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EPSOM MAGAZINE

-By Epsomians for Epsomians-



Epsom Magazine

By epsomians, for epsomians

INTRODUCTION

The Epsom Magazine society was founded back in 2017 by our wonderful founder Cadence Ong and served as a source of inspiration and creativity in our community until taking a brief hiatus. Last academic year a group of keen students took on the role of reviving the society, breathing new life into its mission.

This year we're very excited to carry on their mission, spread awareness and share student voices throughout our school! Meet our new board of directors and we hope you enjoy our newest edition of the Epsom Magazine!





CONTENTS





Epsom events

Term 1 commenced eventfully with a lively mix of socials, guest speakers and celebrations, setting an exciting tone for the year. The society fair launched the term with a buzz, while the KS5 social followed, bringing together sixth formers. We also welcomed Mr. Voon Keat Lai for an inspiring talk on AI. Creative energy shone through house competitions, from art to the unforgettable house music standoff and sunset serenade. Read on to remember!



Sports Update

This term, the athletes of Epsom ventured as far as Scotland to claim victory and proudly represent our school in the prestigious World School Golf championships. Back home, U18 footballers impressed against KLASS and Future Football Academy, winning the KLSL tournament undefeated, while O15 volleyball teams excelled against Nexus. From fairways to courts, Term 1 has been a season of sporting excellence.

Global events

We often go about our lives without noticing what's happening in the world around us. From tragic natural disasters to life-changing achievements, it is our job as students to stay aware, understand, and learn how these events impact us. When we pay attention to what's going on, we are better connected to our own community and empowered to make a difference. Read on to discover what motivates us to create a positive change.



Life at Epsom

Epsom is a vibrant community enriched by its mix of cultures, experiences and friendships. With students and teachers from all over the world, we take great pride in celebrating the diversity; the moments we share, the new perspectives we gain and the meaningful connections we form with one another both inside and outside the classroom.

This term we're excited to launch a new initiative celebrating our growing international community. Through 'Life at Epsom', we hope you'll get a glimpse into what makes our community so special and what makes Epsom such a distinctive place to live and to learn.



Meet the 25-26 Team!

Hello everyone! My name is Stephanie and I am the 2025-26 Chairperson of Epsom's Magazine Society!. It is my honour to be able to contribute in making this magazine come to life. Spreading awareness of the school and providing a bridge between students and parents to see what is happening within the Epsom community.

I am currently in year 12, I take Math, Chemistry, and Physics. Although they aren't exactly 'magazine' related, I have a love for creating art that is informative, so creating magazines are right up my alley. I hope you enjoy this half term's magazine!





Hi! My name is Leah and I am the secretary for Epsom's magazine society this year! It is a privilege to be able to bring the magazine to life alongside my fellow board of directors! I've always enjoyed reading and to me being in the magazine society is to be able to showcase student voices and share all the great times we've shared in Epsom beyond the classroom.

I'm currently in y11 and for my electives I take history, economics and french. Throughout this year I hope to deepen my knowledge and understanding of the world around us and broaden my horizons, and I hope to do so with all of you! Please enjoy our newest magazine!



Meet the 25-26 Team!



Hello! My name is Tian and I have the honour to hold the position of lead editor of Epsom's magazine society this year. I'm incredibly excited to help share, curate and bring this magazine to life alongside our devoted team of board and members. To me, this society enables all members of our community, including teachers and parents, to stay connected with the many stories, achievements and moments that define our school. I'm eager to bring our collective vision to fruition.

I am currently in year 11 and my electives are biology, english and geography.



Hi everyone! I'm Coco, and I'm the Lead Editor for Global Events for this year's Magazine Society. I'm in year 12, currently taking Maths, Economics, and Chemistry. One of my personal goals for this year was to understand more about the world we live in through real stories, global perspectives, and everyday news. Being part of the magazine society has given me a chance to achieve that and to share it with all of you.

I'm looking forward to what our team will be creating this year. I hope the magazines add a bit of light to your day!



Hello everyone! My name is Callista, and I'm thrilled to be serving as this year's Art and social media director for our school's magazine society. One of the subjects i take is art, which means that i spend half of my time procrastinating over whether that one shade of blue really works or not. I joined the magazine society because i love bringing creativity to life and i believe that every post is able to express out our school's unique voice and spirit.

Im excited to collaborate with the rest of the team to make this year's magazine our best one yet!

Epsom events



The Society fair

By Taeyeon Kim

at Epsom this year was an inspiring and vibrant event that brought together Senior School students to celebrate curiosity, creativity, and collaboration. Held in the GC(Sixth Form), the fair provided students with the opportunity to explore a wide range of societies, from academic clubs such as Economics and Sciences to creative and cultural groups like the Magazine Society, Culture Society, and Sport Society.

Each booth was filled with enthusiasm as student leaders showcased their projects, shared their goals, and encouraged new members to join. The atmosphere buzzed with ideas and excitement, reflecting Epsom's values of ambition, integrity, and leadership. Through this event, students not only discovered new passions but also learned the importance of teamwork and initiative. The Society Fair truly captured the spirit of Epsom — a community where students are empowered to take action, express their individuality, and make a positive impact beyond the classroom.

I really enjoyed the moment at the fair. I could experience different societies despite the short time I spent there. The society leaders were passionate, their enthusiastic explanation really motivated me to join their journey.

- Yoolim Kim, Year 10

Sunset serenade

This year's Sunset Serenade was a heartwarming opportunity for the Epsom community to gather and celebrate the musical artistry of our IGCSE students as they prepare for their upcoming examinations. Held against the backdrop of a glowing evening sky, the showcase brought together passion, skill, and community spirit in a memorable display of youthful talent.



By Tian

At the heart of the evening was a graceful selection of classical pieces. The audience was moved by beautifully executed performances, including a nostalgic rendition of Joe Hisaishi's "Summer's day", which stirred emotions and evoked memories of gentle, sunlit afternoons. A soulful vocal performance of Paul Anka's "Put Your Head on My Shoulder" added to the sentimental atmosphere, drawing soft smiles and quiet admiration from the crowd.

Alongside classical performances, students also embraced modern and contemporary styles. From expressive guitar pieces and strong vocal performances to unique interpretations of popular songs, each act showcased creativity and confidence. This blend of tradition and modernity highlighted the diverse strengths of the performers and captivated the audience throughout the evening.

KS5 Ice- Breaking Socoial

The new school year kicked off with the KS5 Ice-Breaking Social at the Grayling Centre on 17th September 2025. Our Sixth Form hub transformed into a vibrant mini disco for the night — decorated with many balloons and glowing lights that made our usual study space feel so much more festive, lively and exciting. This social event was organised to help everyone, especially the new sixth formers, get to know each other and feel more comfortable — and it definitely worked. We were split into groups and played lots of fun games that really helped us bond, familiarise and get close to each other. In the first activity, we had one person sent out while the rest of us were given a secret word by the prefects. When they came back, we had to act it out until they guessed it correctly. It was absolute chaos — everyone doing the funniest gestures, shouting the most random clues and laughing non-stop.

The energy in the room was so contagious that even the introverts couldn't help but join in. As the night went on, the music got louder and people started dancing,chatting around and taking photos together. Some prefects were even selling some soft drinks, which added to the relaxed, party-like atmosphere. By the end of the night, everyone really felt like one big family rather than a group of schoolmates. It was a fun start to the year — a night full of laughter, music, and new friendships.



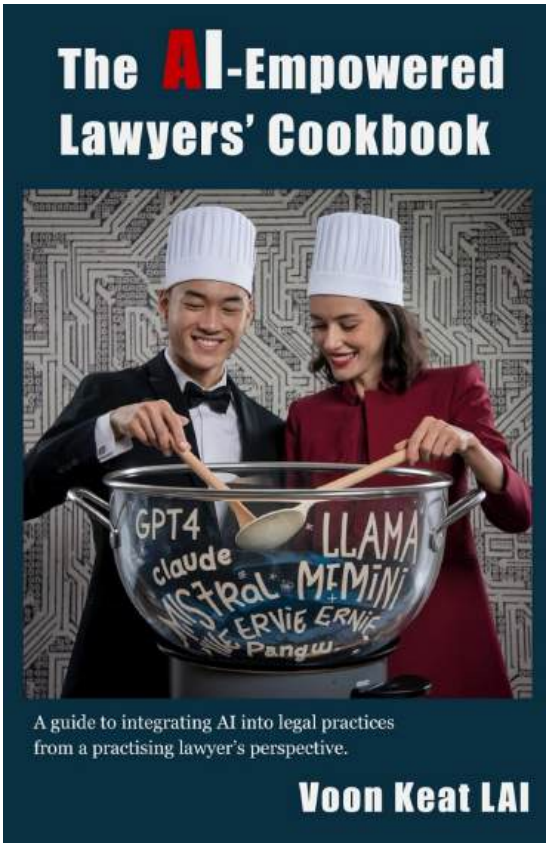
By Amanda

Epsom events

Epsom Live Talk

By Nexus, Y11

Epsom College Malaysia recently had the privilege of welcoming Mr. Voon Keat Lai, a leading figure in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and digital transformation, delivered a talk titled “An Introduction to AI and Prompt Engineering.” , allowing students to have a fascinating insight into how AI can be used in more ways than we originally imagined.



Mr. Voon Keat Lai’s career spans not just in law and technology but also across fields such as corporate finance, management consulting and more. He is also known for his book, The AI Empowered Lawyer’s Cookbook, which explores how legal professionals can use AI tools to enhance research, writing, and productivity. Showing how AI can be applied creatively and responsibly in real-world professions.

During his session at Epsom College, Mr. Voon introduced students to the core ideas behind Artificial Intelligence, explaining how machines can analyse data, recognise patterns, and generate creative outputs. He then delved into the emerging concept of Prompt Engineering.

Using demonstrations and a step by step breakdown, he showed how different prompts could completely change an AI’s output, proving that effective communication with AI requires both creativity and logical thinking. For example the temperature of an AI, as he explained, determines how creative or predictable its responses are. A lower temperature (close to 0) makes the AI more focused, consistent, and factual, ideal for technical writing or coding. A higher temperature (closer to 1), on the other hand, allows for more imaginative and varied answers, by adjusting this setting, users can fine-tune how the AI “thinks” and responds to prompts.

Students left the session inspired, equipped with a deeper understanding of AI and the motivation to explore how they could apply these skills in their studies and future careers. Mr. Voon’s passion, humour, and clarity made a lasting impression on everyone in attendance.

As Epsom College continues to champion innovation and forward thinking, events like this remind students that technology is not just about machines, it’s about how humans use them to make a difference.





To mark the start of our deepavali festivities, we held our annual colour run, offering a dazzling day filled with bright pigments and eager smiles. As the race began, bursts of coloured powder erupted into the air, painting the atmosphere with streaks of pinks, purples and turquoise. Laughter echoed throughout the field as everyone showered each other with paints, our campus transforming into a radiant canvas of light and joy. Teachers, senior school students and even prep school students ran with boundless energy, as our faces were buried beneath layers and layers of powder. This was not just a run filled with fun, but one that symbolizes unity, kindness and friendship. By the end of the day, everyone was breathless and radiant as laughter lingered long even after the last batch powder had settled. It was a day that captured the heart of our school - vibrant, full of life and united. The colour run reminded us that when we’re all together, even something so simple can turn into something truly extraordinary.

By Leah, Y11

Epsom events



House Music !



The House Music competition at Epsom College was a blast this year, with six houses Crawfurd, Roseberry, Wilson, Propert, Granville, and the brand new Forest house all battling it out. In the end, it was Granville that took the win with their epic performance of “I’m Just Ken”. Their energy, creativity, and flawless execution had everyone cheering, and they totally deserved the top spot.



While Granville stole the show, Forest made a solid debut, showing off their fresh vibes and promising talent for future competitions.

But the event didn’t go as smooth as we hoped it would. A power outage delayed the junior competition, leaving everyone frustrated, along with equipment malfunctions from time to time. But after brief pauses, the performances went on, and the students brought their A-game.

With Granville coming out on top, everyone’s already looking forward to next year’s competition!

By Alyson, y12

AIMS battle of the bands





Ecim had the privilege to send 5 talented students to the battle of the bands 2025 (aims) for the first time, competing in the ks4-5 category. This competition aims to showcase the skills of young, aspiring, musically inclined students that show interest and promise in musical band performances. The judges in the competition score competitors into 3 ranks, bronze, silver and gold. Points are based on stage presence, technicality etc. Not just merely sound aspects. This year, Epsom managed to secure the silver award, an impressive feat testament of the students’ abilities and dedication.

By Yunn, y12

Sports Update

Golf - Adrianna Sim

Our golf trip to Scotland was such an amazing experience and definitely one of the highlights of my year. We got to play on three different courses, each one so unique and challenging in its own way. The weather definitely made things tougher, one minute it was sunny, and the next we were getting blown around by the wind! But that's what made it fun and such a great learning experience.

Besides golf, we also had so much fun off the course. We got to explore new places, try local food, and spend a lot of time together as a team. Everyone was so supportive, and the trip brought us even closer. We also met players from different schools and countries, which made the experience even more special. I'm really grateful I got the chance to go, it was a week full of challenges, laughs, and memories I'll never forget.





Epsom College Malaysia U18 Boys Triumph at Kuala Lumpur South League

By Luke Fowler

Epsom College Malaysia's Under-18 boys' football team, trained under the La Liga Academy programme, delivered an impressive all-round performance at the Kuala Lumpur South League tournament hosted by Taylor's International School. Competing in a 7-a-side format, the team showcased great resilience, teamwork, and composure to finish the day as champions.

Group Stage

Epsom started the tournament strongly, securing wins against ABYSS and Sunway. The match against ABYSS was a solid display of discipline and teamwork, while the clash with Sunway proved to be a much closer contest. Adlan, Ethan and Devan all got on the scoresheet, with Adlan's long-range strike standing out as the goal of the tournament.

Semi-Final

In the semi-final, Epsom faced a highly defensive side determined to "park the bus." Despite dominating possession and creating numerous chances, the match ended 0-0. The boys held their nerve in the penalty shootout — every player on the pitch converted their spot-kick, including Jack, the goalkeeper, who also saved his opposite number's penalty to send Epsom through to the final.

Final

The final brought another meeting with Sunway, and once again it proved a tense, hard-fought battle. Umar opened the scoring for Epsom before Sunway equalised, taking the match to penalties after a 1–1 draw. Tom, our keeper, stepped up brilliantly, producing two crucial saves in the shootout to clinch the championship title for Epsom.

Looking Ahead

This victory marks a fantastic achievement for Epsom's La Liga Academy and highlights the team's growing unity and competitiveness. The boys now look forward to continuing their momentum in upcoming tournaments in Johor Bahru — the Marlborough 7's and FOBISIA Games.

Teamwork, Spirit, and Coaching Excellence

It was a proud day for the team, led by Luke (captain) and Adlan (vice-captain), with contributions from every player: Bruce, Devan, Aoun, Ethan, Alex, Jack, Tom, Amir, Tivon, Umar and Shinsai.

Special thanks go to Head Coach Diego Gutiérrez Ramos and Assistant Coach Mirul for their guidance, preparation, and belief in the players.



Sports Update

On the 25th of September, the U18 Girls' Football Team travelled to King Henry VIII School for the annual KLSL Tournament. It was an intense day of football, teamwork, and determination — and it ended with Epsom lifting the cup after an incredible run of four wins, a clean sheet and some outstanding performances from every player.

Match 1: Epsom vs Taylors International School — 2–0
Epsom started strong in their opening game, pressing high and putting Taylors' defence under immediate pressure. Despite attempts to counter, our back line held firm, allowing the wingers to push forward with confidence. Daniela opened the scoring with a precise shot into the bottom right corner, putting Epsom ahead. The team maintained control into the second half, and after a series of corners and close chances, Daniela struck again in the final minutes, securing a 2–0 win.

Epsom U18 Girls Go **Undefeated** to Win KLSL Tournament

Match 2: Epsom vs Oasis International School — 1–0
Oasis proved a tough opponent, starting on the attack and testing both the defence and the goalkeeper early on. The midfield worked tirelessly to keep the ball moving, and a number of key saves kept the score level at half time. The second half was tightly contested, with both sides battling to gain the upper hand. After a well-defended free kick — including a brave block from Sophie that left her with a memorable souvenir — Epsom regained momentum. In the final minutes, Daniela once again delivered, scoring a brilliant goal from outside the box to give Epsom a 1–0 victory.

Match 3: Epsom vs Sunway International School — 4–0
Epsom carried their momentum into the third match, wasting no time to take control. Adriana scored in the opening minute, quickly followed by a second goal soon after. Daniela continued her strong form with her fourth goal of the tournament, making it 3–0 before half time. In the second half, Stephanie added the finishing touch with a well-placed shot that slipped through the goalkeeper's hands, sealing a confident 4–0 win.

Match 4: Epsom vs King Henry VIII — 5–0
The final match against the host school was a fitting conclusion to the tournament. King Henry VIII came out strong, but Epsom was ready. Eexynn opened the scoring, followed by goals from Sophie and Adriana to make it 3–0 at half time. The hosts started the second half determined to fight back, but a crucial 1v1 save kept Epsom's clean sheet intact. From there, the team pushed forward — Daniela set up Eexyn for her second of the game, and Adriana added another with a stunning finish into the top corner. Eexyn completed her hat trick in the closing minutes, bringing the final score to 5–0.
Epsom ended the day undefeated, with a remarkable record of four wins, twelve goals scored, and none conceded. It was an outstanding team effort from start to finish — every player played their part, from the keeper's composure and the defence's discipline to the midfield's control and the strikers' finishing.



Winning the KLSL Cup wasn't just about the scoreline —111 it was a reflection of how far we've come as a team. Every challenge we faced only made us stronger, and every match showed our determination to play for each other. The result spoke for itself, but more importantly, it proved that this team has grown tougher, more united, and more confident than ever before.



Rachel Calder, year12

By Ethan Sankey



A Call For Change: The Assassination of Charlie Kirk

On September 10, 2025, conservative commentator and activist Charlie Kirk was shot and killed at Utah Valley University during his iconic public Q&A sessions, where he answered the questions of the public and often engaged in debates with audience members. This attack has caused global mourning and a call to action about violence and political division in America.

Charlie Kirk was a 31-year-old father who was the CEO of Turning Point USA, a U.S. conservative student organisation founded in 2012 by Charlie Kirk to promote free markets, limited government, and conservative values on campuses. He gained significant popularity through his social media and college tours. Some could argue that, although he wasn't actually a politician, he was one of the biggest modern-day faces of American conservatism.

During his afternoon Q&A, a single gunshot struck Kirk in the neck, causing the whole event to shut down immediately, while Kirk was rushed to the hospital. Meanwhile, police began a manhunt for the shooter, later identified as 22-year-old Tyler James Robinson. Utah prosecutors have charged Robinson with aggravated murder and plan to seek the death penalty.

The news of Charlie Kirk's assassination sparked an immediate wave of grief and condemnation from across the political spectrum. Utah's Governor Spencer Cox said he was 'heartbroken' and that he and his family were praying for Kirk's loved ones. President Donald Trump described Kirk as "a great guy, top to bottom." Online, reactions from ordinary Americans were mixed but largely sober. Many expressed sadness, even those who disagreed with Kirk's politics. One commentator said, "Voicing your opinion shouldn't get you killed." Broadcaster Samantha Ponder said the hostility she received for expressing sympathy showed "How divided the country had become."

The assassination of Charlie Kirk stands as a tragic reminder of how deeply divided we are as a society. His death shocked not only his fans and supporters but also reignited national conversations about political violence and free speech.

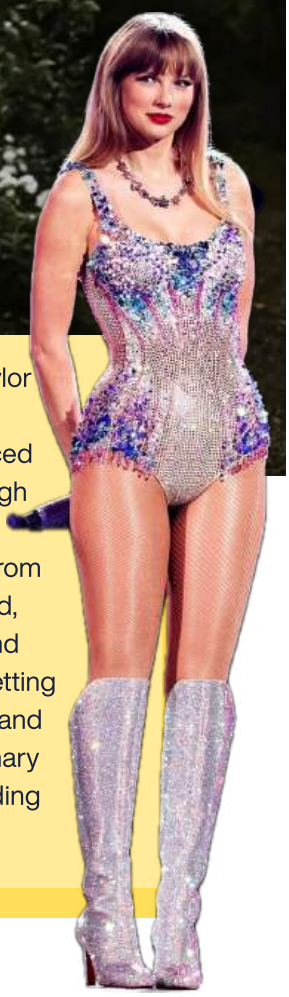


Global Events



Taylor Swift's

On August 26, 2025, Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce simultaneously announced their engagement through a joint Instagram post with a series of photos from their proposal, captioned, "Your English teacher and your gym teacher are getting married 💉." For current and new fans, here's a summary of their relationship leading up to their engagement:



2023:
The two of them were publicly linked for the first time on July 8, 2023, when observant fans spotted Travis in the audience of her Eras Tour show at Arrowhead Stadium, where he watched from a private box. In episode 50 of his New Heights podcast (which he co-hosts with his brother Jason), Travis revealed that he was 'a little butt-hurt' that he was unable to give Taylor a handmade bracelet he made for her with his number on it, jokingly saying that he 'took it personal.'

By September 2023, Taylor was spotted at an NFL game, watching from Travis's suite with his mom, Donna. She later clarified that, at this time, they were already a couple but hadn't publicly revealed it yet. Throughout the rest of 2023, photos of them holding hands, having dinner together, and kissing each other surfaced online. Additionally, Taylor was seen at the 2024 & 2025 Super Bowls & regular NFL games in support of the Kansas City Chiefs, where Travis plays as tight end. Travis, in return, showed up in support of her other Eras Tour concerts and has been mentioned in multiple songs across two albums: The Tortured Poets Department from April last year ("The Alchemy," 'So High School') and recently released Life of a Showgirl ("The Fate of Ophelia," "Opalite," "Wi$h Li$t," and "Honey").

2024:
On June 23, 2024, Travis joined Taylor on stage for her Eras Tour at Wembley Stadium in London, where he carried her in his arms. Following false breakup rumours, which were quickly debunked, the pair were spotted together at the US Open in September.

2025:
In August 2025, Taylor reappeared on the New Heights podcast and announced her 12th studio album, 'The Life of a Showgirl,' by taking out a vinyl version of the album from a mint green suitcase with her initials on it. After recording the podcast, Travis proposed to her afterwards in the back garden, and the couple waited for about two weeks before posting their carousel of engagement photos. Taylor later appeared on The Graham Norton Show and revealed that Travis set up the back garden while the podcast episode was being recorded and that he "went all out" for the "10/10 proposal."

By Jerrie

Global Events

By Coco



Sabah Flooding

The most recent flood was one of the worst the state has seen in 30 years. The floods and landslides were triggered by days of continuous rainfall beginning on September 12, and the disaster spread across multiple districts in Sabah. A total of 14 lives were lost, 13 from the landslides and 1 from the flooding itself. The worst tragedy occurred in Inanam, where a landslide buried several homes and killed 7 people, including 4 children between the ages of 2 and 9.

The floods affected over 2,500 people from hundreds of families, many of whom needed to be moved to dozens of temporary shelters. In order to help victims and aid state recovery efforts, Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim ordered the federal government to provide 10 million ringgit in aid through the National Disaster Management Agency (NADMA).





One of the most heartbreaking stories is that of Oliver Golingai, a father of four from Penampang. What began as a peaceful afternoon turned into a nightmare for this family when mud, trees, and boulders unexpectedly crashed down the hill behind their home. Golingai carried his toddler to safety while his three other children ran hand in hand to their grandparents' house. “One moment I was watching television shows with my younger children and the next, we had to run for our lives,” he remarked. When he returned to visit the following morning, half of his house was buried in mud, while the rest was filled with debris.

This tragedy has reignited urgent discussions around Sabah’s preparedness for natural disasters. According to experts and civil engineers, urban expansion, especially in areas like Kota Kinabalu, has outpaced the capacity of existing drainage systems. Rescue efforts are also delayed because rural communities are still hard to reach in an emergency due to inadequate road access. The construction of large-scale water reservoirs has been a need for a long time. This is to control flooding and also addresses Sabah’s ongoing water security issues. The severe water outage that Universiti Malaysia Sabah experienced earlier this year caused disruptions to campus operations, highlighting the vulnerability of the state's water management systems. It is clear that Sabah can no longer afford to put off long-term, sustainable solutions as the effects of climate change and development pressures increase.

The Wonder of the Mid-Autumn Festival



By Peggy





Every year, as the full moon lights up the night sky, people across East and Southeast Asia come together to celebrate one of the most beautiful and meaningful festivals called the Mid-Autumn Festival. Also known as the Moon Festival, it falls on the 15th day of the eighth lunar month, when the moon is said to be at its brightest and fullest.

Traditionally, the festival is a time for family reunions, thanksgiving, and honouring the moon. Families gather to admire the moon and share stories. They also enjoy delicious mooncakes, round pastries filled with lotus seed paste, red bean, or egg yolk, which symbolise unity and completeness, under the moon. Lanterns, another highlight of the celebration, come in all shapes and colours, lighting up parks and streets with a warm, festive glow. Children often carry brightly lit lanterns in parades or hang them around their homes, adding to the joyful atmosphere.

Beyond its visual beauty, the Mid-Autumn Festival carries deep cultural significance. It reminds us of the importance of cohesion and gratitude. Many legends are linked to the festival, the most famous being the tale of Chang'e, the Moon Goddess, who drank an elixir of immortality and floated to the moon, where she still resides today.



In schools and communities, the festival is often marked by performances, storytelling, and lantern-making activities. These traditions help younger generations appreciate their cultural roots while celebrating under the same glowing moon that has inspired poets and dreamers for centuries.

All in all, the Mid-Autumn Festival is more than just mooncakes and lanterns; it is a timeless reminder to pause, look up, and cherish the bonds that connect us all as humans.

Global Events

Typhoon Bualoi in Vietnam

Parts of Vietnam were pounded by incessant rain and gusty winds of up to 130 kilometres per hour as Typhoon Bualoi made landfall in the late hours of September 28, 2025. At least 11 people have died, and more than a dozen are missing. According to disaster authorities, around 44,200 properties were damaged, with impacts including torn-off roofs, fallen trees, and 6,000 hectares of flooded crops.

Furthermore, more than 300,000 households lost power. On September 29, a Philippine civil defence official stated that the death toll had more than doubled to 27, with most victims either drowning or being struck by debris. Several towns and cities remain cut off.



The Vietnamese government has ordered all-out rescue efforts to evacuate more than 53,000 residents from coastal areas to schools and medical centres, which had been converted to temporary shelters. However, emergency personnel are reportedly struggling to reach communities isolated by landslides and flash floods.

All four airports in central Vietnam, Dong Hoi, Tho Xuan, Phu Bai, and Da Nang, have resumed operations after being closed due to typhoon Bualoi, which affected more than 450 flights nationwide, with about 100 flights cancelled. Railway services also faced major disruptions, with several trains being suspended and many others being forced to stop at stations due to disturbed tracks. Luckily, Bualoi has weakened as it moved across the border into Laos since making landfall in Vietnam.



Locals from Vietnam say the storm was unlike anything they have seen before.

—"I've witnessed many storms. But in terms of wind power, this is one of the strongest I've ever encountered because of its intense gusts."

—"The storm raged through the night. In my apartment building, most residents had to stay awake, holding on to their doors...if we did not hold on to the doors, the wind would have blown them in. It went on like this all night."



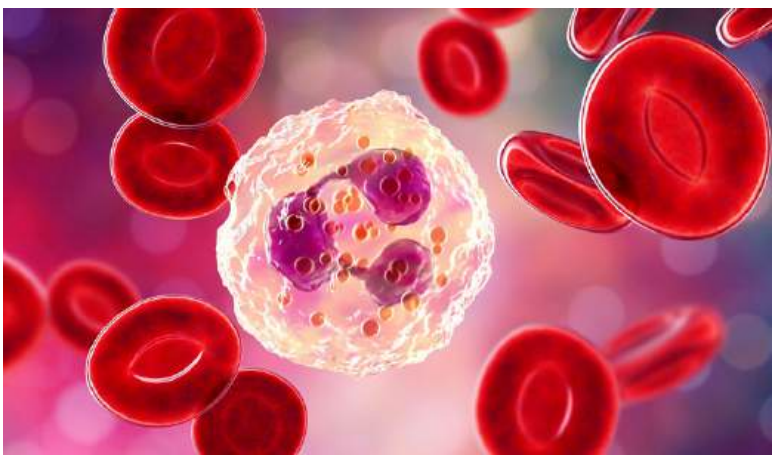
By Hannah

Global Events

Harvard's Breakthrough: Supercharging Immune System

By Cheryl

Scientists at Harvard Medical School have discovered a new way to make our immune system better at fighting cancer — by removing a kind of "brake" that slows it down. The breakthrough centres on immunotherapy, a treatment that trains the body's immune system to recognise and attack cancer cells. It's already transformed cancer care for many patients, but it doesn't work for everyone. That's because some cancers are sneaky — they find ways to hide from or weaken immune cells.

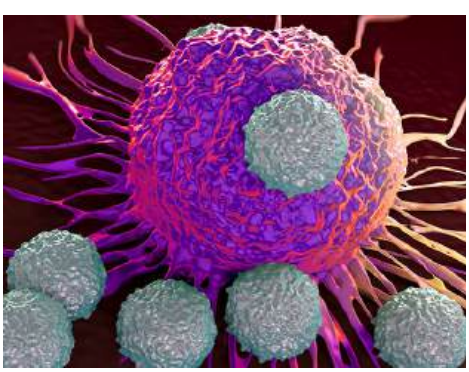


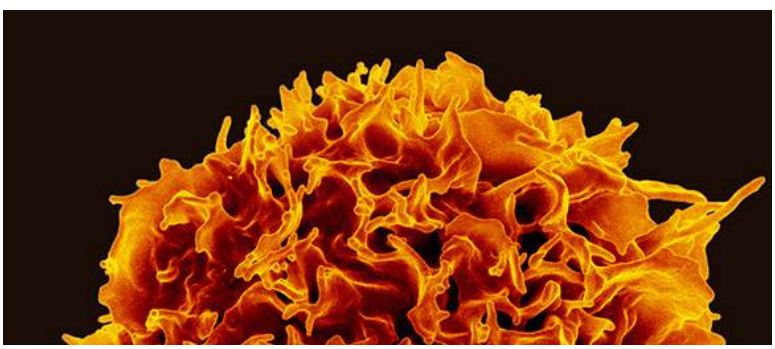
The new study, published on August 12th 2025, in Nature Immunology, focuses on improving the performance of a key group of immune cells called CD8+ T cells. These are often referred to as "killer T-cells" because their job is to find and destroy harmful or cancerous cells.

The team discovered that a protein called STUB1 acts like a molecular brake inside T-cells (a type of white blood cell that fights disease). It interferes with signals that normally help these cells stay active and effective in attacking tumours. When scientists used gene-editing technology to remove the STUB1 gene from the T-cells in mice, they became much stronger cancer fighters. The mice with modified T-cells had slower tumour growth and lived longer, showing the success of their research and encouraging them to develop it further.

This finding is important because it could make existing immunotherapies work for more patients. Some cancers can grow resistant to current treatments, but if scientists can find a safe way to block STUB1 — either with a drug or by engineering T-cells without it — the immune system could stay switched "on" for longer and attack cancer more effectively.

While the research is still in early stages and has not yet been tested in people, it offers a promising new direction for cancer treatment. By understanding how to release these hidden brakes in the immune system, scientists are one step closer to making immunotherapy a more universal and powerful weapon against cancer.





Life at Epsom

Living as a Korean full boarder at an international school feels like finding my own balance in different cultures every day. Boarding friends all have different nationalities and different languages, but those differences help us to start conversations. Some days when I teach them Korean, and other days I learn their language and we laugh together.

Since every subjects are in English, studying wasn't always easy. It can be hard to understand, but helping each other and just being in same house is comforting each other. At start of every term we share snacks from our own countries and ask about each other's countries culture, and moments like that make boarding house feel like another home rather than somewhere foreign. Sometimes I miss my country but getting through those moments makes me feel stronger

국제 학교에서 한국인 풀보더로 산다는 건 매일 다른 문화 속에서 나만의 균형을 찾아가는 일인 것 같다. 기숙사 친구들은 국적도 언어도 모두 다르지만 그 덕분에 오히려 대화가 시작된다. 어떤 날은 내가 한국어를 가르쳐주고, 또 어떤 날은 친구들의 언어를 배우며 함께 웃는다.

모든 과목을 영어로 배우다 보니 공부가 항상 쉽지만은 않은거 같다. 이해가 안 될 때도 많았지만 서로 도와주고, 같은 공간에서 함께 공부하고 있는것만으로도 큰 위로가 된다. 학기가 시작될 때마다 각자 나라에서 가져온 간식을 나눠주고, 서로의 문화의 대해서 질문하고 이야기하다 보면 기숙사는 더 이상 낯선 곳이 아니라 또 하나의 집처럼 느껴진다.

By Yoonseo Kim









Life at Epsom

Secondary school life is like a colorful kaleidoscope, with new surprises and challenges every day. Classes start at 8:15 in the morning and end at 5 in the afternoon. Although the hours are long, life is still fulfilling and fun. Science is one of the most popular subjects among students because they can do all kinds of experiments and experience the joy of being a young scientist. The school also offers a variety of activities — like the “Color Run” a few weeks ago, where everyone was covered in colors and filled with laughter and joy. Last year’s musical and cultural fair also brought endless energy to the campus. During free time, students love chatting and sharing fun stories with friends, creating wonderful memories together. Overall, secondary school life is exciting and full of motivation, making every day something to look forward to.

中学生活就像一个缤纷的万花筒，每一天都有新的惊喜与挑战。早上八点十五分上课，下午五点才放学，虽然时间不短，但生活依然充实而有趣。科学课是许多同学最喜欢的课程之一，因为能亲手做各种实验，体验成为小小科学家的乐趣。学校的活动也非常多样, 就像几星期前举办的「彩色跑」让大家被不同颜色覆盖，从满喜乐和笑声。还有去年的音乐剧以及文化展，都为校园增添了无限活力。课余时间，大家喜欢和朋友聊天、分享趣事，一起留下美好的回忆。整体而言，中学生活既精彩又充满动力，让每一天都值得期待。

By Chloe Leong





Boarding life is both busy and warm. I wake up at 6:30 every morning, when the streets are still quiet and even the horses are still asleep. At 7:00, the teacher gently checks on us all. At 7:20, I go downstairs, say a cheerful good morning to the teacher, and then enjoy a warm and lively breakfast with my friends. After breakfast, we have a brief but important roll call at 8:50. Classes begin at 9:15 and run until 4:00 PM. The lessons are both interesting and sometimes tiring. Our exciting extracurricular activities (CCA) last until 5:15, after which we enjoy a relaxing dinner together. At 7:00, we have evening study for seventh and eighth graders, requiring quiet and focused study until 7:45. Afterward, we have free time to read, chat, or relax. We hand in our devices at 8:45, and lights out at 9:30. The dormitory becomes quiet and peaceful, and everyone slowly drifts off to sleep, ushering in another regular and warm day

寄宿生活既忙碌又温馨。我每天早上六点半起床,那时街道还很安静,连鸟儿都还在睡梦中。到了七点,老师会来温和地检查我们是否都醒来了。七点二十,我走下楼,对老师说一声愉快的早安,然后和朋友一起享用温暖又热闹的早餐。早餐后,我们在八点五十分进行简短但重要的点名,九点十五分开始上课,一直到下午四点,课程既有趣 又有时让人疲惫。我们的精彩课外活动(CCA)会持续到五点十五分,之后我们一起享用轻松的晚餐。七点是我们 七、八年级的晚自习时间,需要安静专注地学习到七点四十五分。之后,我们会有自由时间,可以阅读、聊天或放 松。八点四十五分我们上交电子设备,九点半就要熄灯睡觉。那时宿舍变得安静祥和,大家慢慢入睡,迎接又一个有规律又温暖的新一天

By Chloe Lau

Life at Epsom

By Susan

Leaving home for the first time is never an easy experience.

We all came from different corners of Myanmar - different schools, different cities - but we found ourselves here united by a shared goal: to study our A Levels, to gain new experiences, and to prepare ourselves for university life. Of course, initially all of us found ourselves missing the familiar streets of Yangon or Mandalay, our moms' signature la phet thoke at dinner or the joy and excitement of the Thingyan festival. But what struck me from the moment I arrived was just how warm and welcoming the entire community was - our new teachers, friends, as well as house matrons. The diversity stands out here, and it has been a wonderful experience sharing about our respective cultures and traditions. There's a sense that we're all going through this journey together, and that allowed us to quickly overcome the homesickness of those first few days.

Epsom also encourages a wider, more balanced school life that goes beyond grades and studying - sports, music and the wide variety of CCAs, clubs and societies allow us to truly live student life to its fullest. It's not just about the destination - here, we're given the opportunity to enjoy the journey as well.

Holding on to old memories doesn't mean that there's no room for new ones to be created. While we might still miss the streets of Myanmar, the la phet thoke on our dinner tables or the Thingyan festival, we've also come to cherish the late afternoons exploring the streets of Mercato, carrot cake in Mrs. Parker's office, or the sheer chaos of the colour run.

Leaving home for the first time is never an easy experience, but if there's one thing I've come to learn over my time at Epsom, it's that only when we leave our comfort zones will true growth occur - and maybe, we might even find a second home in the process.

အိမ်ကနေပထမဆုံးအကြိမ်ခွဲထွက်လာရတာက လွယ်ကူတဲ့အတွေ့အကြုံတစ်ခုတော့မဟုတ်ပါဘူး။

ကျွန်မတို့က မြန်မာနိုင်ငံက မြို့အသီးသီး ၊ ကျောင်းအသီးသီးမှလာခဲ့ကြတဲ့သူတွေဖြစ်ပါတယ်။ ဒါပေမယ့် ကျွန်မတို့မှာ တူညီတဲ့ပန်းတိုင်တွေရှိပါတယ်။ A Level သင်ယူဖို့ ၊ အတွေ့အကြုံအသစ်တွေရပြီး တကွသိုလ်အတွက်ပြင်ဆင်ဖို့ ဆိုတဲ့ ရည်ရွယ်ချက်ကိုယ်စီနဲ့ရောက်လာကြတာပါ။

အစပိုင်းမှာတော့ ကျွန်မတို့နေခဲ့တဲ့ ရန်ကုန် ဒါမှမဟုတ် မန္တလေးကပတ်ဝန်းကျင်တွေ ၊ မေမေတွေရဲ့လက်ရာလက်ဖက်သုပ်နဲ့ ညစာတွေ ၊ ပျော်စရာကောင်းတဲ့ ရိုးရာသင်္ကြန်ပွဲတော် တို့ကိုလွမ်းကြပါတယ်။ ဒါပေမယ့် ဆရာ၊ ဆရာမအသစ်တွေ ၊ သူငယ်ချင်းအသစ်တွေ၊ အဆောင်မှူးတွေရဲ့ နွေးထွေးမှုကြောင့် အများကြီးစိတ်သက်သာရစေပါတယ်။ လူမျိုး ၊ ဘာသာ ၊ ရိုးရာအစဉ်အလာတွေကွာခြားကြပေမယ့်လည်း ကျွန်မတို့အကုန်လုံး က ခရီးတစ်ခုကို အတူတကွဖြတ်သန်းနေသလို ခံစားမိပါတယ်။

ဒါ့အပြင်ကျွန်မတို့ရွေးချယ်လိုက်တဲ့ Epsom College ကလည်းစာသင်ကောင်းရုံတင်မက အားကစားနဲ့ ဂီတ ၊ society တွေ CCA တွေအမျိုးမျိုးရှိတဲ့အတွက် ကျောင်းသားဘဝကို အပြည့်အဝဖြတ်သန်းနိုင်ပါတယ်။

တကယ်ဆိုရင် ဘဝမှာ အမှတ်တရအဟောင်းတွေနဲ့ ချည်းပြည့်နေစရာမလိုပါဘူး။ အမှတ်တရအသစ်တွေကိုလည်းကြုံဆိုသင့်ပါတယ်။ အခုဆိုရင် ရန်ကုန် ၊ မန္တလေးတို့က အိမ်အပြန်လမ်းကိုလွမ်းသလို Mercato ရဲ့ လမ်းတွေမှာလည်း ပျော်တတ်လာတယ်။ မေမွေရဲ့ လက်ဖက်သုပ်ကိုသတိရပေမယ့် Mrs. Parker ကျွေးတဲ့ ဥနီကိတ်ကလည်း အမှတ်တရတစ်ခုဖြစ်ပြီး သင်္ကြန်ကို စောင့်မျှော်သလို ပျော်ရွှင်စရာကောင်းတဲ့ colour run ပွဲတော်ကိုလည်းစောင့်မျှော်တတ်လာပါတယ်။

အိမ်ကနေခွဲပြီးနိုင်ငံခြားမှာ စာသင်ယူရတာ လွယ်ကူတဲ့အတွေ့အကြုံမဟုတ်ပါဘူး။ ဒါပေမယ့် ဒုတိယအိမ်တစ်ခုကကျွန်မတို့ကို Epsom College မှာကြုံဆိုစောင့်မျှော်နေပါတယ်။

Life at Epsom

By Sakura

Life in the boarding school is always busy, but it's also valuable and enjoyable. My favorite moments are chatting with my friends during breakfast, lunch or dinner. These are daily things but I enjoy them the most. Epsom has a lot of fun activities and events. Recently, we had House Music, and practicing songs and dances with everyone became one of my favorite memories.
Sports are also a big part of what makes life in Epsom so enjoyable. I love spending time in the sports hall with my friends during CCA or after prep. I'm really excited for the upcoming inter-house volleyball and table tennis competition!

Living in the boarding house let me focus on studying while building strong friendships and connections with people. Even on busy days, weekends are full of fun like going to Mercato with friends or just chatting together in the room. The teachers are also really supportive, they help us with studies and are always there to listen when we need help or advice.
Through boarding life, I've learned not just academics, but also the importance of independence and teamwork. Every day at Epsom is filled with laughter, smiles and friendship, and I truly love being part of this amazing community. I want to keep making more grateful memories here.







ボーディングスクールの生活は毎日忙しいですが、充実していて毎日ワクワクしています。何気ない朝食、昼食や夕食の時間が私にとってとて一番楽しく、好きな時間です。エプソムには楽しいアクティビティやイベントがたくさんあります。最近はハウスミュージックがあり、みんなで歌やダンスの練習をしたのがいい思い出です。
スポーツもエプソム生活を楽しくする大きな理由です。CCAの時間やプレップタイムの後、友達とスポーツホールで体を動かすのがとても好きです。もうすぐハウスバレーボールや卓球があるので待ち遠しいです。
ボーディングの生活では、勉強だけでなく友達との関係を深め、人との関わり方を学ぶことができます。忙しい日もありますが、週末は友達とMercatoに行ったり、部屋で話したりと楽しい時間がたくさんあります。寮では先生とも交流があり、勉強を教えてもらったり、悩みを相談することもできます。
この生活を通して、私は勉強だけではなく自立心や協調性の楽しさを学びました。エプソムでの毎日は笑顔と仲間に囲まれていて、本当に素敵な環境です。これからもたくさんの思い出を作って行きたいです。

Life at Epsom

No two days as a Housemistress in Wilson House are ever the same. With 100 students aged 9 to 19, representing 12 different nationalities, the House is a vibrant and eclectic community full of young people with diverse passions, talents, and stories. Every day brings something new, whether it's celebrating a student's success, supporting someone through a challenge, or simply sharing laughter over dinner, it's a privilege to be part of such a dynamic and inspiring environment.





What makes Wilson House special?

As you walk into Wilson, you can immediately feel the warmth and sense of community that defines the House. Across all year groups, there are natural leaders who take initiative and inspire others. House Music, for example, was entirely student led - a testament to their confidence, creativity and teamwork. The girls are always happy to step out of their comfort zone, whether it's helping with homework and translation, or our seniors supporting younger students with their evening routine. There is a genuine spirit of care and togetherness that runs through the House, and it is a massive privilege to be able to witness this first-hand every day.

A Day in the Life

Duty days start early, with some students heading out for sports academies as early as 6:30 a.m. Mornings are lively and full of energy as boarders get ready for the day and we welcome our day students. Our wonderful Day Matrons, Ms Doris and Ms Carol, keep everything running smoothly - from maintaining the House to supporting students and staff alike.
Morning Registration at 8:00 a.m. is one of my favourite moments of the day. The Common Room buzzes with chatter, laughter, and the sense of community that makes Wilson House so special.

Alongside my role as Housemistress, I teach Biology. When I'm not in the classroom planning, teaching, or marking, I can usually be found at my laptop, keeping the many parts of House life organised and running efficiently. From planning house activities to monitoring each student's academic and pastoral progress, there is never a dull moment.

After the school day ends, our warm and caring Evening Matron, Ms Aini, welcomes boarders back and bids farewell to our day girls. The evening offers a chance to unwind and enjoy dinner before Registration at 6:45 p.m., followed by Prep time - a focused study session where students receive academic support from our dedicated tutor team.
After Prep, students enjoy some well-earned free time before handing in their devices, getting organised for the next day, and winding down for bed. Lights Out is one of my favourite moments, it's the time where the girls gossip about which Propert boy they like, or tell you about life at Home.
Evening duty usually wraps up around 11:00 p.m., when I finally get a moment to unwind - ready to do it all again the next day!

By Ms Redwood Loud

Life at Epsom

Being Head of School: Leading with Purpose

Being Head of School is both a privilege and a responsibility. It's a role that sits at the heart of our community; connecting students, staff, and parents in the shared goal of making Epsom not just a great school, but a place where everyone feels they belong.

What I've learned most so far is that leadership isn't about titles or decisions made behind a desk, but rather it's about listening, building trust, and helping others to do their best work. On any given day, I might move from discussing curriculum and student outcomes with the Senior Leadership Team, to celebrating a Prep School performance, or taking part in Deepavali assembly. Each moment reminds me that the energy and purpose of this school come from the people within it.



As Head of School, I am constantly inspired by the students who fill our classrooms, boarding houses, and playing fields with curiosity and courage. My hope is that every young person leaves Epsom with a strong sense of who they are, what they stand for, and how they can make a difference. If I can play even a small part in that journey, then it's been time well spent.





Epsom is a community built on kindness, integrity, and ambition. My role is to ensure that those values are lived every day; in the way we teach, the way we care for one another, and the opportunities we create. Whether it's developing new academic pathways, launching enrichment programmes, or supporting staff professional growth, everything comes back to one question: how does this help our students to thrive?

Of course, there are challenges; leadership always involves balance. But there's also immense reward in seeing students grow in confidence, teachers innovate in their classrooms, and the community come together in celebration. Whether it's House Music, the Colour Run, Deepavali or the Christmas Concert; they are all important features of our special community. These moments remind me why education matters: it shapes people, not just results.

By Mrs Parker

By the epsom magazine team.