



Epsom Girls Grammar School

Te Kura Tuarua o Ngā Taitamāhine o Maungawhau

Epsom Girls Grammar School – Principal’s Bulletin

Dear Parents and caregivers,

This week we see our year 10 students head up north to Camp, enjoying the challenges and learning opportunities that happen outside the classroom. We saw off the first group of excited and well-provisioned girls this morning and the second group will travel north on Wednesday, for the second half of the week. We are also enjoying seeing girls taking on leadership roles and dedicating themselves to learn new skills in cultural groups, sporting competitions and trainings, and in the performing arts. We look forward to the Fiafia night, on Saturday 16 March, where all our cultural groups will be able to perform for the wider community in preparation for Polyfest, taking place in the following week. Students involved in the EGGs/AGS joint production, The School of Rock, are also well underway with their practices and we look forward to that production at the start of Term 2.

There are a number of updates that we want you to be aware of as we head into the second half of Term 1.

Feedback sought

The School Board is undertaking a consultation process to inform its strategic planning. Key stakeholders will be identified, and a series of interviews will be held, with individuals and small groups. Thank you to the many parents who completed this form when it was sent out earlier this year. If you have not done so, and would like to provide feedback on your experiences at Epsom Girls Grammar School, please take a moment to fill in this [form](#) (closing date for feedback is Wednesday 6 March, 5pm).

NCEA Evening – Tuesday 12 March

Epsom Girls Grammar School takes the learning journey of all of our students, along with the credentialling of that learning, as our Number One Priority. We would like to invite any parents of year 11 students to our Learning Assessment and Qualifications evening, 6:30 – 7:30pm on Tuesday 12 March.

We would also like to invite parents of year 12 and 13 students to an NCEA and University Entrance information evening, 7:45 – 8:30pm on Tuesday 12 March.

These presentations will take place in the Marjory Adams Hall and senior students, as well as Deans, will be available if parents would like to ask further questions.

Attendance

We, again, thank parents who support their daughter to arrive at school on time each day that the school is open for instruction. The school will be focussing on attendance and punctuality this year, to further support all students to develop this important habit and life skill. Tutor teachers have been asked to have conversations with students who arrive to school late and if this is repeated, parents can expect to be contacted by your daughters tutor teacher to seek support in

this regard. Deans will also become involved if families and tutor teachers are unable to quickly rectify the attendance or punctuality concerns.

Parents or caregivers can help their daughter by notifying the school if she is absent or legitimately late for school: by emailing attendance@eggs.school.nz or by texting 3255 or by using the Kamar App (Student details – Absence notify). Your daughter's tutor teacher can also be emailed. In whichever method is used, please give your daughter's name, her tutor class and the reason for her absence.

If your daughter needs a pass to leave school early (e.g. for a doctor or dentist appointment), please send her with a note, or contact the school via any of the methods above, and have her get her leave pass from the Attendance Office during tutor time on the day she has the appointment. Leave passes are only available during tutor time.

If parents or caregivers choose to take their daughter out of school, please be aware that assessments towards qualifications cannot be completed via distance learning. Epsom Girls Grammar School is now fully focussed on face-to-face teaching, learning and assessment for all students.

It is the responsibility of all parents and caregivers to make sure their child is at school every day, and to notify the school on the day if they are absent. Family holidays or taking time off for extracurricular activities (that are not organised by the school) are not acceptable reasons for being absent.

Student-led Conferences

In a change of format, the 2024 Student-led Conferences will take place face-to-face for all students on Wednesday 27 and Thursday 28 March. These dates lead into the long Easter weekend so we hope that all parents will be able to take the opportunity to have a holistic conversation about the start of the academic year, for your daughter(s), and discuss the first Progress Report for Term 1 that has been prepared by her subject teachers. This Progress Report will be provided by the tutor teacher at the Conference and then made available digitally, on the Parent Portal, in week 10.

An opportunity to book a time to come in to school for this Student-led Conference will be emailed to parents and caregivers in week 7 (next week). Please note that times for Conferences are likely to be 1 – 7pm on Wednesday 27 March and 9am – 3pm on Thursday 28 March.

Health and Safety

Thank you to the parents who are using the surrounding streets to drop off and pick up their daughter(s). Silver Road is not a space that can safely accommodate cars at the start or end of the day when large numbers of students are using these main gates, so we appreciate the efforts parents are making to use alternative locations.

Upcoming Events

Monday 4 – Wednesday 6 March	First Year 10 Camp
Wednesday 6 – Friday 8 March	Second Year 10 Camp
Saturday 16 March	Fiafia night in the Marjory Adams Hall
Monday 18 – Saturday 23 March	Summer Tournament Week

Wednesday 20 – Saturday 23 March	Polyfest
Tuesday 26 March	Swimming Sports Prelims
Wednesday 27 – Thursday 28 March	Student-led Conferences
Friday 29 March – Tuesday 2 April	School closed for Easter Weekend
Thursday 4 April	Swimming Sports Finals
Friday 12 April	Last day of Term 1

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 or the School Code of Conduct, please contact the Principal's Assistant, Catherine Readhead on 09 9706 707.



Brenda McNaughton
Principal
Epsom Girls Grammar School