



# Epsom Girls Grammar School

Te Kura Tuarua o Ngā Taitamāhine o Maungawhau

## Epsom Girls Grammar School – Principal’s Bulletin

Dear Parents and caregivers,

As we approach Easter and the last few weeks of Term 1, we are enjoying celebrating the diversity of our school community as many of our students are away at Summer Tournament Week or will be representing our cultural diversity at Polyfest. Academically, there will also be many students demonstrating their learning progress in assessments in the coming weeks. We encourage all students to keep a healthy balance of academic study, active participation in our co-curricular program of sports and performing or visual arts, and service at home or in our community. The Student-led Conferences (Wednesday 27 & Thursday 28 March) are an opportunity for parents and caregivers to partner with the school to hear how our students have settled into the year and support them to achieve their goals for this year.

This week we wish all of our students competing at Summer Tournament week, and those performing at Polyfest, every success in their endeavours.

### Student led Conferences

All students and their parents/caregivers are expected to make a time for a face-to-face meeting with their tutor teacher on either Wednesday 27 (1pm till 7pm) or Thursday 28 March (9am till 3pm). Each meeting will take 15 – 20 minutes and provide opportunity for students to share their own reflections of how their year has started, and tutor teachers to share a Progress Report indicating the effort, organisation, homework and academic attainment for each subject so far this year. These conversations are designed to be holistic and incorporate aspects of wellbeing and co-curricular involvement so that parents and caregivers can partner with the school to support each student with their goals for the year. Tutor teachers may not be able to answer all parents’ questions but they will be able to connect students and parents with the relevant support networks within the school.

Deans, Careers and Guidance staff will also be available to meet with parents during this time and we encourage parents to make appointments with these staff in advance, to avoid long queues.

If you have not made an appointment with your daughter’s tutor teacher yet, please use this [link](#) find instructions for doing this. There will be no normal timetabled classes for students on either Wednesday 27 or Thursday 28 March. If year 9 students need supervision for either of these days, parents are asked to contact the year 9 deans.

### Literacy and Numeracy workshops

A small number of students have been invited to attend Numeracy and Literacy workshops on the morning of Wednesday 27 March. Parents have been emailed about these additional opportunities and we strongly encourage those students invited to attend and get the support they need for these important aspects of their NCEA qualification.

## **Mobile phone rules and clarity around uniform and attendance expectations**

From the start of Term 2, students will need to follow the national rules for mobile phone use in schools: that mobile phones need to be away for the day. This means that students will not be permitted to use their mobile phone on the school site, during the school day. Students are encouraged to leave mobile phones at home or to leave them, turned off, in their bags for the day. This includes students who are on a school course or visit outside the school grounds. Exemptions to the mobile phone rule can be applied for through your daughters dean, and will only be considered if:

- a phone is needed for health reasons (e.g. to monitor insulin levels); or
- a phone is needed to help a student with a disability or learning support need (e.g. to assist with impaired communication).

If a teacher requires mobile phones to be used for a specific educational task or purpose, this can still occur. Teachers will communicate this clearly to students in each instance.

Parents will still be able to contact students by phoning the front office.

Uniform expectations remain a focus for the year and students without correct uniform items will be asked to get a uniform pass from the Deans and parents will be contacted if a suitable note or email has not been provided prior. Students and parents are reminded that non-uniform items may be confiscated if students persist in wearing them after being asked to remove them. Uniform expectations can be found [here](#).

We, again, thank parents who support their daughter to arrive at school on time each day that the school is open for instruction. Tutor teachers have been asked to contact parents/caregivers if students are repeatedly late or absent without satisfactory written explanation from a parent/caregiver. The school can be notified by emailing [attendance@eggs.school.nz](mailto: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.

## **Open Day**

We invite parents of year 8 students to join us for our open day, Tuesday 9 April. We deliberately hold our Open Day during a normal school day so that prospective parents and students can see what learning looks like for our students on a day-to-day basis. We hope girls will get a sense of the many academic and co-curricular opportunities that a large Grammar School offers and have the confidence to ask questions of the young women taking them on a tour of the school. The girls school environment is one that is caring and empathetic, supporting girls to develop skills and character in their time with us and to leave as strong and confident young women. Parents need to

register to attend the Open Day for either session and local intermediate schools have been pre-allocated a time to attend. Year 8 students are encouraged to attend in their current school uniform.

To register to visit the School [click here](#).

### Lunch orders

We started the year with a new lunch bar contractor, Epsom Eats, and student feedback has been positive. From this week, orders can be placed online before 8:30am for student collection from the side window during lunchtime. The online menu is a condensed version of the extensive menu available over the counter every day.

Those wishing to place orders simply set up an account at <https://lunchorders.co.nz/parents/>

### Upcoming Events

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
Tuesday 9 April	Open Day
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