



EPSOM
COLLEGE

Joining us in
Middle Fourth,
2020-21



Welcome to Middle Fourth

FI DRINKALL, DIRECTOR OF TRANSITION & INTEGRATION

My name is Mrs Fi Drinkall, and I am responsible for making sure all our new Middle Fourth (M4) pupils settle in successfully to their new year. As Director of Transition & Integration, I am also Head of Year for M4s.

This is very much the start of a new chapter for all of you. Whether you're joining us from the Lower School, or from one of a number of Prep Schools, your new life in our wonderful 85-acre campus (part of which is pictured on the previous spread) as one of our senior pupils is getting ever closer.

My role is to help facilitate a smooth and successful transition into life at Epsom as an M4 pupil. So perhaps the first thing I need to do, especially for those who aren't familiar with some of our terminology, is explain that M4 is Year 9. You'll get used to this soon enough, but to help out here are all the other year groups and what we call them:

- Year 7: Third Form (3rd)
- Year 8: Lower Fourth (L4)
- Year 9: Middle Fourth (M4)
- Year 10: Upper Fourth (U4)
- Year 11: Fifth Form (5th)
- Year 12: Lower Sixth (L6)
- Year 13: Upper Sixth (U6)

I will be working closely with the entire Middle Fourth year group, coordinating activity programmes, running year group assemblies and organising several Academic Enrichment events throughout the school year.



My duties as a Head of Year are:

- To Monitor the academic progress of students.
- To give all pupils a broad experience; introducing them to the wealth of opportunity available at the College
- To challenge pupils and help them discover and develop their potential

Along with my Tutor Team, I also aim to ensure that all the students settle quickly and happily into their senior school lives and surroundings.

HELPING YOU TO SETTLE IN

Under normal circumstances we would hold a transition day to help you familiarise yourself with the College, and what to expect in September.

This day would also be a chance to meet Heads of Department, have tea with the Headmaster, have gum shields fitted, and to meet the staff in your new House for the first time.

For obvious reasons we aren't able to host this event this year, due to the high numbers of people who would wish to attend.

In its place, we are sending you this booklet and a range of other material. You will also be contacted by your new Housemaster or Housemistress in due course, and will have the opportunity to ask any questions you may have.

As always, my colleagues in the Admissions Department are available too. You may contact them on the numbers and emails below:

Mrs Cathy Kent, Director of Admissions
admissions@epsomcollege.org.uk
01372 821234

Mrs Lynn Watkins, Admissions Registrar
lynn.watkins@epsomcollege.org.uk
01372 821007

PARENTS' INFORMATION EVENING

We would also ordinarily host an information evening for new parents during the second week of September. Plans for this are being finalised and we will contact you with further details once they are available.

This evening is an opportunity for me to take you through some key information about navigating the College website and learning platforms, and show you how to access information about Prep and your child's academic studies.

The evening is also an opportunity to meet other key staff and learn valuable information about this academic year.

House events in *Middle Fourth*

CHORAL COMPETITION

The first House competition of the year, and without question the biggest in the whole calendar, is the Choral Competition. This competition dates all the way back to the 1870s, and is possibly even older than that.

The event takes place in late September, with each of the 13 Houses singing to win a variety of trophies - Unison, Partsong and Solo - and then for the ultimate glory (and bragging rights, of course) of being awarded

the Choral Competition Trophy.

Rehearsals begin at the start of term, and all members of the House are involved. For the first weeks of term, as you walk around the College, all you will hear is the sounds of each House polishing their performance.

Everyone takes to the stage and the night helps the new members of each House form strong bonds with other pupils.

CROSS COUNTRY

Later in Michaelmas Term, pupils are involved in another event that pits House against House in keenly contested but friendly rivalry.

For one afternoon, all pupils are taken by bus to Epsom Downs to race against one another. Houses compete in year groups and the event is yet another opportunity to pull on your

House colours and take part in something that has been part of Epsom College tradition for the past 150 years.

As with the Choral Competition - great pride comes from claiming victory and giving the Trophy a home in your House.

MUSIC, PANCAKES & DEBATING

Throughout the year there are a number of House Music Competitions, in several categories for the different year groups. Plus the ever-popular soirees, where year groups come together to put on an evening of entertainment for parents and guardians that rivals Britain's Got Talent.

In Lent Term, Houses race around the Chapel clutching frying pans and flipping pancakes as they go. The annual Pancake Race is fast,

fun, and the Frying Pan trophy is one that all Houses want to win.

There are also several competitions that are less focused on haring around the College, and more suited to the thoughtful pupil! House debating is always popular. This is often a Summer Term event, with Houses competing in a series of debates and often tackling some fascinating, thought-provoking subject matter.



Sporting events & *Founder's Day*

House competitions occur throughout the school calendar in a variety of sports from Rugby, Hockey, Netball, Football, Cricket, Athletics and Tennis to Badminton, Shooting, Volleyball and Table Tennis to name but a few. The list of events grows every year, which means that you will have many opportunities to represent your House.

The Interhouse sporting competition culminates in our annual Founder's Day.

This event takes place on the last Saturday before May Half Term and is a wonderful occasion. Founder's Day is a celebration of the College. Departments open their doors, and display their work with exhibitions. Bands play out on Wilson pitch.

Families, friends, former pupils and members of staff mingle in the sunshine and Houses battle it out - in a friendly, wholesome way of course - on track and field.

There are competitions in House Rounders, boys and girls Athletics, and bucket loads of House pride at stake. This is unquestionably one of the most-loved events of the year.



Pastoral Support

PAUL WILLIAMS, SECOND MASTER

Hello everyone. My name is Paul Williams and I am the Second Master here at Epsom, a role I have undertaken for past 10 years.

Part of my role is to have overall responsibility for the pastoral running of the College. In this, of course, I am assisted by a huge number of colleagues; to mention a few:

- Mrs Helen Keevil, Assistant Head: Pupil Welfare
- The Housemasters, Housemistresses and Matrons in the 13 Houses in the Senior School
- Mr Lance and his team in the Lower School.

I was also lucky enough to have been a boarding Housemaster for 15 years here at Epsom, but that was some years ago!

Usually, I would see you all face-to-face at our Transition Day, and talk you through some of the detail about the Houses, our pastoral structure, and the various communication channels within the school. However, as I touched upon earlier in this booklet, events have conspired against us so I shall instead spend the next few pages briefly touching upon the key information..

If you have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to get in touch.



THE HOUSE SYSTEM AT EPSOM

The House system is absolutely vital here at Epsom. It lies at the heart of the College Community and is very much the bedrock of the College. It was rightly praised in our ISI Inspection in 2019, as it gives everyone a sense of belonging.

Within their House pupils will form lifelong friendships, have great loyalty and they will always tell you that their House is the best.

I heard a pupil last term say “no matter how stressed you are about an exam, no matter how tired you are after sport or no matter how hungry you are when break time comes around, there will always be a comfortable space filled with friends where you can relax, unwind and eat food in your House”.

Your House becomes your home from home, whether during the day as a day pupil, or all the time for the boarders.

As Mrs Drinkall has already mentioned, there are also plenty of fierce rivalries amongst the Houses in the inter-house competitions, from the pancake race and House sporting events to the choral and music competitions.

These will draw pupils from all the year groups with all of their different talents within your House together enhancing the House community.

We have 13 Houses taking Middle Fourth pupils in September – seven boys and six girls’ Houses.

GIRLS’ HOUSES

Of the Girls’ Houses, two are for Boarders (Crawford and Wilson) and four are for Day pupils (Murrell, Raven, Rosebery and the White House).

BOYS’ HOUSES

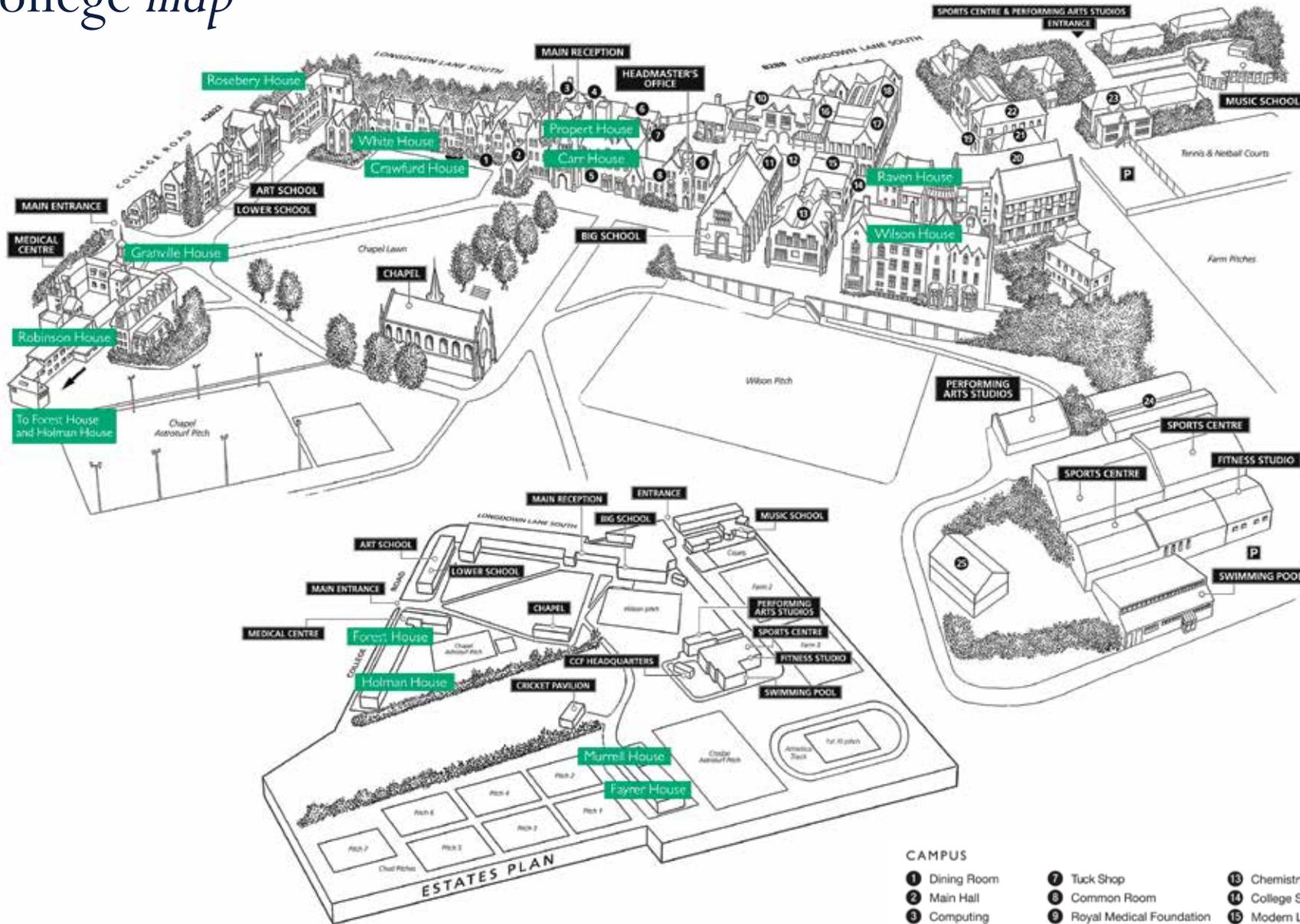
Of the Boys’ Houses, three are for Boarders (Forest, Granville & Holman) and four are for day pupils (Carr, Fayrer, Propert and Robinson).

SAME BUT DIFFERENT

Although each House is slightly different in terms of their geographic location, and the layout of the building, they are all run in exactly the same way with the same school routines, rules and regulations and structure. We have worked extremely hard over the last few years to ensure we have this consistency.

A map of the House locations is provided on the next spread.

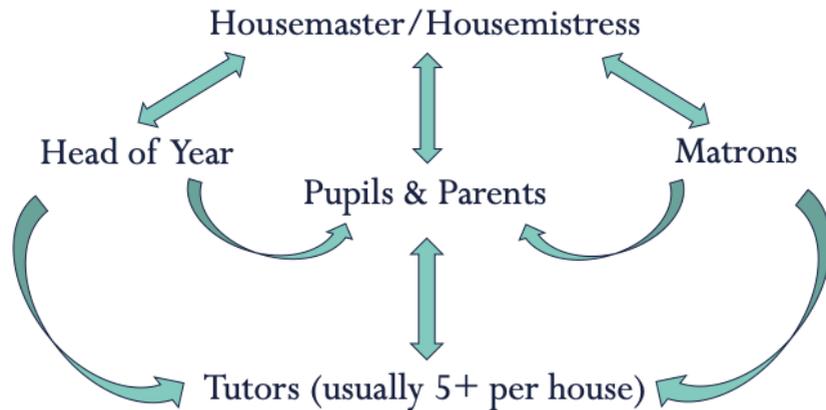
College map



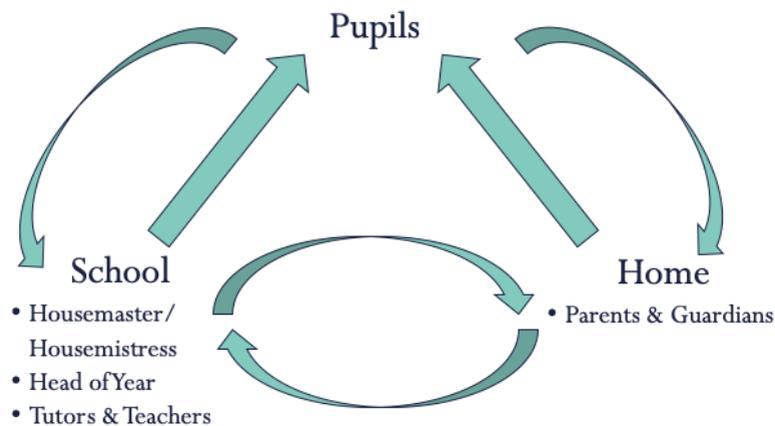
CAMPUS

- | | | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Dining Room | 7 Tuck Shop | 13 Chemistry | 19 Sixth Form Centre |
| 2 Main Hall | 8 Common Room | 14 College Store | 20 Mackinder Building |
| 3 Computing | 9 Royal Medical Foundation | 15 Modern Languages | 21 Classics |
| 4 Drama Studio | 10 Library | 16 Academic Support | 22 Theology & Philosophy |
| 5 Council Room | 11 English | 17 Physics | 23 Mathematics |
| 6 Design Technology | 12 Quad | 18 Biology | 24 Indoor Rifle Range |
| | | | 25 CCF Headquarters |

Structure of the Houses



The Communication Triangle



How the Houses Operate

YOUR HOUSEMASTER/MISTRESS

Once you start in M4, the Housemaster or Housemistress (or HMM as we call them at Epsom) is responsible for every aspect of a pupil's life at school.

All communication tends to go through the HMM and they will be your main point of contact on all matters of school life.

MATRONS

Matrons are another key figure in the House structure and play a central role in the pastoral life of the House.

They are a constant presence in the House throughout the day and are a vital cog in the wheel, dealing with both pupils and parents; you will get to know your Matron very well indeed quite quickly once you start in the senior school.

HEADS OF YEAR & TUTORS

We also have Heads of Year who will communicate with you, along with the HMM, over academic matters. Each House will also have at least five tutors with the bigger Houses having up to 10.

Tutoring is by year group in each House and the tutor has the responsibility for the day to day immediate academic monitoring of pupils. They also keep a careful eye over their co-curricular programmes. In addition they are also another very useful "pair of ears" as someone you can talk to.

COMMUNICATION TRIANGLE

As you can see, communication is absolutely key between all parties at the College, and I refer to the diagram on this page as the "holy triangle of communication".

You can see that the pupils sit at the top as they are the most important vertice of the triangle.

We then have the College, represented by HMM, Head of Year, Tutor, and Matron. With 'home' – in other words, you the parents - completing the triangle.

When we are all working well together and keeping the communication going, we see the pupils achieving or exceeding their potential.

In my experience, we are also able to nip any issues in the bud at an early stage before they become major ones. It is therefore crucial that these communication channels work and stay intact throughout your son's or daughter's time at Epsom.

OTHER AVENUES OF SUPPORT

There are also many other pastoral avenues and support available for the boys and girls in the senior school, and we have provided contact details for these people overleaf.

All these people are there to help and support your sons and daughters. All of us are aware that if pupils are to thrive in a school then they must be happy and it is our job to do that by looking after, and enhancing, their wellbeing.

Pastoral Support *Contact Details*

Director of Transition & Integration fi.drinkall@epsomcollege.org.uk	Mrs Fi Drinkall	01372 821273
Assistant Head: Pupil Welfare helen.keevil@epsomcollege.org.uk	Mrs Helen Keevil	01372 821189
College Chaplain andrew.haviland@epsomcollege.org.uk	Canon Andrew Haviland	01372 821288
Second Master paul.williams@epsomcollege.org.uk	Mr Paul Williams	01372 821006
Medical Centre san@epsomcollege.org.uk	Sister Linda Hendry	01372 821199
College Counsellor counsellor@epsomcollege.org.uk	Ms Alice Allen	07870 163891
College Reception Desk		01372 821000



House colours

CARR - BOYS, DAY HOUSE

Housemaster: Mr Lawrence Matthews _____



CRAWFURD - GIRLS, BOARDING HOUSE

Housemistress: Mrs Leah Skipper _____



FAYRER - BOYS, DAY HOUSE

Housemaster: Mr Stuart Head _____



FOREST - BOYS, BOARDING HOUSE

Housemaster: Mr Jim Stephens _____



GRANVILLE - BOYS, BOARDING HOUSE

Housemaster: Mr Andrew Day _____



HOLMAN - BOYS, BOARDING HOUSE

Housemaster: Mr Chris Filbey _____



MURRELL - GIRLS, DAY HOUSE

Housemistress: Mrs Lynsey Buhagiar _____



PROPERT - BOYS, DAY HOUSE

Housemaster: Mr Andy Wilson _____



RAVEN - GIRLS, DAY HOUSE

Housemistress: Mrs Sarah Williams _____



ROBINSON - BOYS, DAY HOUSE

Housemaster: Mr Paul Gillespie _____



ROSEBERY - GIRLS, DAY HOUSE

Housemistress: Mrs Katie Lenham _____



WHITE - GIRLS, DAY AND BOARDING HOUSE

Housemistress: Miss Faith Smith _____



WILSON - GIRLS, BOARDING HOUSE

Housemistress: Mrs Rebecca Wilson _____





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