

Dear Grade 10 Parents

This year sees us celebrating our eleventh 'Bishops Epic' and this letter will be the first of around fifteen that deal with Epic. The Epic takes place at the end of the fourth term and involves the whole grade, with the exception of those away on exchange. This year's dates are Tuesday 14th November to Wednesday 29th November. The Epic takes place in the Cederberg area and the boys will do a lot of preparatory work on it in LO in the third and fourth terms.

By way of an introduction there will be an information evening next week on **Thursday 23 March** followed by the Grade 10 Parents Association Social. **The presentation starts at 5.45 pm in the Theatre and the social from 6.30 pm in the Heatlie Pavilion.** It is important you attend this meeting to try and understand the vital role you play in the success of your son's Epic experience and to understand things like; the last night, safety, kit, correct footwear and food – it will hopefully prevent some last minute confusion and help you and your son to prepare for what should be a great experience. We've also invited a representative from Hi-Tec to address us and to showcase some of the equipment and clothing we're recommending. You can also read about Epic on the Bishops website (<http://college.bishops.org.za/epic/default.aspx>). The magazine is online at <http://www.bishops.org.za/magazine/> and great coverage is given of previous Epic experiences. This year's one is coming out by the end of term. I know there are a number of our parents who will not be able to make the evening due to being out of town – please feel free to contact me if you have questions. I also send out a mail to all parents after the evening and put my presentation up on the internet.

I might also add that you will be seeing the video that was professionally filmed for the school for last year's Epic. In addition to this, we will be advertising the sale of cards that have been put together by Michael Beckurts who was on Epic last year – the launch for both happen the night before and the cards will be available from the School Shop. Please click on the link to see the poster showing what is on offer.

The cost of Epic last year was R10 800 per student. This year we hope that it will not be more than R12 000 – we are still in negotiations with a number of service providers about costs. If it is R12000, then this is the lowest increase (at 11,1%) we've passed on to parents in the past 8 years. We're spreading the charge over three terms, so you will find an initial charge of R4 000 (I will mail you when the amount has been approved) in your account at the end of this term. Fluctuating food, transport and petrol prices do, as you can imagine, play havoc with budgeting.

Please note that the choice for boys in term 4 is either exchange or Epic – for many good reasons, both cannot be done in term 4. Please also note that it is the exception (and a rare one) that boys are allowed to miss parts of Epic – if you foresee that this might be an issue, then please be in touch sooner than later. Epic is part of the school curriculum and as such is compulsory for those who are here in term 4.

There are two dates we would like you to diarise. The first is the evening of Sunday 12 November for a 'Blessing of Boots' Service and the second is Tuesday 28th November – the fathers (or significant paternal figure) and sons last night (you leave Cape Town at 12 pm on Tuesday and are back in the office before 12 pm on the Wednesday). Further details at the information evening.

If you have any further questions please feel free to contact me directly.

If you have not yet replied to the invite to the PA function, you have till Friday to do so (cberry@bishops.org.za).

Kind regards

Graham Robertson