

Dear Grade 10 Epic Parents

Epic draws every closer – just 66 days to go!

Medical details and dietary requirements should have been updated by you by now, on the Bishops system. Please update them immediately if you still have not AND contact me directly if there is something important you want me to know about your son medically.

If your son carries an epipen, he must carry two, in case of an emergency deep in the mountains. And if he uses an asthma pump, he needs to hike with it.

This term the boys have already received addresses from me (introducing Epic), from our cycling professional, and from our boots specialist, one from the Cape Leopard Trust and last week there was a talk about snakes. I will do an Environmental talk next week and there will be a food talk, next term, closer to Epic. Boys who were not quite up to speed with cycling were also able to attend a 2-day voluntary workshop.

On Monday to Wednesday, 30 boys have volunteered to be part of an Epic 1st Aid Course. These boys have been distributed among the 10 Epic hiking groups. On Thursday 25 September, all Epic boys will climb Devil's Peak. This will be a measure of how fit boys are and perhaps be a wake-up call for some. This event is compulsory for all Epic boys. Boys who do not climb on Thursday may put their Epic in jeopardy. We have spoken repeatedly to boys about their fitness and now is the time to encourage your sons to get training, if they have not done so already. Boys will do another compulsory hike with their backpacks during the Epic training week.

By now, all boys should have purchased their boots or at least be thinking about it. Hi-tec vouchers are still available from me. Boys have been told that they are allowed to wear their boots to school to walk them in, but this will not suffice – hiking is very different to walking around at school.

The Epic groups and hiking groups have been finalised and announced and so boys can now see with whom they will be spending the duration of Epic, with whom they will be hiking, what their hiking routes will be and where they will be spending their last night (for fathers/ father-figures coming up on the final night).

Linked to the website (and here) is the [Epic Equipment List 2025](#), if you would like to start gathering things together. This is a guideline and you are not expected to buy everything new or any 'top of the range' equipment. Many of last year's grade 10s and the 2023 grade 10s will still have kit and this kit can be borrowed from them. Please also find, linked to the website, the [School Shop Order Form 2025](#), from which you can purchase Epic equipment, if you so wish.

The Parents Epic Committee, which helps create activities for the kids in the schools we work in and fundraises and gathers donations for their wish lists, has asked me to include the following:

Epic Outreach Update:

Many thanks for all the wonderful donations to date for Elizabethfontein and Grootkloof.
Please continue to send in:

1. Second hand clothing - donate gently used clothes, shoes and accessories like bags, belts and caps. A thrift sale will be held for the Bishops support staff on October 31st. The funds raised will be used to purchase art and craft supplies. Any leftover items will be donated to the schools alongside wish list items.
2. Items for stationery and care packs – we would like to provide a stationery and care pack for each student. It has become a tradition to also gift a care pack to each member of staff at the schools. There are currently 307 students and 42 staff members.
3. Alternatively, make a cash donation via EFT into the Bishops bank account. Funds raised will help us to source items requested by the schools. Bank details:

Standard Bank

Branch No: 025009

Account No: 071421270

Account Name: Diocesan College

Council

Reference: Epic/Surname, Initial

Finally, I want to emphasize, once again, that Epic should be something your son is looking forward to, perhaps with a little trepidation, but not something he needs to be fearful about. Knowledge is key and so the information on the website will help him to understand more about what to expect. Please get him to read all about The Epic, if he is concerned.

Kind regards

Graeme Klerck

(Epic Director)