



Epsom Girls Grammar School

Te Kura Tuarua o Ngā Taitamāhine o Maungawhau

Epsom Girls Grammar School – February 2025 Principal's Bulletin

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

We have been delighted with the smooth start our girls have made to the year. Positive learning habits in setting alarms to get to school on time, wearing our uniform correctly, and being prepared for learning are all essential for students to establish strongly at the start of the academic year and we have been impressed with the 99% of our students who take their responsibilities in this regard seriously.

Epsom Girls Grammar School is committed to the highest standards of academic attainment and we are very pleased with the improved NCEA results in 2024, with 89% of our year 12 cohort gaining NCEA Level 2 and 85% of our year 13 cohort gaining NCEA Level 3. Merit and Excellence Endorsement rates have also improved with 59% of the year 13 cohort gaining a Merit or Excellence Endorsement. 76% of our year 13 cohort also gained University Entrance in 2024. These results are testament to the high aspirations of our students and their families and we congratulate both our students and their teachers on these results.

There are some key messages and reminders that we'd like to bring to your attention as we continue with this term:

School Donation

Thank you to those parents who have paid the School donation already through the Parent Portal. We really do appreciate the support we receive annually from our families which includes the financial support through the payment of the School donation. The donation is key to the School's annual operating income and helps us to provide the quality education that our parents expect for their daughters.

The Epsom Girls Grammar School Board has set the parental contribution in 2025 at \$1,095 per student.

Why donations are so important:

- Without the income from the parent donations each year, Epsom Girls Grammar School would struggle to operate.
- Epsom Girls Grammar School's EQI number calculated by the Ministry means that we are at the lowest possible levels of funding from the Government.
- Operational funding from the government is expected to cover the most basic learning resources (books, equipment, classroom materials), support staff salaries, professional development, maintenance of buildings and grounds and all information technology and

administration costs. However, to maintain a level of quality that our community expects, this needs to be augmented each year by locally raised funds.

Generous parent financial support over many decades has helped Epsom Girls Grammar School develop the facilities and offer the opportunities to our students that we do now, and we want to keep improving these. Your contribution for 2025 will ensure the continued improvement of our school for current and future students.

We would like to remind parents that any donation made to the School is tax deductible.

To make it as easy as possible for you to donate, the School offers different payment options to suit - whether as a lump sum (via the [Parent Portal](#)) or monthly amounts. While lump sum payments are best for the School, you can set up an automatic payment of \$109.50 each month from February to November. To get support or if you have any queries regarding payment of the contribution please contact the Finance Office at receivables@eggs.school.nz.

Thank you again for your ongoing support.

Congratulations class of 2024

We look forward to congratulating in person our top Scholars for 2024 at our Scholars Assembly on Tuesday 25 February (live stream link [here](#)). We'd like to highlight here the outstanding results of a few of these students:

- Abbie Mackay, EGGS Top Scholar with an Outstanding Scholarship in Classical Studies, and Scholarships in English, Latin, Chemistry (in 2024) and Drama (in 2023)
- Alexis Chu, EGGS Top Scholar with Scholarships in Biology, Chemistry, Statistics (in 2024) and Food Technology (in 2023)
- Donatella Paton, NZ Top in Subject and Outstanding Scholarship in Design and Visual Communication

A full list of Scholarship winners will be read out at our Scholars Assembly, will be published in our next Bulletin and on our School website.

The outstanding performances of our students is not limited to the classroom, and at the end of 2024 we learned that Shayla Nepia's outstanding performances for the school's Premier Netball Team, as well as her representation in the NZ Secondary Schools and U21 squads, earned her the Netball Smart Secondary Schools Player of the Year award. This prestigious award is apt recognition of Shayla's work ethic, talent and commitment to her sport. We congratulate her on this achievement.

Phones away for the day

Our school expectations around mobile phones align with Ministry direction, introduced in 2024, that 'phones are away for the day'. At Epsom Girls Grammar School, that means mobile phones should be turned off and in students' bags for the duration of the school day (8:35am - 3:15pm each day, except Wednesday 9:20am - 3:15pm).

The introduction of this expectation, that phones are away for the day, led to some very positive outcomes for students and staff in 2024, some of which were:

- a significant increase in active play during breaks;
- increased face-to-face interaction, both in classes and during breaks;
- reduction of in-class distractions from phone messages and notifications.

We applaud all of our students and parents for their support of this initiative and are continuing these expectations in 2025. We are removing the warning step, however, so students must adhere to the 'away for the day' expectation if they want to avoid having their phone confiscated. If phones are seen out during the school day, they will be confiscated and parents will need to collect their daughters phone at 4pm on Wednesday or Friday, from the Student Reception. If a student's phone is confiscated on Wednesday, this is available on Friday.

To support our girls, we ask that parents do not message them or call them during the school day. If parents need to contact their daughter urgently during school hours, please call the School office and a message will be passed on to your daughter as quickly as we are able.

Tuck shop ordering online

Epsom Girls Grammar School has a new Tuck Shop provider which allows for ordering and paying for items online. The link to do this is [here](#). We have run out of some more popular items in the last couple of days and so to ensure your daughter gets her preference, pre-ordering online is advised.

Homestay host families needed

The Epsom Girls Grammar School International Department are looking for families who can provide a caring and supportive home environment for an international student. If English is your first language, you have a spare room and live within close distance to school, we look forward to hearing from you.

Hosting an international student is an enriching experience and a wonderful opportunity to share your family life, Kiwi culture, and hospitality, to experience other cultures and learn more about the world.

In 2024, NZ\$380 per week is paid to cover full board and in 2025 will increase to NZ\$400 per week.

Please call Jo Bostock on 970-6757 for further information or email jbostock@eggs.school.nz

Upcoming events

Friday 21 February	Athletics Finals Day
Tuesday 25 February	Scholars Assembly (8:30 - 9: 05am) live link here
Tuesday 4 March	Pasifika Fono 5:15pm
	NCEA Information Evening 6pm
Tuesday 4 & Thursday 6 March	Swimming Sports - competitors only
Friday 7 March	EGGS Day off (no timetabled classes on this day)

The [Parent Portal](#) aims to provide you with information about your daughter and an ability to make payments online. Access to all the functions within the Portal is available to all parents and caregivers. Snapshots of what is available on the Parent Portal are [here](#). Instructions for accessing the Parent Portal for new students are [here](#).

Should you have any questions regarding this email, please contact my PA, Catherine Readhead, on 09 9706 707.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B McNaughton', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Brenda McNaughton

Principal

Epsom Girls Grammar School