- you can ChatGPT the word 'infinitesimally' if you like).

Sarah's cheeky smile and the wide-eyed look of total innocence belies the fact that Sarah likes to get her way. But what stands out most is her curiosity, her quick thinking, and her willingness to engage with every challenge, no matter how unexpected.

Sarah, you've brought humour, cleverness, and just the right amount of mischief into the classroom. Keep asking questions, keep challenging the world, and keep up with the Labubu collection. Please don't take crazy drinks into your lectures. Leave the Fujiya-yakult-soy-milk-bubble tea-melon-soda float at home!

Lauren Campbell



SETH (TAEYUN) LIM

Started 2019

Since 2019, in year 7, Seth's insuppressibly cheerful, enthusiastic self has haunted the corridors of Pinehurst.

While Seth belongs to the Lim Family, which has history at the school, he has carved out his own individual presence and added to the family's good reputation. You only have to think of Seth out front leading his House Waiata to realise the impact and mana that he carries. And it would be a serious omission to leave out the contribution that he has made through the Lim Family dynasty of Korean Fried Chicken at the Cultural Market Day!

In a more private vein, some of the people who appreciate Seth the most would be his friends with whom he has spent many a lunchtime creating his most treasured memories of school, whether that is laughing at stupid jokes, leading interhouse teams or generally messing around. Seth is also proud of his success on the mathematical playing field where he has gained confidence in himself and started to score 100% in exams.

Seth can look back on his school days with pride at the person he has become. For the future, he hopes that he can contribute to an innovative form of transport. One way or another I'm sure he will be flying, literally and metaphorically!

Peter Jaques



*"You have to be odd
to be number one."
- Dr. Seuss*



"Sooo... Who's hiring?"



SHERRIE (ANSHUO) LI

Started 2019

Unfortunately, I only got to teach Sherrie for two years, but it has been so great getting to know her during that time, especially this year during our one-on-one Classics tutorials. These sessions have consisted of a LOT of giggling – from both of us, honestly – about the sometimes bizarre behaviour of Achilles and Odysseus, and some of the emperors we've studied. Due to Sherrie's inquisitive nature, we've gone down many a rabbit hole about Romanian salt mines, how far the laws of xenia apply when you're dealing with non-humans, and where Cyclopes were thought to originate – to name only a few of many.

Sherrie joined Pinehurst in Year 7, and has consistently upheld the values of the school for the entirety of her time here. She has been a fantastic house captain for Totara this year. In 2026, Sherrie is going to the University of Auckland to study Commerce and Arts, and I so hope she finds a way to do a Classics paper or two. She has constantly shown insightful, empathetic approaches towards the ancient figures we have studied and her perspectives have been highly valued.

Tayla McRae



SISSI (KAIXUAN) YANG

Started 2019



*"WOTTT!! It's over already???
BRUUHHH..."*

Sissi thinks I can't keep up with my Duo Lingo streak. She is wrong. I look forward to bumping into her in the street when she's older and showing her that I'm 867 days in a row.

Sissi's cheeky humour has emerged full-force over the last few years. But that cheeky humour is only part of who she is. Behind the sweet smile is a no-nonsense powerhouse who keeps everyone around her in check, like a PA with a PhD in organisation and acerbic wit. Don't let the plaits fool you- she runs a tight ship.

Over the years, Sissi has made steady progress and, just when it mattered, she absolutely peaked. Her service to the school as Head Girl has been extraordinary. She's involved in everything, from leading projects to assemblies (cringey MC moments included), and has been an incredible friend to many.

Sissi, thank you for your humour, your integrity, and your dedication. You've left a mark on the school that will last long after the plaits are gone. Keep leading, keep laughing, and keep proving everyone (including me) wrong in the very best ways. Just remember you should never hard launch a boy you're not interested in.

Lauren Campbell



"Esse est percipi."



SORAYA (YIRAN) SU

Started 2014

*"Imagination is more important than knowledge.
Knowledge is limited. Imagination encircles the world"*
- Albert Einstein

I still have the very first email that Soraya sent me. It was my first week at Pinehurst, and we were hit by the Anniversary Day floods and my very first lesson with my IGCSE Art class was online. I asked students to send me an email describing their theme for their coursework. The theme for Soraya's folio was 'the make-believe world created by a child's imagination.'

It wasn't long before I realised that I would be blessed to witness the rich imagination that is infused in the artwork that Soraya creates.

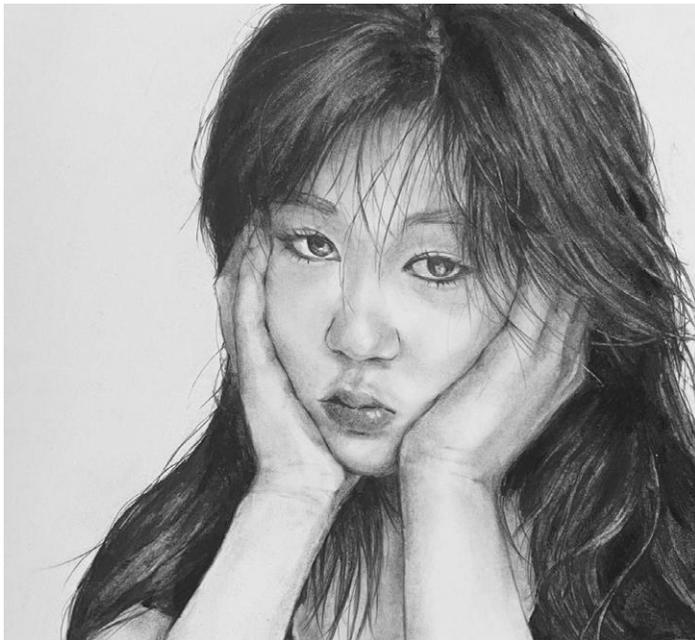
There is no doubt that Soraya is skilfully talented in Visual Art. More enigmatic is the creativity and depth of thinking that her work expresses which draws you into the narrative of her artmaking.

Soraya is a champion for her friends. I have observed her gently but assertively encourage them to use their voice. She is honest and true, and the kind of young woman that can see to the heart of things.

I know that you are going to go on and encircle the world with the enchantment of your imagination, Soraya. I cannot wait to see what that looks like.

He moana pukepuke e ekengia e te waka.

Nicole Rakete



STEVEN (SHANJUN) XU

Started 2021

I met Steven in Year 10 Accounting. He was relatively new to New Zealand and still trying to adjust to the language, culture and curriculum. In class he was part of a group of boys who were always explaining or discussing the content, or so they claimed. They were a social and boisterous group. Despite these challenges, Steven continued to impress his teachers with his perseverance, work ethic and drive to succeed when it came to improving his English, understanding the content and adapting to a new culture.

Steven has a love for numbers that runs through his veins. Whether it is the mathematical properties, application in commerce or the symbolic meaning and personality traits connected to numbers, he is passionate about them.

It is no surprise that he has been running a small business on the side, utilizing and applying numbers in a field he is interested in.

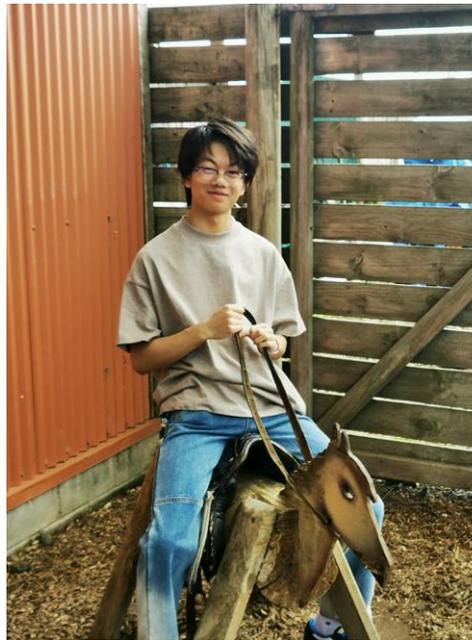
Do not be fooled by his quiet demeanour, he has a definite flare for the dramatic, loves a bit of sparkle and is always keen to try a new hairstyle. These are reasons why he was voted Prince of the Ball.

Steven, may your star shine bright and the stars always show you the way.

Jacqui Rea



"Thank you for spending four years teaching me. Apart from the textbooks, I also received many insights into life values. You gave me warmth and assistance when I was about to give up. Thank you for teaching me."



"Never trust anyone who has not brought a book with them." - Lemony Snicket



TARA SABOR

Started 2013

Tara es muy inteligente!

She is one of those rare students who seems to have it all- and yet wears it so lightly. She's what I call a unicorn student: intelligent, talented, organized, and kind, with just the right dash of mischief to keep life interesting. Whether she's designing the annual posters (which, by the way, were so good I'm now panicking about who's going to make the 2026 version), correcting my Spanish pronunciation, or reminding me of deadlines I'd forgotten, Tara has been quietly holding everything together.

Her creativity and social conscience go hand in hand. She doesn't just do things well- she does them with purpose. She's thoughtful, globally minded, and always aware of how her work can make a difference. And then, just when you think you've got her pegged as the perfectly composed overachiever, she turns up as the Wicked Witch in the school production, cackling with such commitment that my 6 year old had nightmares for a week.

Tara, you've been a joy to teach- dependable, sharp, and endlessly kind. You've corrected my grammar, saved my sanity, and even planned a wedding. I'll miss your wit and your quiet brilliance next year. Keep being curious and always challenge those around you. I'll always remember you asking me in my first week at Pinehurst: 'but why are we doing this?'. What a firecracker!

Hasta luego!

Lauren Campbell



VERONICA XIA

Started 2019



Throughout her Pinehurst journey, Veronica has been an all-round student, involved in debating, Orchestra, Volunteers Club, interhouse sports and ... badminton.

When Veronica joined Pinehurst in Y7, her Homeroom teacher, Ms Chantelle Wang, saw her potential ... "Veronica is a fine class member and has been a pleasure to have in homeroom. She is ready for the challenges that next year will bring." And she has excelled ever since. North Harbour Badminton Rep., AIMS, and in every year between Y7 – 13 Veronica has represented Pinehurst in the Premier Girls team, winning the Most Valuable Player Award for 6 consecutive years.

She is one of the most mature, polite, and thoughtful students I have had the privilege to know. She behaves with quiet dignity, while still being able to speak out when the situation requires. She may be reserved, but this simply demonstrates that she is a reflective young woman, sensitive to those around her and not imposing herself above others but working alongside for the greater good.

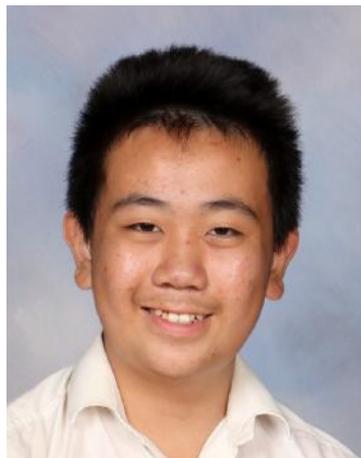
Next year Veronica will study Psychology in NZ and continue to play badminton.

"If you want to be happy... focus on living fully in the present."
- Roy T Bennett

Paul Le Lievre



"You can grow without erasing where you began."



WANYU LIANG

Started 2021

"You can grow without erasing where you began."

This quote perfectly captures the essence of who Wanyu is; someone grounded in self awareness, quietly strong and deeply thoughtful.

Wanyu joined Pinehurst in Year 9, following in his older brother's footsteps but clearly intent on forging his own way. Though I didn't know him from the beginning of that journey, I've had the privilege of being his POD teacher for the past two years.

With a quiet kindness and consistent care for others, Wanyu has been an integral part of our POD. He engages in a way that aligns with his strengths but is unafraid to step beyond his comfort zone for personal growth. He doesn't seek the spotlight, but those lucky enough to know him appreciate his dry humour, sharp wit, and the thoughtfulness he brings to every conversation.

Our early morning chats, whether about life's small moments or deeper philosophical questions, have revealed a young man who listens well, thinks deeply, and contributes meaningfully. As you step into the world Wanyu, I hope you continue to remain open to exploration, reflection, and meaningful conversation...

...and remember: *"The answer to the ultimate question of life, the universe and everything is 42."*

Alice Dury



YAZEN NAKASHA

Started 2019



*"Can't believe I made it,
but I made it, that's for sure."
- The Weeknd*

After joining Pinehurst in Y7, it did not take long for Yazen to show his true talents ... table tennis, star striker in the 1st 11 football team, Student Council, and in mathematics. As his Homeroom teacher said in 2019, *"He has arrived at Pinehurst with the curiosity to learn and the passion to be a part of all aspects of Junior College"* - Alison Liu.

Helping others is a major part of Yazen's life. Either in the primary classroom, on the Student Council, or volunteering for his church, Yazen has a strong sense of community and commitment to others. Mr Jujnovich summed up Yazen when he wrote this year ... *"His positive attitude and valuable energy have consistently elevated those around him, creating a lasting impact."*

Yazen is an amazing young man who has empathy, enthusiasm, and a cheerful manner who will continue to help others on his journey.

Yazen will start an Engineering degree next year. As his Global Perspectives teacher, I came to appreciate his humour and friendly manner. He is a wonderful young man with tremendous potential.

"Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life."

- Confucius



Paul Le Lievre

"Maybe the real treasure was the friends we made along the way"



YEENOK ZHANG

Started 2019

I first met Yeenok in Year 10 when he was in the Year 10 accelerate Mathematics. A quiet student who never asked questions, he was consistent in obtaining exceptional results, even after a tough early morning swimming session. He joined my POD in 2022, along with Kotaro and the already present Benson. Thick as thieves, these three Amigos have been inseparable ever since. Even though they formed a tight knit group, they would always be enthusiastic participants in any POD activities or challenges.

What a swimmer! Medal after medal in swimming event after swimming event, Yeenok's achievements are astonishing. His biggest accomplishment was winning 3 golds at NZSS for Pinehurst school as a year 13! And in amongst the early morning training and competitions during term time Yeenok was still able to achieve outstanding academic results. At University he is intending to pursue civil engineering and with his strengths in Mathematics and Science this is a great choice.

Yeenok is an individual of exceptional character. Unassuming, calm, with a great sense of humour he is sure to continue to make positive contributions to the community in his adult life. Probably shouldn't mention the more embarrassing incidents of ripping his trousers at lunchtime and trying to hide it for the rest of the day; or the time he shook the gate for too long and broke it in kindergarten.

Calvin Dawson



ZACHARY TAYLOR

Started 2019



*"Some Birds Aren't Meant To Be Caged."
- Morgan Freeman*

Zach is one of those quiet, unassuming people who would not force an opinion on another person, but that does not mean that he does not have an opinion. For example, if you were to ask him about Academic Mentoring he might perceptively observe that it was monotonous to most staff and students. When you get to know Zach you find a genuine, salt-of-the-Earth kind of guy who gets on with things without fuss, supports those leading the activity (even if it is monotonous) and engages with those around him with enthusiasm and common sense.

That kind of no-nonsense approach has got Zach IG results of which he has been proud (at least to himself) and gradually led him to the field of coding where he has found his niche. And yet, in hidden depths of character, most people don't know how much Zach enjoys music festivals – nor how much he has treasured the time spent with friends at school.

In the background, Zach has independently completed courses to upskill himself in Computer Science with a view to a career in that field. Who knows where we will next see Zach but I would wager that he will be making a contribution as a valued and appreciated team member.



Peter Jaques



*"Living young, wild and free"
- Snoop Dogg*



ZICO VICELICH

Started 2020



Zico, being your POD teacher these past four years has been a true privilege. I've watched you grow from a tall, shy boy into a tall, confident leader, always calm while the rest of us scrambled with glitter glue and cardboard. As Totara House Captain, you led with passion, energy, and integrity. Your enthusiasm during sports and interhouse events was infectious, now half the juniors want your job!

One moment that captured your leadership perfectly was this year's POD Challenge, when both your mentor and I mysteriously vanished (okay, we were just away). You stepped up without hesitation, leading the team with the biggest smile while donning our proudly ridiculous DIY fire truck costumes, which, let's be honest, looked like they were made by small children. You made my wild ideas work better than I imagined.

I'll especially miss our gossip sessions about how our POD and House were clearly the best, even when the results disagreed. Your unshakable belief made it fun to pretend.

You're destined for great things. I'm convinced you'll be a millionaire, so please send me a postcard from your private island someday.



Manny Lui

ZOE ATKINSON

Started 2019



*"Goodbye...? Oh no, please.
Can't we go back to page one
and do it all over again?"
- Winnie The Pooh.
"What a privilege we have to be able
to yearn for our own memories."*

How does a reader, leader, actor, director,
Rise up, light up the stage, become a trailblazer?

Zoe is an intelligent young person who will succeed in whatever she chooses to do. She is a talented actor and director and has contributed greatly to Pinehurst School productions over the years. She is compassionate and friendly, always thinking about others, she reads widely, and this helps her get a really good grasp on the way the world is.

Zoe has spent the year trying to perfect her sarcasm detector, exclamations of "REALLY?" followed by "Ohhh, you're joking" were not uncommon in our history class this year. She finds joy in all the small things, and I always appreciated her laughter and good-natured humour.

One of my favourite things about Zoe is how she can go from cool calm and collected to 100% outraged within 0.4 seconds. Often the catalysts for these moments were undetectable to anyone else, the most memorable was Zoe shouting that she "hates movies" and just "UGHHH you know??" ... no Zoe, I still don't know. But I am glad that you know how to express yourself in every situation!

Best of luck for the future, I know you will be great!

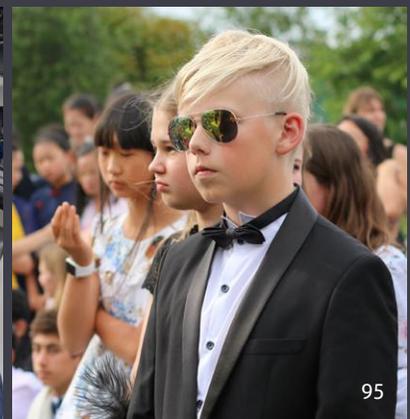
Rachel Anderson



YOUR PHOTOS













COLLEGE STAFF 2025

BACK ROW:

Calvin Dawson
Alice Dury
Georgi Ridler
Chloe Xu
Jason Goforth
Oliver Boden
Joe Duffett
Mitchell Fickling
John Foden
Alex Conn
Amanda Nettleton
Kirsten Smith
Kate Cousins

4TH ROW:

Michelle Pattison
Georgia Thomson
Abi Mantaj
Manny Lui
Natasha Cox
Nicole Webb
Nicole Lorimer
Nicole Rakete
Lila Pulsford
Jacquie Rea
Sarah Knox-Coupe
Genevieve McClean
Julie Koopen
Matthew Jujnovich

3RD ROW:

Karen Schulte
Claire Tippet
April Wang
Kate Hawthorn
Rhianna Jackson
Lily Perkins
Paige Bayliss
Colleen Kenney
Paul Le Lievre
Ashleigh Pope
Deepa Keshwara
Jasmine Yee
Tayla McRae

2ND ROW:

Michelle Liang
Laura Curwood
Tong Jin
Stephanie Curtis
Tracy Hillier
Michelle Gallagher
Cherie Peters
Alex Pennycuick
Rachel Shoesmith
Yvonne Berger
Sandy Liu
Cynthia Jaques
Holly Woodall
Melanie Reid

FRONT ROW:

Marta Marino Grana
Lauren Campbell
Nadia Perrin
Hadley Ronayne
Tony Hill
Joe Johansen
Dawn Sullivan
Tony Berghuis
Peter Reynolds
Hillary Mann
Chris Stafford
Peter Jaques
Rachel Anderson

AUTOGRAPHS

AUTOGRAPHS

