

Dear Grade 10 Epic Parents (dads in particular)

During the Epic your son will spend 24 hours alone on his solo experience. We would like to invite you to write a letter to your son which we will give to him at the start of the solo time. Being away from home will give your son the chance to think about all sorts of things including his home, family and his relationship with you. The same will apply to you: having your son away for this length of time will also give you the chance to think about your son and all that he means to you.

We realize that due to a variety of circumstances there are boys in our grade 10 group who do not have a father in their life. We appeal to those families to find someone who serves as a 'father-figure' to your son (an uncle, grandfather, brother, godfather, close friend) and ask that person to commit himself to be with your son on the last night of the Epic and to write a letter to your son.

We have found that this 'father's letter' is an extremely meaningful interaction for both the father and the son. It is entirely up to you what you want to include in the letter. One colleague gave the following advice to someone who asked him what to write – *"It is hoped the father will say things in it which he would want to say to his son about their past, their present and the future. About what that the son means to the father and his hope for him. About what it means to be a man in a tough world, a good husband, a good father, a man of faith, etc. In short we are looking for a personal letter from father to son. Only the boy sees it. It is sealed. For many boys (and dads) this has been a hugely significant experience."*

The letter needs to be dropped off at the **admin office** before the end of school on **Monday 6th November**. Please note the following:

- 1 No parcels – just a letter! Remember he needs to carry it once read and we only allocate a plastic sleeve per group for all the letters.
- 2 Put your son's name and group on the envelope – you can find this info at <http://college.bishops.org.za/epic/Documents.aspx> - the document is *Epic Groups 2017*
- 3 Please contact Liz King lking@bishops.org.za if you need to make an alternative arrangement.
- 4 The idea is that the letter is a 'surprise' so please don't ask your son to drop it off – we want him to see what it looks like only when he is on his solo.

Yours sincerely

Epic Staff

PS – All dads should have booked off the afternoon of Tuesday 28th November and the morning of Wednesday 29th November to join us in the Cederberg for the last night of the Epic. This is a date with your son – and nothing should stand in the way. You can leave the office at lunch on the Tuesday and be back in the office by 11.30am on Wednesday!

Directions to the venues for the last night are on the school's website.

Krakadouw at Waterbase

Apex and Tafelberg at Sanddrif

Wolfberg and Sneeuwberg at Jamaka

"Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbour. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover." ~ Mark Twain