EPSOM MAGAZINE

HALF-TERMLY UPDATES

For epsomians by epsomians



TERM 2, ISSUE 1

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03-06 SCHOOL EVENTS

As a school, we are privileged enough to have a year-long series of enriching events that brings joy and adds to the quality of student life here in Epsom! And Term 2 has been jam-packed with activities and fun: with the Spring Festival Celebration, Valentines Open Mic and more, read on to relive these memorable moments!

07 HOUSE UPDATES

Epsom's vibrant community shines through the unity and collaboration displayed at the House Events where the respective houses compete with one another. But when the school day is done, it is the wonderful relationships in the house that make each house so special. Read on to glimpse the boarder life and recount moments of competition, triumph and camaraderie.

09-12 GLOBAL EVENTS

The world is a forever changing place. As students, it is in our best interest to have an awareness of current affairs in order to develop a better understanding of the world we live in. Read on to find out more about headlining issues today.

08 MR AND MRS BROWN

Mr and Mrs Brown
It is a difficult task to sum up the immense love and gratitude this school feels for Mr and Mrs Brown, our beloved leaders that have stuck with Epsom during its highs and its lows. In the seven years of their time here, Mr and Mrs Brown have been an impactful asset of the school for not only their wisdom and teaching but for the kindness and warmth they radiate every single day. Students have been privileged to forge meaningful bonds with the pair and their presence will most certainly be missed.

To commemorate all that they have done for us, the school has put together several events to bid farewell and send them off into the next chapter of their lives. The Epsom Magazine Society have decided to dedicate a section of this magazine to honour Mr and Mrs Brown and the multitude of services they have done for the school. From a place of true gratitude, we sincerely wish them the utmost of luck in their journey ahead!

By, Alyson Wu

Launch of new boarding house + Mark Lascells Visit

The recent launch of the Wilson boarding house marks an exciting chapter for the students in Epsom, Wilson being designed with comfort, modern amenities, spacious living areas, and a supportive community atmosphere. This brings a new boarding experience to our students and a more sociable environment where students can thrive academically and socially. Alongside the opening of Wilson, existing boarding houses are also undergoing updates, Crawfurd and Roseberry also getting ready to move into the new and upgraded houses.







Here are some thoughts on the new houses, anonymously from roseberry "I prefer to stay in the old house, there's too much work packing everything, and there's only one kitchen in the whole house, and it's so far away from the school building and what if it rains.", anonymously from crawfurd, "there's no AC" lastly anonymously from Wilson, "it's a very positive change"

Adding to the excitement, Epsom recently welcomed Mark Lascells, headmaster of Epsom UK, to our campus. His visit gave the school a chance to exchange ideas, culture, and an opportunity to better improve our education and much more.

This collaboration with Epsom UK highlights our school's commitment to a better understanding of the students needs and education. As we move forward, we look forward to the potential opportunities that will be given to us.

Twisted Tales



By, Aydan Shakeel



The school hall buzzed with excitement as students from Prep and KS3 experienced "Twisted Tales," a unique performance and workshop program. A visiting theatre company transformed the space, captivating students with a mesmerizing blend of storytelling, puppetry, physical theatre, and original music. The performance itself was a captivating journey through interconnected narratives, filled with unexpected twists and humor.



Following the performance, students participated in interactive workshops tailored to their age groups. Prep students engaged in imaginative games designed to spark creativity and build confidence, while KS3 students explored advanced techniques like character development and improvisation.

The workshops provided a hands-on approach to storytelling, empowering students to unleash their creative potential. "Twisted Tales" was more than just entertainment; it was an enriching educational experience. The event fostered a love for storytelling, nurtured creative expression, and boosted students' confidence. The program's resounding success highlights the power of creative engagement and the transformative impact of the arts on young minds. The day concluded with a shared sense of accomplishment and a newfound appreciation for the magic of theatre.

Y11 Mock Result Ceremony

The Year 11 Mock Result Ceremony, an event of reflection, growth, and excitement. Inspired by the traditional Results Day held across schools in the UK. Designed to mirror the experience of receiving final results, preparing students emotionally and academically for the real thing.





As students collected their mock results, the atmosphere was filled with pride, reflection, and a renewed sense of purpose. The ceremony wasn't just about the results themselves, but about recognizing the effort and progress each student has made on their journey.

The ceremony served as a meaningful milestone, helping students set their sights on what lies ahead. With final exams on the horizon, it was a chance to set new goals and embrace the journey with determination and confidence.















By, Stephanie Khong

By, Sky Wong

Valentines Open Mic Night





The Valentines open mic, an event where students were invited to sing their hearts out to and speak from the soul. Under the theme of love, the night was a beautiful showcase of emotions, with stories shared in all their forms.

As love filled the air on Valentine's Day, voices rose in melodies and words that became music to our ears. Every performer brought something uniquely heartfelt to the mic. The room echoed with laughter and warmth, a heartwarming sight of students sharing a piece of their heart making this Valentine's Open Mic truly unforgettable.

Spring Festival: Assembly/Bazaar + Lion Dance

By, Yunn Xynn Fong

The spring festival was a celebration that showcased chinese and korean culture during spring, the bazaar was filled with many fun activities of both students and teachers as well as delicious food that we could all enjoy.

The spring festival celebration also offered us a sensational performance of the traditional lion dance, which is a symbol of strength, wisdom, and good fortune. It is a dance performance that is a mixture of acrobatics, dance, music and at times, acting and theatre. Long ago it was believed that the loud music and striking colours were used to ward away evil spirits and bad luck.











House Netball

House netball demonstrated how Epsom's houses Crawfurd and roseberry demonstrated phenomenal teamwork amongst one another. The event took place in age order from juniors, inters to seniors, I'm certain that both staff and students felt refreshed to be able to get out of the everyday lives of school and work to play competitive but friendly games of netball with strong house spirit as well as great sportsmanship. Well done to the two houses that competed with one another as well as the staff who competed in staff vs student.

By, YUNN XYNN FONG

House Debate



By, LEAH KIMURA

The annual Epsom College Inter House Debate Competition took place this March, bringing together students from all houses to speak, argue, and impress. The competition was spread over three exciting days — with the Junior and Intermediate heats on Monday 3rd March, the Senior heats on Tuesday 4th March, and the Finals on Thursday 6th March.

This year's event featured three categories: Junior, Intermediate, and Senior. Each level had its own theme, and students debated a range of interesting and important topics.

As a member of the Rosebery Intermediate team, I had the opportunity to debate against Propert on the motion, "This House regrets the rise of the social media influencer." Representing the Opposition, we put forward our strongest arguments, but despite our efforts, Propert came out on top. Although we didn't win, the experience was incredibly rewarding — it challenged me to think critically, speak confidently, and work closely with my team under pressure.

The Junior category explored the theme of childhood. In the first heat, Holman House, arguing for the motion, faced Crawfurd House in a debate about whether our early years shape who we become the most. In the second heat, Carr House went up against Rosebery on the topic of whether children under the age of 16 should be allowed to work. The Intermediate category focused on the idea of success. Crawfurd and Granville discussed whether tourism causes more harm than good in developing countries, while Propert and Rosebery tackled the impact of social media influencers. In the Senior category, the theme was law and order, which brought forward some of the most serious and complex discussions of the competition. Rosebery, on the proposition side, argued that juvenile criminals should be treated the same as adults, while Crawfurd opposed the motion. In another intense debate, Granville and Propert discussed whether the police should be defunded and the money redirected to social services.

The Finals, held on Thursday 6th March in the theatre, brought together the top teams from each category. The evening was filled with excitement and anticipation as the audience gathered to watch the best of the best compete. In the Junior Final, students from Carr and Crawfurd debated whether developing soft skills is more important than gaining qualifications. The Intermediate Final explored the idea of whether going to university should still be seen as the main path to success with the teams from Crawfurd and Propert showcasing their deep understanding of their arguments. In the Senior Final, teams from Rosebery and Propert ended the night with a powerful debate on whether surveillance is justified in the interest of national security and public safety.

While the competition was a chance to win points for their houses, it was about much more than that. It was a celebration of student voice, critical thinking, and respectful disagreement. Every speaker brought something valuable to the stage, and every team worked hard to represent their house with pride. Every debate was beautifully crafted and every team performed with such great passion. The scores were close and every debater gave it their all. After multiple deliberations the results were announced, Crawfurd had won both the junior and inter debates and Propert prevailed to win the senior debate.

A huge thank you goes to the judges, adjudicators and Mrs. Prestidge for organising the debate as well as to all the debaters who participated and gave it their all and made the competition so successful and rewarding for all. Their courage to speak and their ability to listen and respond thoughtfully was what made this year's debate truly special and I believe we are all looking forward to next year and the debates waiting for us then.

FAREWELL TO MR AND MRS. BROWN

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BY, ANNABEL ELISHA RAJAH

10th Anniversary Gala Concert

Epsom College in Malaysia celebrated its 10th anniversary with a Gala Concert, showcasing the talents of its youth and senior orchestra. The event featured many spectacular pieces such as Beethoven's Symphony No. 5 in C Minor, 1st Movement and Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 21 in C, 2nd Movement. Dressed in formal black attire, the students performed on violins, cellos, flutes, and various other instruments whilst they were led by their conductor, Mr. Smith. The concert concluded with touching farewell comments, providing a heartfelt end to the exceptional performance.





Special Open Mic Night for Mr. and Mrs. Brown

During the schools 10th anniversary celebrations, an Open Mic was held to bid farewell to Mr and Mrs Brown, where students gathered to watch a variety of performances, from guitar playing to singing alongside Mr Brown, making the night memorable for everyone.

End of Term Assembly & Farewell to Mr and Mrs Brown

The school wrapped up the end of Term 2 with a memorable End of Term Assembly to bid farewell to Mr. and Mrs. Brown. The assembly included a touching performance of "For Good" from Shiloh and Tongxi, accompanied by Ethan, and a "Quick Fire Life Advice" session where the Year 13 students asked Mr. and Mrs. Brown insightful questions. Students also shared precious moments they've had with Mr and Mrs Brown, followed by Mr. Brown's heartfelt farewell speech and final well-wishes from the teachers and staff, sending Mr and Mrs Brown off with a heartfelt message, while expressing their gratitude.





BY, JUN HONG GOH

Ai Progression in China - DeepSeek

Artificial Intelligence has adopted a position as a central pillar of technological advancement over the past few years, and China has now emerged as a leading force in AI innovation. Among key players in the AI industry, DeepSeek is a rising company gaining recognition for its innovation and cutting-edge research.

By, Dylan

DeepSeek's Key Innovations

DeepSeek has made a remarkable contribution to AI development in its work in large language models. The company has developed an advanced system capable of generating human-like text to assist in content creation, whilst also powering chatbots with enhanced contextual understanding. These innovations have further fueled competition in the AI industry, positioning DeepSeek as a serious contender in the global market. Furthermore, DeepSeek has explored the area of autonomous decision-making, AI use in healthcare and intelligent business automation. The company's research has placed a focus on optimising efficiency to reduce computational costs. This has made their AI models more accessible to a wider range of users and industries.

China's Ambitions with AI alongside DeepSeek's Emergence

China has made Artificial Intelligence a national priority, integrating it into its strategy for both technological and economic growth. With the country's government pouring vast data resources into the industry, alongside a strong talent pool, China's AI industry is thriving. DeepSeek is beginning to make contributions to the AI scene, comparable to larger, dominating companies such as Baidu and Tencent. DeepSeek originally gained traction due to its incredible advancements in AI model development, particularly in the areas of natural language processing, deep learning, and machine learning. The company has made itself known by developing sophisticated AI models that are able to rival their Western counterparts, such as ChatGPT and Gemini.

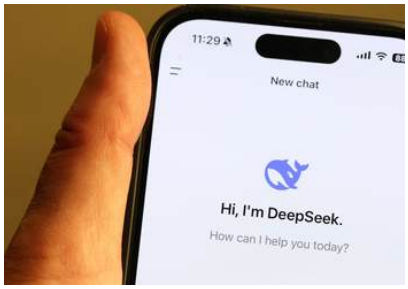
Challenges and Competition

Despite DeepSeek's rapid progress, the company faces a multitude of challenges. Of course, the global AI race is incredibly competitive, especially when faced with firms such as OpenAI and Google. Furthermore, ethical concerns and regulatory challenges further shape the AI landscape. As AI technology becomes more integrated into society, DeepSeek must navigate complex issues surrounding privacy, misinformation, and responsible AI deployment.

Look into the future

The continued success of the company will depend on its ability to consistently innovate and adapt to the ever-changing technological environment. With further investments in research, fostering collaborations, and prioritising ethical AI practices, DeepSeek can most definitely solidify its place among the world's AI leaders.





By, Jun Hong

Ramadan

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic lunar calendar and a key time for Muslims to fast, pray, think about life, and connect with others. It's also when the Quran is said to have been first shown to the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)

Fasting in Ramadan is one of the five main duties in Islam, so it's a must for most adult Muslims. People who are sick, old, pregnant, breastfeeding, on their period, or traveling get a pass. From dawn to sunset, there's no eating or drinking, but it's not just about skipping meals. It's a way to clean up your spirit, focus on prayer, and get closer to God through the Quran.

The day starts with suhur, a meal before dawn to keep you going, and ends with iftar, a dinner with family and friends to break the fast. Ramadan lasts 29 or 30 days, depending on when the crescent moon shows up. During this month, doing good things and helping others is thought to bring extra blessings, so Muslims use the time to boost their faith, give to charity, and ask for forgiveness.







North Korea Puts Out First Nuclear Threat

In October 2006, North Korea alarmed the international community by announcing and conducting its first nuclear test. This marked the country's official entry into the nuclear regime, holding itself up with power and defiance.

They had long been under suspicion of developing nuclear weapons, this underground test confirmed those fears and transformed international concerns into a serious global security issue, casting light on North Korea's morality. It showed North Korea's readiness to challenge diplomatic and societal norms and put itself at risk of isolation in exchange for military strength.

The United Nations condemned the test and imposed economic sanctions aimed at restraining North Korea's access to nuclear materials and funds. Despite this, the DPRK insisted its actions were in self-defense against perceived threats from the U.S. and South Korea.



The roots of the conflict dates back to the 1994 Agreed Framework, in which North Korea agreed to halt its nuclear program in exchange for aid. Trust collapsed on both sides in the early 2000s, the deal fell apart, and the DPRK resumed its nuclear development, this time more aggressively.

For North Korea, possessing nuclear weapons is about more than defense—it is a strategic tool. It offers leverage in international negotiations and strengthens the regime's image domestically as powerful and independent. It also serves as a warning to other nations not to interfere with its sovereignty.



Diplomatic efforts, such as the Six-Party Talks involving China, the U.S., South Korea, Russia, and Japan, have had limited success. While some agreements were reached, none held for long. Attempts at high-level diplomacy, including summits with U.S. leaders, have not led to lasting denuclearization.



Since 2006, North Korea has conducted several more nuclear and missile tests, each time improving its capabilities and reach. These developments continue to raise fears of instability in East Asia and beyond.

North Korea's first nuclear threat was not just a regional event—it marked a global pivotal point. Where it brought light to the challenges of managing nuclear proliferation and the dangers posed by states that act outside international norms.



By, Justina Wong

Nepalese calls for return of the king

By, Mei Jie



On Sunday, 9 March 2025, thousands of Nepalese welcomed former King Gyanendra Shah upon his arrival at Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu. He was greeted by supporters waving Nepal's flag and chanting slogans like "Come king, save the nation!". An estimated 10,000 supporters gathered outside the airport, blocking its main entrance and shouting, "Vacate the royal palace for the king!" and "Long live our beloved king!" as Gyanendra returned from a tour of Western Nepal. The crowd demanded the restoration of the monarchy nearly 17 years after its dissolution, driven by growing disenchantment with Nepal's political establishment.



Massive street protests in 2006 had forced Gyanendra to give up his authoritarian rule, and two years later, the parliament voted to abolish its 240-year-old monarchy after a decade-long civil war that left over 16,000 dead. Gyanendra left the Royal Palace and adopted the life of a commoner. However, many Nepalis have grown frustrated with the republic, saying it has failed to bring about political stability and blaming it for a struggling economy and widespread corruption. Since the monarchy was abolished in 2008, Nepal has seen 13 governments.

Among the crowd was 50-year-old carpenter Kulraj Shrestha, who had participated in the 2006 protests against the king but has since changed his mind and now supports the monarchy.

"The worst thing that is happening to the country is massive corruption and all politicians in power are not doing anything for the country," Shrestha said. "I was in the protests that took away the monarchy hoping it would help the country, but I was mistaken and the nation has further plunged so I have changed my mind."

Gyanendra has not commented on the calls for the return of monarchy. Despite growing support, the former king Gyanendra has slim chances of immediately returning to power.

By the epsom magazine team.