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EPSOM MAGAZINE

-By Epsomians for Epsomians-



Table of Contents

01 Epsom events

As term 1 wrapped up with the incredible halloween social, organised by our wonderful social prefects, the second half of term was filled with festive excitement and community spirit. This edition highlights the Christmas concert, highly anticipated annual Christmas dinner and the lively competition of interhouse hockey and chess amongst many more. Read on to remember this season!





02 Sports Update

Following on from the successful run of Term 1, Term 2 saw Epsom continue its dominance across every major sporting event. Our teams swept the competition, claiming victories in AIMS football for both the U18 and U15 boys. Epsom also delivered a formidable fight in Fobisia volleyball and netball, demonstrating incredible dedication, determination and exceptional grit.

03 Global events

Over the past three months of the half term, we might have missed out on what was happening around the world or even close to home. From big political moments and ongoing conflicts to unexpected disasters and exciting cultural highlights, all these events show just how fast the world changes. Keeping up with them helps us realise that there's a lot going on beyond school and daily routines, and we learn to realise that these stories can still affect us and our communities. Looking back at what went down near and far reminds us why staying in the loop actually matters.





04 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.

Epsom events

Students arrived at the amphitheatre brimming with energy, dressed in an extraordinary range of costumes that spanned from iconic superheroes, frightening villains, ghoulish monsters drenched deeply in blood and inventive creations that left everyone in awe - marking some of the most impressive costumes the school has seen yet!



The traditional annual bonfire was lit as the sun set over the field, officially kicking off the evening and painting the perfect backdrop for festivities.What made this year's celebration particularly special was the addition of not one but two haunted houses, thanks to our wonderful social prefects. One was set up in the drama studio, where dim lights, unsettling sound effects and cleverly staged surprises kept students on edge from the moment they stepped inside. The second haunted house, tucked by Old Roseberry, delivered a slightly different kind of fright, drawing long queues of brave participants eager to test their nerves.



Interhouse Hockey

By Leah

The annual interhouse hockey competition took place on the last week of term with the three houses - Rosebery, Crawfurd and Wilson - battling it out on the pitch with enthusiasm and pride. Each match fast-paced and full of energy as the players showcased not only their skills but their determination to win for their houses. The matched kicked off with Crawfurd claiming victory over Wilson, their resilience leading them to not only to win this match but the competition as a whole. Rosebery also joined in to win against Wilson before falling just short of one goal to Crawfurd in the final minute. The pitch was not just for the players though, the houses cheered loudly for their teams filling the sidelines with added excitement and house spirit. With strong teamwork, resilience and plenty of house spirit on display, house hockey proved to be a memorable and exciting event for all! (even those without the proper equipment)



Throughout the night, stalls lined the area, offering an impressive selection of international food that added to the festive energy, everything from warm snacks, sweet treats and fittingly bloody refreshments that kept everyone fueled and happy as the event went on. Laughter, screams, and chatter could be heard across the grounds. As the evening drew to a close, students eagerly gathered by the amphitheatre once again to watch as the sky erupted into colour with a vibrant fireworks display, marking a spectacular end to a night already filled with unforgettable moments. The Halloween Social not only brought the school community together in celebration but also showcased the creativity, enthusiasm, and collaborative spirit that made the event such a resounding success.

By Tian





Epsom events

Career day

By Susan

It is 4:20 pm, and the air is charged with anticipation. Classes have come to an end, and students gather before the GC, ready for what the evening may bring.







This is the day of the long-awaited Career Insight event, the first ever to be held here at Epsom College. 20 speakers - ranging from entrepreneurs and lawyers, to engineers and nutritionists - have been invited onto our campus, and each student gets to meet with 5 speakers of their choice. What really sets the event apart is its layout: it's not everyday that we get to interact closely with such accomplished professionals, and it enables us to take the initiative, leading the conversation through questions we prepared in advance. The insights shared by the speakers are refreshingly honest, and they keep all of us at ease through jokes and personal stories. This session in the GC is followed by two panel Q&As later in the evening, where we gained an understanding of our chosen careers far beyond just the textbook description. We learned what everyday life might actually be like, and how to maintain a healthy work-life balance.

But perhaps the most valuable takeaway of the evening was this. We had gone into the session with an endless list of questions in mind. With AI revolutionising industries and job markets becoming more competitive than ever before, the future ahead of us seemed rather scary and unpredictable. But what this evening taught us was that there isn't a clear, step by step manual to career success. That it's okay to not have everything figured out at 16. That it's possible for us to thrive alongside AI, and that even though the future may seem uncertain, there is a sense of fulfillment to be found in that uncertainty. Although each of us may have entered the session with questions and concerns, we found ourselves leaving it feeling not just informed but truly inspired.

Epsom Live Talk with Dr. Terry M.

The Live Talk led by Dr. Terence McAdams focused on how false information spreads, how our memory works, and how questioning can be the most important tool when it comes to learning, especially in a world influenced by AI and social media.

Dr. McAdams began by highlighting common myths that many of us were taught growing up, such as the idea that cracking your knuckles causes arthritis. He explained that these "facts" are universally believed but are false, in which he conveys the ease with which false information is accepted when it is repeated with confidence.

He linked this idea to modern technology, specifically AI and online websites. Dr. McAdams described how AI systems can generate convincing information without fact-checking with reliable sources. This is similar to how humans think, since our brains often rely on shortcuts rather than careful analysis. Dr. McAdams further explained that human memory distorts past events each time we try to recall them. He discussed the Mandela Effect, of how groups of people remember events that never happened, and confabulation, where the brain fills in missing details. His examples clearly encapsulated how we can be so assured in our memories, but they are not 100% accurate.





Finally, Dr. McAdams spoke about priming: how the wording of a question can influence what people remember and that a small change in phrasing can lead someone to believe something happened even if it did not. He proved to us that our thinking can easily be shaped by small changes in language.

By Coco

Epsom events Christmas special

Secret Santa within Houses

With winter break on the way, one popular Christmas tradition is Secret Santa. Organised within each house the event brought us something to look forward to in the groggy last few weeks of school. This event is a festive gift exchange where a small group, each person receives a name at random and secretly buys a present for their assigned recipient. To maintain the element of secrecy, the gift giver remains anonymous, creating a sense of surprise and excitement.

In the weeks leading up to the exchange, the Christmas spirit gradually grew, with everyone secretly planning gifts for their Secret Santee while pondering who may have drawn their name. Whether it was gifting to someone completely new or a close friend, both offering an opportunity to learn more about each other, each gift reflected care and consideration.

The exchange itself took place during a house celebration and was filled with laughter and smiles. As gifts were handed out, everyone was huddling around excited to receive their gifts, with many students attempting to guess who their Secret Santa might be. Creating an atmosphere of mystery and excitement that brought everyone together.

By Stephanie





Festive Open Mic

By Chloe Ke Ye

The music dancing in my ears spreads around the room with excitement, enjoyment, and mostly happiness, as students or teachers stepping on the stage one by one, singing with joy, enjoying their moment, where their friends are watching them, supporting. This is what Epsom college in Malaysia open mic looks like, where students from different countries and different backgrounds are encouraged to come up to the stage and show off their talent, where their friends are watching, creating memorable moments together.



Sixth Form Christmas Social

This year's Sixth Form Christmas Social / Secret Santa was definitely one of the highlights of the term. It was a really fun and relaxed evening where everyone just enjoyed the festive spirit together. We started the event with Christmas carols—even if some of us were a little off-key, the cheerful atmosphere still made it a perfect way to kick things off.Next up was the most exciting part — musical chairs. It was probably the first time many of us had seen everyone get that creative just to grab a seat. From strategic positioning to sudden sprints and unexpected moves, people came up with different tactics to win. The room was filled with laughter and cheering which made the game so much fun to play and watch. Before the Secret Santa gift exchange , the prefects team surprised us with a short dance performance. It was super cute and funny, and had everyone smiling and clapping along. After that, it was finally time for the most anticipated moment — the Secret Santa gift exchange.

Our Secret Santa recipients were randomly assigned beforehand, and everyone prepared their presents in advance. When the gifts were handed out, the room instantly became louder with laughter and excitement. Seeing everyone unbox their presents — from nervous guesses to surprise and laughter was honestly the highlights of the evening. Overall, the Christmas Social was full of laughter, festive vibes, and really fun memories — a perfect wrap-up for Term 1.

By Amanda



Christmas Concert

By Yunn Xynn

The Christmas concert showcased students musical talents across year groups, all sharing and bonding over Christmas joy through expression of music. It even featured a teachers choir and prefect performance showing the bond between our students. Overall the event succeeded in lifting our spirits ready for the festive holidays.













A long-standing tradition followed dinner: the singing of The Twelve Days of Christmas. Each house was assigned a verse, turning the song into a competitive and entertaining performance. Some houses leaned into dramatic actions, while others focused on volume and enthusiasm. The result was a loud, energetic rendition that involved everyone in the room and showcased strong house spirit

As the final notes of the carol faded, students made their way outside for the disco. With music filling the space and lights flashing, the dance floor quickly came to life. Groups formed, laughter spread, giving everyone the chance to unwind, dance freely and celebrate the end of term together in great spirits.

By Tian

Christmas Dinner

The highly anticipated annual Christmas Dinner took place this term, bringing students together for one of the final events of the year. Students arrived dressed elegantly, from silk dresses to smart suits. The hall quickly filled as everyone found their seats amongst friends and teachers, settling in for the evening.

Before dinner was served, Ms Parker gave thanks, marking the start of the celebration. Shortly after, food was brought out and tables grew lively with conversation and witty repartee. The meal, prepared with care by our FnB team, was generous and filling, giving everyone the chance to slow down and enjoy sitting together without the usual rush of school life. Laughter and conversation carried across the room as students engaged in witty repartee with friends and reflected on the term.





Sports Update

Aims football U18 girls

By Eexynn

The AIMS tournament was hosted by ELC International School on a weekend during mock season. Although we had a lot on our plate, we still pushed through and won one match against Sunway.

We were placed in the advanced pool because of our unbelievable win in our last tournament (KLSL). The most memorable match was against Mont'Kiara International School, which ended in a loss. Although we lost, the whole team still remembers this match due to the loud shouting of the opposing team's coach, and many of us were injured by the end of the game, but everyone tried their best and played well.

We all left feeling grateful that we have such supportive coaches—shoutout to Coach Nacho, Diego, and Annabel, as well as Ms Yulia, who doesn't have much prior experience with football but still managed to coach our team well. The team celebrated by having an amazing meal after the tournament.

The best players in my opinion was rachel our only goalkeeper, if it weren't for her amazing saves i dont know how many games we would have lost.



Fobisia volleyball

By Yunn Xynn

Epsom had the privilege to send their teams to u18 volleyball Fobisia in 2025, hosted by Shrewsbury in Bangkok. It's safe to say the teams did not disappoint. The girls team came home with a first place in the bowl and the boys came home with a silver in plate. An honourable mention is our MVPs of the tournament: Kelsie and Adlan.





Fobisia Netball

By Sophie Gervasi

Walking into Fobisia netball, our team carried a mix of nerves and excitement. This was a chance to test ourselves against new opponents and see how far our hard work in training could take us. The highlight of the tournament came early, when we won our very first game. Our communication was sharp, our movement confident, and our determination clear. That victory meant more than just a win — it secured our place in the cup competition, and gave us confidence in our performance and teamwork.

Although we were unable to carry that momentum through the rest of the competition and sadly lost the rest of our games, the experience was not entirely negative. We had many injuries going into the tournament and we gained more injuries throughout our games, which put us at a disadvantage compared to the other teams. But we pushed through and competed the best that we could. Of course we were really disappointed by our performances and the losses. However, each match challenged us in different ways, exposing areas where we needed to improve and pushing us to adapt under pressure. Facing stronger teams helped us recognise the importance of consistency, discipline, and trust in one another on court.

By the end of the competition, we had recognised and learnt greatly from our opponents on how we needed to improve and how we could do that. Winning our first game and reaching the cup competition was the highlight, along with Kelsey winning MVP of our team and coming 8th out of 13 teams total.



Global Events

By Ethan

The Louvre Heist: Daylight Robbery



On 19 October 2025, four thieves arrived at the Louvre's Galerie d'Apollon, entering through a balcony overlooking the River Seine using a vehicle-mounted mechanical lift. According to the French Ministry of Culture, the stolen items included a tiara and brooch belonging to Empress Eugénie, an emerald necklace and earrings from Empress Marie-Louise, a tiara, necklace and single earring from the sapphire set linked to Queen Marie-Amélie and Queen Hortense, and a historic "reliquary brooch." A total of eight historic pieces were taken, with reports later indicating that Empress Eugénie's crown was found damaged near the museum shortly after the theft.





Only 30 minutes after opening, CCTV footage shows the thieves arriving at around 9:30 a.m. and using a ladder to reach the first floor. Two thieves cut through a window using power tools and entered the gallery. They forced security guards back and then smashed the glass of two display cases, removing the jewels. Reports suggest the entire operation lasted under eight minutes, with the thieves spending just four minutes inside before escaping at around 9:38 a.m. on two scooters.

French authorities have launched a major investigation, with over 100 officers working on the case. Several suspects have already been arrested, including two men identified through DNA found on items left at the scene, and a fourth alleged member detained shortly after. All face organised theft and conspiracy charges, though none of the stolen jewels have been recovered. The pieces are now listed in INTERPOL's Stolen Works of Art database as police continue searching for the remaining suspects.

A French public prosecutor has said that the stolen collection is estimated to be worth approximately €88 million.

The heist sparked national outrage, forcing the Louvre to close temporarily and announce significant security upgrades. Cultural officials called it a wake-up call for museum protection, while visitors expressed shock that such an iconic institution could be breached so easily. Although the Louvre has been broken into several times before, including during daylight hours while the museum was open, none were on the scale or audacity of this latest robbery.

As the investigation continues, the Louvre and the world are reminded that even the most famous museums are not fully secure.



Global Events



A Historic First– Japan's 1st Female Prime Minister

On October 21st 2025, Japan reached a historic milestone with the election of its first female Prime Minister, Sanae Takaichi, an event widely seen as a turning point in the country's political and social history. For decades, Japan's politics has been dominated by males, with this moment bringing hope for a more equal, representative democracy.

Despite women gaining the right to vote in 1945, Japan has never before had a woman lead its government. Even today, women make up only around 10–15% of members in the National Diet, placing Japan near the bottom among developed nations for female political representation. The election of a female prime minister, therefore, represents a major challenge to long-standing gender norms.

A seasoned politician first elected to parliament in 1996, Takaichi is known for her conservative views and admiration of figures like Margaret Thatcher, whilst aligning herself ideologically with the late Shinzo Abe, a former Prime Minister of Japan. She has pledged to strengthen Japan's economy and national security while leading a new confidence-and-supply with the Japan Innovation Party after her party's long-standing partner dissolved its alliance.

Japan's 104th Prime Minister inherits serious national issues, including an ageing population, a low birth rate, relations with China, and debates over work culture. Japan's demanding working hours and limited childcare provision have often been criticised for holding women back from leadership roles. Many citizens hope this historic election will encourage stronger policies on work–life balance, childcare support, and equal opportunities in the workplace.
However, expectations remain cautious. Although she promised more female representation, only two women were appointed to her cabinet, including the country's first female finance minister, and critics argue that true equality will require more women in parliament, cabinet positions, and corporate leadership. Still, this election sends a powerful message to Japanese society and the wider world: political leadership is not defined by gender.

While one individual cannot transform an entire system overnight, Japan's first female prime minister represents a meaningful step toward a more inclusive and representative democracy, and a hopeful sign of change for future generations.

By Cheryl

Global Events

Volcanic Eruption of Mount Semeru in East Java, Indonesia

By Hannah



The Galdak Perak Bridge was hit by pyroclastic surges and volcanic fragments, resulting in at least 3 burn injuries, though thankfully no fatalities were reported. Severe damage occurred further upslope as pyroclastic flow and surges leapt beyond the confines of the river channels, carrying large, hot boulders of lava that were deposited as much as 10 kilometres away in one spot.

The Geological Agency of the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources (ESDM) reported that this event produced eruption columns reaching approximately 2,000 metres above the summit. Recorded on a seismogram at the Lumajang volcano monitoring post, it showed a maximum amplitude of 40 mm and lasted for almost 17 minutes

On 24 November, Indonesia's Disaster Data, Information, and Communication Centre of the National Disaster Mitigation Agency (BNPB) reported that the eruption caused severe injuries to three people and displaced more than 500 residents.

On 19 November 2025, Indonesian authorities raised the alert level of Mount Semeru to Level IV, the highest possible warning, after an eruption produced large ash clouds and pyroclastic flows down the volcano's southern and southeastern slopes. Residents in nearby areas were evacuated, and the public was advised to avoid all activities within an eight-kilometre exclusion zone.



The injured victims are currently receiving hospital treatment while residents from the villages of Supiturang, Oro-Oro Ombo and Penanggal have been evacuated.

The eruption damaged 204.63 hectares of agricultural land, 21 houses, an educational facility, one health facility, and an electricity substation. BNPB stated that multiple aid packages have been delivered to meet the needs of the evacuees. This aid included 300 mattresses, 300 tarpaulins, 300 blankets, 200 boxes of medical masks, 200 plastic trash bags, and 150 hygiene kits. Food aid provided consists of 1,000 ready-to-eat meals and 200 basic food packages.

Although initial reports suggested that the eruption was caused by a growing mass of hot tephra, it was mainly triggered by heavy, localised rainfall seeping into Semeru's unstable summit dome. So much rainfall accumulated rapidly that within the dome it was heated to high temperatures, expanded in volume, and eventually exploded. As the heaviest monthly rainfall in this region occurs between November and March, it is not surprising that Semeru has produced large eruptions during this period in three of the last five years. Due to the removal of most of the pre-existing lava dome, Mt. Sermeru now appears to be erupting continuously at a much weaker rate.

Global Events

Sudan's Civil War Reaches Critical Phase as Army Nears Full Control of Capital

By Nexus

Sudan's long and brutal civil war entered a new and closely watched phase in March 2025, when the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) made decisive gains against the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in and around the capital, Khartoum. The conflict began on 15 April 2023 as a power struggle between the SAF, under General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and the RSF led by General Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo (Hemedti), plunging the country into one of the world's most severe humanitarian crises.

On 21 March 2025, SAF forces recaptured the presidential palace in central Khartoum after prolonged urban fighting with RSF fighters, who had controlled key state institutions since the early days of the war.



Picture of General Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo

Days later, on 26–27 March, the army seized Khartoum International Airport and declared the capital "free" of RSF control after encircling the last major RSF strongholds in the city. These moves marked the culmination of months of gradual SAF advances that linked forces from north to south of the capital state, ending the RSF's siege of army headquarters and reclaiming neighbourhoods across Khartoum, Omdurman, and Khartoum North.



Picture of General Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan

The military's offensive was built on earlier successes, including the March announcement of a final phase to clear remaining RSF fighters from the capital and sustained operations since late 2024.

Despite these battlefield gains, the broader war persists. The RSF retains control of much of western Sudan, notably in Darfur, where intense fighting and mass displacement continue alongside reports of large-scale civilian atrocities. A United Nations report released in December 2025 detailed the killing of more than 1,000 civilians during an RSF siege of the Zamzam displacement camp in April 2025, underscoring the heavy toll on non-combatants.

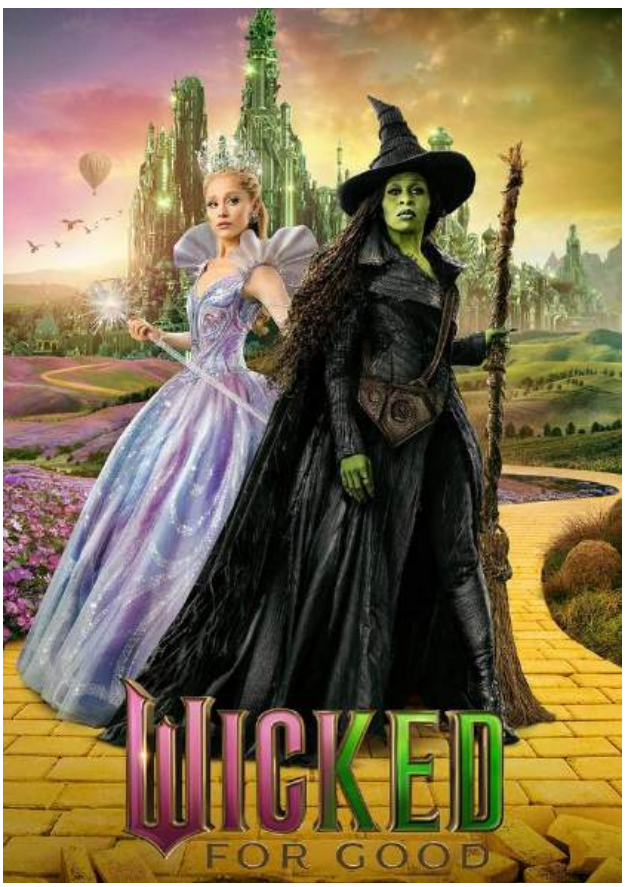
By Peggy

Defying Gravity Once More

Wicked: For Good will feel more like a long-awaited reunion than just another sequel when it eventually opens in theatres. This second release carries a sense of emotional weight that goes far beyond spectacle for fans who grew up watching bootleg videos on YouTube or listening to "Defying Gravity" on repeat.

The first movie introduced Wicked to a new audience as well as adapted a well-known musical. Watching Elphaba and Glinda's friendship develop on screen notably portrays that this tale leans towards identity, loyalty, and the price of clinging to your convictions rather than magic or flying broomsticks. These themes are expected to be expanded upon in Part Two, which will bring the characters into darker and morally complicated scenarios that are particularly relevant in the modern world.

Fundamentally, Wicked: For Good examines what occurs following the significant, heroic event. Elphaba has already "defied gravity", and now she has to deal with the fallout. The belief that ‘decisions do not end with a single courageous deed but always have consequences’ is subtly influential and will be expressed. It also reinforces the idea that growth is rarely neat or comfortable for students navigating tests, future plans, and expectations.







Additionally, the movie is released at a time when there are doubts and common misconceptions about musical adaptations. Nonetheless, Wicked has always stood out as its songs reveal emotional truths and contribute to the plot whilst being catchy show-stoppers. If Part Two lives up to this reputation, viewers can anticipate scenes that are equally heartbreaking and exquisite.

In the end, the film is about more than just concluding a narrative. It is about going back to a world that raises challenging questions: ‘Who determines the definition of "wickedness"? Can friendships endure conflicting ideologies? And is being misinterpreted occasionally the cost of acting morally?’

As the curtain rises one last time with anticipation, Wicked: For Good invites us not just to watch, but to reflect and maybe even to leave the cinema feeling a little braver than when we walked in.

Global Events

Sumo Slams Back After 30 Years at the Royal Albert Hall

By Sean



Ever since Japan's elite rikishi made their grand appearance in 1995 at the Royal Albert Hall as part of the UK–Japan Festival, fans from around the world have been waiting with bated breath for their epic return.

Their wish was granted this year, as from October 15 to 19, the venue came alive again with the thunderous energy of the Grand Sumo Tournament. Each day was packed with intense action, high stakes and breathtaking feats.



Although this wasn't an officially ranked match on the Japan Sumo Association calendar, each wrestler gave their all and put on a show for fans from around the globe. Every game seemed to trump the last, with the final match ending with a flip by Yokozuna Hōshōryū that surprised both the audience and his opponent, allowing him to win the tournament with a perfect 5–0 record.
For his superb wrestling performance, he was generously awarded a variety of sponsored gifts, including a giant inflatable Kikkoman soy sauce bottle, a huge Hello Kitty plush, a cash prize, and a traditional trophy.

Aside from the sweat, salt, and soy sauce, the UK demonstrated its deep respect and appreciation for the ancient Japanese sport with specially designed furniture that could support up to 200 kg. However, you can't always prepare perfectly, as the Albert Hall apparently bought so many noodles from wholesalers that they completely ran out of stock.

The Japanese wrestlers were even treated to an extensive tour of London, where they sight-saw famous sights, like Big Ben and Westminster Alley, and even recreated the famous Abbey Road album cover.

Most importantly, this tournament gave everyone a chance to experience Japanese culture up close and rekindled a love for a long-standing sport. It also reminded audiences of the deep, long-standing ties between Japan and the UK. As it stands, the UK remains one of the only countries to ever host a Grand Sumo Tournament, highlighting the special bond between the two nations.



Life at Epsom







By Tayeon, y10

Starting Year 10 marked the beginning of my GCSE and brought a noticeable increase in academic pressure. Adjusting to new expectations was challenging at times, but with the support of my teachers, friends, and seniors, I was able to overcome these difficulties. Being able to focus on subjects I chose and genuinely enjoy has also helped me study with greater motivation and positivity.

This term was not only about academics but also about creating meaningful memories. I attended my first Halloween party at Epsom, where students dressed in creative and unique costumes. Walking around campus, taking photos, and enjoying student-organised activities such as the haunted house made the experience especially memorable.

The Christmas party was another highlight and my first formal school event at Epsom. Students and teachers gathered in formal attire to celebrate the end of the year together. Sharing this moment strengthened my friendships and left me feeling grateful and happy as the year came to a close.

Overall, my first term in Year 10 has been a meaningful start to my GCSE, filled with both challenges and positive experiences that truly reflect life at Epsom.

By Eric, y12

Arriving at Epsom felt totally new to me since I've never been in a boarding school before, but the transition has been smoother than I expected. Although there were struggles with settling in and unpacking things in the beginning , I started to adapt well and figure out how things work around here eventually. The campus is big, and the facilities are actually very quality standard. One of the biggest changes for me was staying away from my home, but my friends and the staffs had made me feel comfortable and feel at home, which I'm grateful for .Although I had been critical of this boarding system such as registrations and a fixed timetable, I've actually learnt to live with it and even fond of it as it makes me feel more disciplined. As an extrovert, the amount of socializing had been the best thing about epsom so far , and on top of that, since everyone is from different places, the cultural differences had been fun to exchange as well. This school evidently values diversity, and that is what makes me like it even more . Seniors from my house have been very helpful and kind to me and they've shown me the fun side of boarding life. It's been great meeting new people and getting to know them more. Having friends here in Epsom has been the best thing because they're some of the best guys I've met.





Life at Epsom

As a Y13 student, life at Epsom is busy and tiring due to the increased workload and long school hours. Despite this, I enjoy my time in school. I find my lessons interesting and get on well with my teachers, so much so that I often talk to them outside lessons.

I wake up at 6.40am, ready to leave for breakfast at 7. I go downstairs and say hi to Ms. N, who ticks me off the breakfast register before I head to the dining hall. I eat a bit of everything during breakfast: toast, cereal, yogurt and two cups of milk – I've noticed that if I don't eat enough for breakfast, I get hungry by period 3 and lose concentration in class until lunch.

After morning registration in the boarding house, the rest of my day goes on like every other student in Epsom. I go to my classes and attend my CCAs. On Mondays, I have Cat Care Club with Mrs. Crann, where we go around school to check on the campus cats and learn how to take care of cats! My interest in journalism led me to join the Current Affairs Journal on Tuesdays, and I get the time to research and work on my article before it gets published.



After CCA1, I head straight back to my dorm to call a long-distance friend before dinnertime, but sometimes, I occasionally stay back on campus during CCA2 to complete any extra prep with my teachers.

While other boarders choose to hang out with their friends or go to the gym after prep time at night, I prefer to retreat in the comfort of my room where I can unwind from a long day by doing something different each day. I rotate between reading, listening to music, journaling, or creative writing as well as regular video-calls with my family or long-distance friends. By 11pm, my bag is crammed with books for tomorrow's lessons and I fall asleep to soft rock playing in the background.



By Jerrie, y13

As a Year 11 student in Epsom, our days are packed with a wide range of activities, from taking part in different sports to academic support, making each day both busy and rewarding. Even as we approach our next mocks and final exams, our classrooms are still filled with laughter, and I'm grateful to be making even more memories along the way with my friends. Our days are never dull, and even as the looming pressure of exams approaches, we all know we have a great support system and through the constant encouragement from our teachers we all feel settled into Y11.

NOVEMBER MOCKS

The November mocks were the first time we truly had to face the reality of exams. For many of us, it was unfamiliar, daunting, and definitely stressful at times. However, our Year 10 end-of-year exams helped prepare us for what to expect, making the experience feel a little less overwhelming.

Despite the nerves, there was something surprisingly enjoyable about being off timetable. Spending each day with the same people, supporting one another, and sharing both the stress and the relief after each exam brought us closer together. It turned what could have been an intimidating experience into one filled with laughter, reassurance, and shared moments.

Looking ahead to Mock 2 and our final exams, there is still some anxiety, but also excitement. Not just for the challenge itself, but for the time we'll spend together - revising, encouraging each other, and making memories along the way. In the end, it's the people around us that make even the worst moments worth it, and I know I'm not alone when I say I can't wait to make more memories.

By Leah, y11

Life at Epsom

By Ms. Archibald

Becoming Assistant Headteacher at Epsom

This is my sixth year working at Epsom College Malaysia. Having worked as a Maths teacher here from 2018–2020, I returned as Head of Maths from 2022–2025. I have loved living and working at Epsom, and over these years I have seen the school improve and evolve into the fantastic place it is today. Consequently, when I was promoted from Head of Maths to become one of the Assistant Headteachers, alongside Mr Coughlin and Mrs Garnett, I was extremely proud.

There are many similarities between my role as Head of Maths and Assistant Headteacher. Whereas before, I would work closely with Mr Baloyo and the rest of the Maths Department to ensure that students performed as well as they possibly could in Maths, I am now working closely with Mrs Perrang, Mr Thompson, and Mr Coughlin to ensure that teachers at Epsom are teaching in a way that means students perform as well as possible across all subjects.

The six years I've spent at Epsom Malaysia represent 17% of my life, 35% of my adult life, and 50% of my teaching career (I'll leave it up to you to do the maths). In other words, my time here has been a significant and formative part of my life. Whilst I was asked by the Magazine Society to share my experiences in my new role, I thought I would be a little more general and share some things that life at Epsom has taught me:

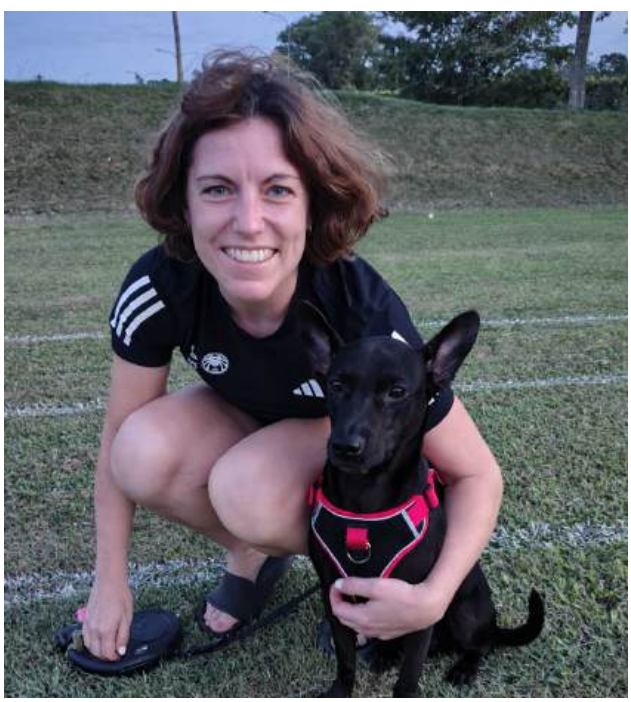
Nothing is the end of the world. Like any great school, Epsom is busy. Sometimes this can cause stress for both students and teachers. I have learned to remind myself that most challenges are temporary and perspective is powerful. Rarely is anything truly the end of the world.

Relax (and get a dog). Finally, watching Epsom students socialising at Halloween, the Christmas dinner, or performing at open mic nights reminds me of the importance of switching off. Finding time to relax and enjoy life outside of work matters more than we sometimes realise. And if possible, I can highly recommend getting a dog.

Run. Last year during Happiness Week, Nysa Khoo asked me, "Ms, what makes you happy?" I said, "Running." Nysa thought I was weird! But over the years, I have felt very lucky to have had the Epsom College grounds to run around. It is safe, beautiful at sunrise, and the right amount of hilly!

Prepare well. As a Maths teacher when delivering lessons, or in my new role when presenting to other teachers, I have definitely learned to prepare well. Without exception, the better you prepare, the better the results.

Contribute. "You get out what you put in" is a cliché because it's true. The sense of community cultivated at any boarding school is special, and even more so at Epsom where the majority of staff and students are far away from their families. The students who flourish the most at Epsom are those who participate in House activities, help with tutor time projects, or lead in House competitions. Those students have taught me to continue to get involved in my own communities, both in and out of school.



Life at Epsom

‘Do anything, but let it produce joy’

By Mrs. Prestidge

If I talk to people outside of the teaching profession about my job as an English teacher, this is how I distill it: simply put, I spend my days reading, writing and talking.

If I’m probed for more detail - as the more generous conversationalists do - I expand: I get to read prose, poetry, drama and non-fiction I enjoy and genuinely find interesting, sometimes prompting my own further research and thinking, ensuring I consider how each illuminates or reflects or criticises something about human being and/or the world in which we live (or have lived in the past); I get to write analytically and creatively, putting pen to paper myself as I - sometimes live, (still ever so slightly nerve-rackingly) on the spot - make models that attempt to show the next bright minds how to express themselves; and I get to talk, with great students, about characters, techniques, readers, contexts and about joy, loss, hope, strife and about what compels us behave in certain ways and about the ways in which conflicts evolve and resolve and about how the societies, cultures and eras we live in shape who we are and...

Ok, maybe I wouldn’t quite say *all this* at a dinner party. Even the most generous conversationalist might have glazed over by now, or be wondering why I haven’t enquired about them and their industry in turn.

The thing is I’ve been an English teacher for twelve years now. Before that, I studied English Literature at university. Before that, English Literature was one of my three A-levels. You’d be forgiven for thinking that I might be rather bored of it all by now, chewed up and spat out by the cyclical nature of each school year, sick to death of the same old stories, unable to stomach teaching the same skills again and again. But you’d be mistaken. I love it – even after marking all 64 Year 11 scripts from their recent mock! And I really cannot imagine doing anything else with my life.

So why tell you - Epsom students - all this?

Well, for one, to (hopefully) illustrate to you how important passion is: finding a sense of drive and enthusiasm that leads you to meaning and fulfilment in life. It’s like an internal compass, magnetic and insistent, pulling you on the course you’re meant to follow and steering you through rough tides and calm waters alike. There will be - or maybe already is - something that will ignite a passion in you. Find it and pursue it. Life is made meaningful when we do something we love.

For two, to celebrate and champion the immense value of reading, writing and talking. Why do these have value? To get good grades, earn a place at university and have good job prospects, sure. But more to be a valuable and interesting member of our global society: to be someone who is knowledgeable, who has empathy, who can think for themselves, who is sharp and witty, who speaks with assurance, who doesn’t just regurgitate AI-produced thoughts. Understanding others and understanding the world around you matters. Read. Expressing your thoughts with style when writing and expressing your thoughts with confidence aloud matters. Write. Talk.

And then, later in your own life, when you are at dinner parties, I hope you will be able to reflect positively on these two things and find yourself to be both someone with passion and a generous conversationalist.



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