



# Epsom Girls Grammar School

Te Kura Tuarua o Ngā Taitamāhine o Maungawhau

## Epsom Girls Grammar School – Principal’s Bulletin

Dear Parents and caregivers,

We were delighted to welcome so many of you back on site for face-to-face Student-led Conferences before the Easter weekend. This was an opportunity to hear from our students about how the year has started for them and see how we can work with families to support students’ goals for the year. Thank you to those parents who provided feedback on these days and continue to support their daughter(s) to take up the many opportunities that are offered at Epsom Girls Grammar School to excel academically, socially, and in co-curricular activities.

At Epsom Girls Grammar School we have high expectations of our students’ success in NCEA qualifications and it was pleasing to see over a hundred senior students take up the opportunity for additional practice towards Literacy and Numeracy common assessment tasks, that are a co-requisite to any NCEA qualification this year. All the resources from these workshops can be found on eLearn under “Literacy-Numeracy”. Senior students who have not yet achieved these co-requisites are encouraged to keep practising in preparation for their assessment, in the week of 20 May.

This bulletin contains important information about new mobile phone expectations, that will come into effect from the start of Term 2. Please take time to read this information carefully and discuss, as a family, how you can support your daughter(s) to meet these expectations from Monday 29 April, 2024.

This bulletin also contains information about our Open Day, Tuesday 9 April, our Silent Auction fundraiser for our Kapahaka group and expectations for year 13 study periods from Term 2. We also look forward to our joint EGG/AGS Production (“School of Rock”), early in Term 2, and celebrate excellence in a number of co-curricular fields. We hope you have a relaxing and enjoyable break planned for the end of Term 1, after Friday 12 April, and we wish all of our students and their families a happy and safe holiday. School will recommence for Term 2 on Monday 29 April.

### Expectations for mobile phone use at Epsom Girls Grammar School

At Epsom Girls Grammar School, from the start of Term 2, the expectation is that cellphones will be ‘away for the day’. This means that if mobile phones are brought to school they are switched off (or on silent) and kept in bags at all times while on school grounds during the school day\*, unless directed by a teacher.

(\* including at interval, lunch and during tutor class)

### **Mobile phones ‘away for the day’ expectations**

At Epsom Girls Grammar School students are encouraged to develop strong learning habits and contribute to the positive learning and social environment we enjoy at the school. Developing healthy in-person relationships helps build the connection and camaraderie that we value in our diverse and inclusive community. Our hope is that the ‘away for the day’ approach will enhance these goals, as well as reduce distraction, maximise learning time and minimise the potential for negative online behaviours to impact our community during school hours.

In instances when staff see a student with a mobile phone at school on the school grounds during the school day, one warning of the breach will be communicated to the student. If, after that warning, the student is seen with a mobile phone again they will need to have a restorative conversation with a Dean or Deputy Principal and the mobile phone will be confiscated. After this conversation, a parent/guardian will be contacted and notified when the phone can be collected. Confiscated phones will be put in a named, ziplock bag and taken to student reception. The phone can then be collected by a parent/guardian from a Deputy Principal at student reception at 4pm each Wednesday or Friday. Breaches will be recorded on students' pastoral file on Kamar.

Students who display disrespectful or defiant behaviour in relation to the mobile phones 'away for the day' policy will meet with Deans or Deputy Principals, given this may breach the Epsom Girls Grammar School Code of Conduct. Dean or Deputy Principal meetings with parents and further consequences may form part of a process, following such behaviour.

### **Mobile phones 'away for the day' exemptions**

#### **Learning activities**

If mobile phones are to be used for a learning activity, and they often are, this will be clearly signalled by the classroom teacher. Teachers will direct that mobile phones may be used and they will supervise mobile phone use during the lesson – when mobile phones can be used and when they need to be put away again.

#### **Health and emergency situations**

In matters related to a student's health and safety concerns, a parent or caregiver can apply to the Principal, via the Dean or Deputy Principal responsible for their student's year level, for an exemption (e.g. medical conditions or child protection issues).

If a parent needs to contact their student during the school day, they should call the school office or contact their daughter through the Dean.

### **EGGS Open Day for 2025 enrolment**

We warmly invite prospective students and their parents to join our Open Day on Tuesday 9 April, 2024. We want to show you our school during a normal school day so that parents and students can see the wide variety of subjects and learning opportunities our students enjoy. Our guides will introduce themselves and take visitors on a tour around the campus in one of the two sessions, either 9:15am or 1:30pm. Our local schools have their session time allocated.

*Please note - both sessions are now fully booked.*

Please [register here](#) to be added to the waiting list. We will also be offering student-led tours in Term 2.

*If you're interested in viewing our boarding facility, Epsom House, a tour will leave from Reception in the main administration building at 11.30am and return at 12.30pm.*

### **Kapahaka Silent Auction**

*E tūohu ana a Maungawhau ki ngā mātāwaka o te motu nei, he pānui tēnei kia haere mai koe ki tā tātou hui Pō Toi Whakangū.*

Our mountain Maungawhau bows its lofty peak to all those of this land. Our Kapahaka rōpū is on a journey this year to raise funds for brand new piupiu, this will enable our students to continue developing and demonstrating their passion and expertise on any stage.

Our community is warmly welcomed to this event at Epsom Girls Grammar School, in the Marjorie Adams Hall, for our Silent Art Auction on the Thursday 11 April, at 6pm.



## EGGS/AGS Production – “School of Rock”

Tickets are now on sale for the EGGS / AGS musical “School of Rock”. Music is by Andrew Lloyd Webber, lyrics by Glenn Slater and the script is by Julian Fellowes (of Downton Abbey fame). This musical comedy is based on the classic family movie by the same name. It is funny, fast-paced and will entertain the whole family.

It follows the story of Dewey Finn who finds himself out of a job and kicked out of his band and (in order to earn some money) pretends to be a teacher at the illustrious Horace Green School. Dewey is surprised to find he enjoys seeing his students succeed as they connect over their skill in and love of music.

Ticket sales:

<https://www.iticket.co.nz/events/2024/may/eggs-school-of-rock>



## Summer Tournament Week highlights and Co-curricular news

We had a number of teams away competing recently in Summer Tournament Week, groups performing in Polyfest, and other groups competing in North Island and National Championships. A few highlights are below:

Dragon boating – 1st place in Auckland Champs at Lake Pupuke (continued a legacy of EGGS winning these Championships for over 20 years)

Waterpolo – 2nd in North Island Champs

Waka ama – an U19 mixed team placed 2nd in their 250m final, U19 teams came 7th and 9th in their 500m and 250m finals and Abi Liufalani came 4th in her single 250m final

Rowing – Our teams made 5 A finals and Stevie Mabey made the A final in the single scull event over 2km, a first for EGGS. Our U16 and U17 coxed 8's placed 4th in their A finals

Cricket – 1st XI placed 3rd in the T20 National qualifier

Kapahaka – 1st in Haka Taparahi

Chinese Group – 3rd equal for choreography

Tongan Group – 3rd for Ma'ulu'ulu, runner up in year 10 speeches for Mariah Vaotangi

Samoan Group – 3rd overall on the Samoan Stage









In other sporting news, Ursula and Emi Summers recently competed in the North Island Schools Downhill (mountain biking) and both won their classes (U15 & U16).

They then moved onto the international bike festival, Crankworx, where they both received gold medals in the highly contested Taniwha Downhill & gold medals in the Pump Track. Ursula won a further gold medal in the Dual Slalom and Emi, a further silver medal. Emi then won another gold medal in the Air DH which is another downhill race.

In total between them they won 6 Gold medals and 1 Silver medals at Crankworx and then 2 Gold medals at the Schools Downhill competition. This is an outstanding performance from our girls.



March has been the crowning month for Secondary School Open Water Swimming in New Zealand and Epsom Girls Grammar School was represented well in a number of competitions.

### **Harlequins Zonal Secondary Schools Open Water Championships**

On Sunday 10 March, Olivia Bates and Amelia Lafaiali'i met pre-dawn preparations for a 7am start to the NZ Ocean Swim Series Harbour Crossing. The 2.6km swim from Bayswater across to the Viaduct doubled as the Harlequins Zonal (Auckland/Northland) Secondary Schools Open Water Championships.

Amelia Lafaiali'i, swimming in her third open water swim of the season gave a creditable performance placing 4th in the F12-13 age group, completing the course in 54 min 44 seconds. Olivia Bates justified her 'favourite' tag placing 1st Female overall and 1st Female in the F16-19 age group getting through the swim in a time of 36 min 34 seconds. This was an outstanding performance from our girls.



### **2024 New Zealand Secondary School Open Water Swimming Championships**

Six days after the Harbour Crossing swim the 2024 New Zealand Secondary School Open Water Swimming Championships were held in Lake Tikitapu (Blue Lake), Rotorua and once again fantastic conditions met the competitors as dawn broke.

A total of 131 students took part across the three championship distances. The long swim (3.5km) had 59 students swimming a full lap of the Blue Lake, 47 students completing the mid-distance event (1km) and 20 students took on the short distance (500m).

Olivia Bates competed in all three championship distances, finishing second in the 3.5km with a time of 45min 38 seconds, first in the 1km in a time of 12 min 36 seconds, and first in the 500m in a time of 6 min 20 seconds.

These were outstanding results in back-to-back races and we look forward to watching Olivia's continued pursuit of her swimming goals this year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brenda McNaughton'.

Brenda McNaughton  
**Principal**  
Epsom Girls Grammar School