

Dear Grade 10 Epic Parents

Epic draws every closer – just 62 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. Boys are responsible for carrying and administering their own medication, except in extreme cases. I am sure those parents will be in contact with me.

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. This week there will be a Hiking Food talk. Boys who were not quite up to speed with cycling were also able to attend a 3-day voluntary workshop.

On Friday 18 and Monday 21 September (7.45am-5pm), about 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 Tuesday 22 September, all Epic boys will climb Devil's Peak (7.15am start). 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 been thinking about it. Hi-tec vouchers are still available from Admin. 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 published, 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). Please be aware that fathers/ father-figures are encouraged to sleep out with their sons, but if they choose to hire accommodation, please do not ask Bishops for help with this.

Linked to the website (and here) is the [Epic Equipment List](#), 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 2024 grade 10s will still have kit that can be borrowed. Please also find, linked to the website, the [School Shop Order Form 2026](#), from which you can purchase Epic equipment, if you so wish. The backpack guide (65l +15l = 85l) is simply a guide. Packs come in all shapes and sizes these days. The Epic bag can be anything from 65l, in size, upwards – your choice.

The Parents' Epic committee has asked me to remind you to send to school any items that are listed on the thrift collection and donation notice asap!

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, and to ask questions in his LO classes

Kind regards
Graeme Klerck
(Epic Director)