



Head Prefect Team 2021 (left to right) Jean Suhren, Trenyce Fia, Principal Mrs Lorraine Pound, Joelle Ireland and Caitlin Mansfield

Dear parents, caregivers and students

On Wednesday we welcomed families to the first Pasifika Fono for the year, followed by large numbers in the Marjory Adams Hall for the two sessions of the NCEA Information Evening – see Page 2 for the links. It is really good to be able to engage with families, and we look forward to being able to again, at the Term 1 Student Led Conferences on 31 March and 1 April, just before the Easter break.

This week we have received updated NCEA results, with both Level 3 and UE rates going up:

Level 2 – 94.5%

Level 3 – 89.1%

UE – 84% (topping results over the last five years). Well done Year 13 2020!

Some key reminders:

- Correct uniform is to be worn to and from school as well as during the school day – everyone should be familiar with the uniform code – if unsure go to the handbook on student elearn
- On public transport, students must wear masks – this is a compulsory Covid-19 health measure
- High standards of behaviour and consideration are to be shown in public and on public transport – eg: making sure you are not sitting in seats reserved for passengers with particular needs; giving up your seat for those who have a greater need; making sure that your conversations are appropriate and that they are not loud and intrusive – be considerate of other people.

Co-curricular activities are well underway – wishing all teams going to Summer Tournament the very best:

- Rowing at Karapiro for the Aon Maadi Cup
- Waka Ama in Rotorua
- Dragon Boating in Ashburton
- Ultimate Frisbee in Taupo
- Cricket in Auckland
- Water Polo in Auckland

Ngā mihi / Regards

Lorraine Pound – Principal

Coming up in Week 8....

Mon 22 - 28 Mar	Summer Tournament Week
Tue 23 Mar	Whanau Awhina - 6pm in P2
Wed 24 Mar	PTA Meeting - 6pm

Coming up in Week 9....

Wed 31 Mar & Thur 1 Apr	Student Led Conferences & Learning Summit
Fri 2 Apr	Good Friday (Easter break Fri 2 - Tue 6 April Back to school Wed 7 April)

[TO VIEW MORE EVENTS CLICK HERE >](#)

**STUDENT LED
CONFERENCES &
LEARNING SUMMIT**

31st March & 1st April, 2021

Term 1 Student Led Conferences and Learning Summit

Wednesday 31st of March and Thursday 1st of April

You will have already received an email outlining the purpose of these conferences, specific to each year level, and key information about these days. Included in that email are the instructions about how to make bookings. Please note that bookings close on Monday 29th of March. Year 9-11 Conferences start at 10.00am on Wednesday 31st March and Year 12 start at 11.50am after the Learning Summit. Year 9 - 12 Conferences start at 9.30am on Thursday 1st April.

These student-tutor-whanau conferences are student-led and focus on how the student is settling in to the demands of their new year level and it is an opportunity to plan ahead for the rest of the year. We know that student agency and a positive working relationship with families has an important impact on student progress and achievement and these conferences are a valuable part of that.

Please note that if we are at alert level 2, we are unable to have parents on site. Should we be in any level other than level 1, we will activate our online conferencing system which has been set up in the background. In this instance you will receive further information as your booking times may change. Your booking confirmation will include a link: [In alert level 2-4 click here to start your online interview](#). These conferences are about coming together in person where possible – Kanohi ki te kanohi. This link will only be used should we be unable to have parents on site.

Please note that if we are at alert level 1 and hosting conferences on site, the usual guidelines apply about not coming on site unless you are well. Hand sanitiser and QR codes for scanning will be provided in all of the rooms.

NCEA Information

Thank you to those who sent in their questions ahead of the Year 11 Curriculum, Assessment and NCEA Information and the Year 12 and 13 NCEA Information sessions, held on Wednesday evening. It was wonderful to see everyone who came to this evening. Please follow these links to view the information presented during both sessions:

- [Year 11 Curriculum, Assessment and NCEA Information](#)
- [Year 12 and 13 NCEA Information](#)

Gateway Programme @ Epsom Girls Grammar School

EGGS is fortunate to be able to offer the Gateway Programme to a select group of year 12 and 13 students. Gateway is funded by the Tertiary Education Commission and designed to support school students' transition into the workforce by offering them workplace learning while at secondary school.

We work with our selected students to find them work placements (generally about 5 days) in workplaces that align with their career interests. In the past we have had students placed in a broad range of business sectors including construction, agriculture, equine, legal, marketing, finance, retail, hospitality, travel, early childhood, and engineering.

Thank you to those who have already responded.

We are currently looking for placements for students in:

- Automotive mechanical
- Retail/Fashion
- Interior Design
- General Business/Office roles
- Hospitality
- Allied Health

If you would like to find out more or think you may be able to offer one of our Epsom Gateway students an opportunity to experience a work placement during 2021, please contact Mrs Sonya Sleigh at ssleigh@eggs.school.nz

PTA

My name is Usha Parbhu and I am the Chairperson for the PTA. Normally the PTA hosts a Welcome BBQ for new students and their families. However due to the recent COVID 19 restrictions we were unable to hold this annual event. Therefore on behalf of the PTA I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all the new families who have joined EGGs this year.

You may not be aware but the PTA at EGGs functions quite differently to what you may have experienced at other schools. Our main role is to support the staff and school community by helping out at various events such as the Welcome BBQ, Open Day, Enrolment Day and catering assistance for the staff at parent/teacher conferences.



The new dryer for the Technology Department funded by the PTA



The Photography Department received new cameras from the PTA

Due to the unprecedented circumstances with the global pandemic a number of other events that the PTA would normally have assisted with were unfortunately cancelled last year. However in previous years we have hosted various presentations and invited guest speakers. We have also supported the EGGs Foundation with their fundraising initiatives. We are hopeful that we will be able to resume some of this activity again this year.

The PTA rely heavily upon the one-off donation from each family, to support the needs of the school. The funds we do have; we spend in ways which benefit the entire school. The donations received from supportive families within our school community enables the PTA to fund annual needs such as scholarship at Prizegiving and Graduation Dinner. Additionally, last year we were also able to fund a number of school initiatives such as a trampoline and table tennis table for the Sports Department, lapel badges for Year 13 and a dryer for the Food Technology Department, to name a few.

Our meetings are held on a Wednesday evening once a month during term time; these meetings offer a wonderful insight into the life at EGGs and provides an opportunity to give feedback. I feel very privileged to have had the opportunity to be part of this committee for the past 6 years; it's a forum that certainly provides you with a greater connection to the school. We always look forward to meeting new parents so please come along. Just look out for the reminders on the school website.

There is a PTA meeting next **Wednesday the 24th of March at 6pm** in the Boardroom at school. Please come to the school reception to join this meeting.

Usha Parbhu - PTA Chairperson

CURRICULUM NEWS

Languages Department

The Languages Learning Area would like to extend a warm welcome to our 5 language assistants for 2021. These assistants are a vital part of our modern languages team: in particular they spend time working with students on speaking practice, specific pronunciation skills, and sharing their cultural knowledge.



Photo (left to right): Language assistants for 2021 Erika Gonzalez (Spanish), Anita Simpson (Māori), Koko Purdy (Japanese), Sandy Chassagne (French) and Corina Hsieh (Chinese).

EPSOM MUSIC NEWS

The Music Department would like to welcome our new music staff members. Miss Mannering is teaching curriculum music, directing the String Ensemble and overseeing chamber music at EGGs. Mr Davenport is directing our Stage Band and Concert Band this year.

Music has had a busy start to the year with a wide range of Co-Curricular Music groups now under way. We are excited about the number of students getting involved in Epsom Music including those students learning an instrument through our Itinerant Music Programme.



String Ensemble rehearsals Wednesday Lunchtimes with Miss Mannering

Play it Strange Songwriting Competitions

This is the time for keen song writers to look at the range of opportunities available through Play it Strange. Applications for the new Youthtown Songwriting Competition are now open to Year 9 to 11 students, in 3 different specific regions. 16 finalists will be chosen from each of the 3 regions (8 in each category) to be professionally recorded. The closing date for this is Friday 23rd April. For more information click the link down below.

<https://www.playitstrange.org.nz/competitions-3/competition-info/youthtown-songwriting-competition-2021>



Epsom Girls
Grammar School
Old Girls Association (Inc)

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE
EGGS OLD GIRLS ASSOCIATION'S
WOMEN IN LAW COMMITTEE'S EVENT

AN EVENING WITH HER HONOUR
JUSTICE JAN-MARIE DOOGUE

Please join us for drinks and canapés at Epsom Girls Grammar School to hear from Her Honour Justice Jan-Marie Doogue, former Chief District Court Judge, EGGs Alumna (1971 – 1975) and EGGs Founders Award recipient (2002). Justice Jan-Marie Doogue was appointed to the High Court bench in 2019.

*The evening will be facilitated by
Retired High Court Justice Dame Judith Potter DNZM CBE*

This is a not to be missed networking opportunity for our Old Girls in all areas and stages of the legal profession. We are delighted that we will be able to hear from Justice Jan-Marie Doogue in 2021 which is the Centenary Year of the EGGs Old Girls Association.

Friday 16 April 2021
6:00pm – 8:00pm
Administration Building Foyer
Epsom Girls Grammar School
Silver Road, Epsom

Please RSVP to oga@eggs.school.nz by 9 April 2021

There is no charge for this function which is generously sponsored by Urlich Milne Lawyers, but *koha* to support the Old Girls Association's scholarships and prizes will be welcomed.
Suggested donations are \$10 for waged and \$5 for unwaged.

SPORT

Swimming Programme

Our swimming programme has started in school this week. This is part of the Physical Education programme, with the purpose of giving Year 9 and 10 students who need help to improve their swimming or those that can't swim, the opportunity to learn. The programme is taught by Janine Ibbs, a professional swimming teacher, and students who have been selected (through the testing that has been carried out in PE lessons earlier in the term), attend one swimming lesson each week, until they graduate from the programme. We are very grateful to the School Board for their continued support of this initiative as it has given many students the opportunity to develop skills to be safe in the water. This is a vital life skill for everyone to have in New Zealand.

This term, there are 150 Year 9 students (36% of all Year 9's) and 96 Year 10 students (22% of all Year 10's) in the programme.



Sailing



Year 12 student and sailor Sophia Morgan was selected for her first Olympic Games in Tokyo, representing Fiji. Sophia mentioned she is feeling honoured and excited about this once in a lifetime opportunity. Sophia qualified for the Tokyo games after achieving the best-placed sailor from Oceania at the 2020 World Championships in Australia. Based on her success, she was offered the opportunity to train with the NZ Youth Sailing Squad while studying at Epsom Girls Grammar School. Sophia said she hoped to overcome the challenges which included improving her fitness level and learning a lot. Well done Sophia!

70th Auckland inter-secondary schools Fleet Racing Regatta

A few weeks ago was the 70th Auckland inter-secondary schools fleet racing regatta. Well done to Sophia for placing 2nd overall and 1st in the laser radial fleet and to Grace for placing 5th overall and 1st in the starling fleet!



Cycling

Interested in joining the EGGs Cycling Squad?

- Loan bikes available for the 1st year
- New Rider Programme
- Learn how to ride a Team Time Trial
- Team races and social events
- Large squad
- Camp in Cambridge

Queries to Ally: 19474@apps.eggs.school.nz



Touch



Congratulations to Stormy-Lee who has been selected for NZ Touch U16 Girls! An outstanding achievement!



Following on from Touch NZ Junior Nationals, LaBelle has been selected to attend the Touch NZ Talent Identification Camp 2021. Amazing progress and achievement Belle!



As you may be aware, Auckland Transport this year has an updated process for students 16+ to get the student discount loaded on their AT HOP cards.

[Click for more information](#)

FACILITIES FOR HIRE

Epsom Girls Grammar School has a variety of venues and spaces for hire during evenings, weekends and school holidays.

For enquiries about the Marjory Adams Hall, Outdoor Courts, Gymnasiums, The Joyce Fisher Sports Centre, Dance Rooms, Field, Lecture Theatre and Classrooms, please contact :

Katie Holmes
Facilities Manager
kholmes@eggs.school.nz



RAYE FREEDMAN ARTS CENTRE



The Raye Freedman Arts Centre is incredibly excited to announce that we will be hosting a special screening of, EGGS old-girl, Louise Lever's feature documentary "Revolt She Said".

Where is the real progress in feminism? This is the central question of the film. Featuring Former Prime Minister of NZ Helen Clark, and other inspiring Kiwi and Australian women, the film traverses gender and why women are considered the secondary gender. With unflinching accounts from the older lesbian community about coming out, we also hear perspectives from empowered trans men and women, non-binary and those who do not easily fall into society's categories.

For more information and ticketing, head to the [Raye Freedman Arts Centre's website](#).