Dear Grade 10 Epic Parents and Boys

While your sons are firmly ensconced in their grade 10 exams, I thought it would be a good opportunity to email you and remind you about what's coming up wrt to the Epic Training Week and the departure details for Epic. This will be my last bulk email.

Just a reminder that the **father/ father figure/ parent letter(s)** need to be handed in at Admin (the front office next to the Piley Reece rugby field) by Monday 9 November (There is some leeway here, but let us know – I leave on the 15th). Please write your son's name and Epic Group on the letter. Please let Kelly van Vlaanderen know, if there is going to be a delay. kvanvlaanderen@bishops.org.za

Your boys have access to their two **Epic boxes** from G2. All they need to do is collect them. Parents are not to collect boxes on behalf of their sons. These food boxes must be handed in in G2 by 12 November, at the latest, directly to Mr Phil Court. Boys have been told about all the specifics around packing and marking their boxes.

The **Epic training week** takes place from Tuesday 10 November to Thursday 12 November and is compulsory for boys – all of it. It is not a convenient time to book doctors' appointments or help your son pack his bag. This should be done over the weekend, prior to the Epic Training Week and during the free Monday before Epic departs. Training will take place during normal school hours. Boys can wear civvies (this needs to include takkies, shorts, a hat and a t-shirt), as the activities they will be doing will mostly be outdoors. Please find attached the schedule for the Epic Training Week Programme.

On 10-12 November, Tuesday or Wednesday & Thursday (depending on your son's group), boys must come to school with their **fully packed backpacks**, including their own food for the first staff hike (in their bags). This is so they can get their backpacks correctly set up and to check whether their bags are light enough. They must store their bags in the Woodlands Pavilion during the day and should not leave their bags in their houses or at school overnight. Please see the Epic Training Week programme above for which days your son should bring his backpack.

On Thursday 12 November, all boys will **hike with their full backpacks**, with staff members, on Table Mountain. Details about this hike will be sent out to boys, closer to the time, but hiking is likely to take place between 7.15am (roll call) and 2pm.

The **'Blessing of the Boots'** chapel service will take place at 7.45am on Friday 13 November, in the Memorial Chapel, before the start of the day's 'paper hand backs', and you are invited to this service. This is a short service that will 'metaphorically' send boys off into the mountains. We look forward to welcoming you to the service. Boys may wear their Epic jackets and boots.

On Sunday 15 November at 9am, I will meet parents whose sons' have **special dietary requirements/ medication requirements**, for them to give me special food/ medication to take to the Cederberg. This will take place on the lawns outside the Memorial Chapel. Please liaise with me about this beforehand. I leave for the Cederberg directly thereafter.

If your son has a **special dietary requirement**, please discuss this with me by responding to this email. You would have indicated this when you updated your son's medical details, so I

have that information. All **Halaal** meat is bought at Wembley and Halaal grids and utensils are provided at every base both for the use of boys and staff. If your son falls into one of the special dietary requirement categories and would therefore like any **substitute meals** to be taken up to the Cederberg, please arrange this directly with me asap. Please use this Substitute meals link.

This is a reminder that if your son carries an **Epipen**, he should make this known to his partner, so that his partner knows where it is in his bag, in case of an emergency. We recommend that you send your son with two Epipens as a precaution.

Andrea Rutter - arutter@bishops.org.za - is the **Epic Control Centre** for the duration of Epic, so if you need to get a message to me, it is best to work through her. She will be sending details about this to you shortly. Please do not contact me directly. I will have my hands full looking after your sons.

Transport arrangements for Epic are simple. Andrea will be sending these out to you as well. Your son will leave for Epic at 6am on Tuesday 17 November, from Bishops. Depending on what group your son is in, will determine which bus your son should get on. Andrea will co-ordinate this on the day, but it is best to study the arrangements she will send out, so there are no mix ups. Your sons are asked to be at Bishops (opposite the Piley Reece) by 5.30am. Buses will depart on time, so… He must wear his hiking boots on the way to Epic. This is because most groups will either start their first hike or hike into their bases, when they are dropped off. It also prevents boys from forgetting their boots. They will also need to carry their packs. It is advisable to send a packed breakfast for your son for him to eat on the bus.

There have been some questions raised about accommodation for fathers, when they come up for the last night. Fathers are asked to camp out with their sons on the grass/ in a tent/ in their cars. And they are asked not to leave early in the afternoon or evening with their sons. If you would like better accommodation, you are welcome to arrange it, but please don't contact us about it.

For fathers going to Sanddrif, for the last night, we have recommended you driving via Ceres. There is a possibility that Uitkyk Pass will be open to drive (at your own risk). I first need to drive it myself before I am sure that this is the case, but the local farmers tell me that they use it every day. They are also telling their guests they can use it, at their own risk. It will save you an hour of driving. We will not be driving school vehicles or boys in school vehicles up and down the pass. I'll keep you updated through Andrea Rutter.

As always, please let me know if you have any queries.

Almost there!

Kind regards
Graeme Klerck
(Epic Director)