



From the Headmaster

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GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE COLLEGE

Epsom College was founded in 1855 and lies 15 miles south of London, close to much attractive countryside. The College occupies 80 acres of its own land on Epsom Downs 300ft above sea level and all the buildings and playing fields are within the grounds as is the great majority of the accommodation offered to staff.

The College became fully **co-educational** in September 1996. There are around 730 pupils in the school, of whom half are boarders, and half day pupils. The ratio of boys to girls is now around 8:5, but nearly 50:50 in the Sixth Form. There are 12 Houses: 4 boys' boarding, 3 boys' day, 2 girls' boarding, 2 girls' day and 1 girls' Sixth Form House into which girls who come at 16 plus are placed both as boarders and day girls.

The majority of boys and girls **enter the College** via the scholarship or Common Entrance examination at 13 plus, but there is a significant entry at 16 plus of both boys and girls. Between 5 and 10% of pupils are supported by major Bursaries which may be up to the value of full fees and means tested for financial need, particularly those with a medical background. There are various scholarships and exhibitions available to talented boys and girls. The College makes each year around 30 to 40 such awards: academic, music, art, all-rounder, sports, drama, dance and technology; these are rarely above 10% of the initial fees. Some awards are open only to the sons and daughters of doctors. The Common Entrance hurdle is a score of 60% or more taken as an average.

An average size for the first three years in the College, called **M4, U4 and Fifth Form** is 134 and in the Sixth Form there are approximately 160 in each year. In the first year, Year 9 in the National Curriculum, all boys and girls take English, French, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Spanish/German/Mandarin, (Latin is optional), History, Geography, Art, Design Technology, Music, IT, Religious Studies, Drama and PE. The first six of these subjects remain in the core for the two years of GCSE in addition to which pupils can choose from Drama, Latin, Spanish, German, Mandarin, Geography, History, Art, Music, IT, PE, Design Technology and Religious Studies. Approximately a third of all those who join at 13 plus study Latin: around a third of the year group takes Mathematics IGCSE early. English, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology and IT currently follow IGCSE courses.

Virtually all pupils remain at the College to study AS and then A2 in the **Sixth Form**, and are joined by a further 40 or so pupils many of whom are attracted by the International reputation the College has, particularly in the areas of medicine, the sciences and law. Within the Sixth Form pupils are able to study Art, Photography, Biology, Business Management, Chemistry, Computing, Critical Thinking, Design Technology, Economics, English Pre-U, French, Geography, History, Latin, Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Music, Physical Education, Physics, Politics and Government, Theology and Philosophy, Spanish and Theatre Studies. The Extended Project Qualification, a research-based study, is pursued by a quarter of the Sixth Form. Almost all pupils move on to higher education with the occasional student choosing to follow another path such as Art Foundation. Around a dozen pupils gain places at Oxford and Cambridge, with a further 10% at Medical School. Over the last two years pupils have applied to a very wide range of courses, from the more traditional such as Dentistry, Medicine, Architecture, Law, Veterinary Science and English to Media Studies, Hispanic Studies, Politics and Marine Geography.

Results with public examinations have been extremely strong especially in recent years. At A Level around 60% of all grades were A* or A. At GCSE around 70% of all grades were A* or A.

A great deal of work has been done on **developing the plant** in the recent past with over £21m, at today's prices, being invested. In September 1996 a new library was created with a first class modern information retrieval system as well as its very considerable stock of books, periodicals and CD/video. A new academic building was completed in September 1999 adding 13 classrooms in which the Business Studies, Economics, Geography, History and Politics Departments are now based. The IT network now spreads throughout the College: there are around 500 machines available, 800 networked points and a school-wide 'wi-fi'. There has

been a massive programme of modernisation with many Houses extended in recent years as well as the Science Departments, Sixth Form Common Room, Swimming Pool and other communal areas. The school has just equipped a new Theatre/Concert Hall, 2 new Drama Studios and 2 new Dance Studios.

The College has outstanding Sports **facilities** including an indoor sports centre with swimming pool, two large sports halls, 6 squash courts, a gymnasium, a specialist fitness centre, climbing wall and a fencing salle. There are two full size astro-turf surfaces, one floodlit. The main games at the College are rugby, hockey, netball, cricket, tennis, athletics and swimming, at which the College produces sides consistently amongst the best. Among the other sports available are squash, the shooting team have been national champions for 14 of the last 21 years (there is a 25m 6 lane range), soccer, cross-country, lacrosse, fencing, gymnastics, golf with outstanding teams at a national level, badminton, rounders, volley-ball, basket-ball, judo, martial arts, polo and sailing, and as with the major sports, national success has been achieved in many of these in recent years. The **CCF** is one of the largest in the UK and has Army, Naval and RAF sections. Pupils over the age of 14 are expected to join for two years when much time is spent on camping, expeditions and leadership training. Older boys and girls may join instead the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme whilst others are involved in social service work in Epsom.

There are three full-time **Music** teachers and a large staff of visiting specialists with over one half of all pupils learning an instrument. There are three choirs (the chapel choir most recently performed at Westminster Abbey, Winchester, Salisbury and St Paul's Cathedrals), there is a school orchestra, a concert band and Big Band, and numerous smaller ensembles. The Music School has a concert hall and 18 practice rooms. **Drama** is very strong both academically and with many play productions at all ages each year in a well-equipped facility. A range of musical and dramatic productions and performances is undertaken each year. In recent years these have included *Mozart's 'Marriage of Figaro'*; *Monteverdi's 'Coronation of Poppea'*; *Webster's 'The Duchess of Malfi'*; *Sondheim's 'Sweeney Todd'*; *Orwell's '1984'*; *Bernstein's 'West Side Story'* and an ambitious production at the Royal Albert Hall which was written and produced by staff with over 1,000 participants including current pupils, staff past and present and Old Epsomians.

Art has three specialist teachers and includes pottery, printing and sculpture. photography as well as painting and drawing; it is housed in a spacious building with 8 studios, a library, an exhibition room and an exhibition hall. It has long held a national reputation for the quality of its work.

The boarding and day **Houses** have all been modernised and now offer excellent and spacious accommodation for all pupils. All boarding Sixth, Fifth and Upper Fourth formers have study-bedrooms in the Houses, with younger pupils in groups of four, and the day pupils similarly good facilities. Each pupil has a House based Tutor responsible for academic monitoring as well as pastoral development. Virtually all members of the teaching staff (plus several others too), are tutors within the House tutor teams.

Epsom College is a **Church of England** foundation and welcomes those of other denominations.

Members of staff are expected to involve themselves fully in the life of the College, helping with **the extra curricular programme**. Special skills are welcome but a willingness to give time and energy generously is what matters most.

Epsom College is committed to vigorously safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff to share this commitment.

The College has its own salary scale, which is reviewed annually. A fee discount is available for members of staff and is offered at the prevailing rate when the child joins the school. Currently children of full-time members of staff are educated as day pupils for one third of the day fee, pro rata for part time members of staff.

The College owns a substantial amount of property most of which is in the immediate environment of the College in which the great majority of staff lives, for which there is a relatively modest charge.

The College is just outside the town of Epsom and has very good access into London from one of three railway stations. It is a few miles from the nearest junction of the M25 with ready access to Gatwick and Heathrow Airports.

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