



Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

Query 1: **What is the procedure for registering my child?**

Parents who are interested in registering their son or daughter at Epsom College should contact our Admissions team either by email on enquiries@epsomcollege.edu.my or call +6 03 83201401 or +6 0104281198. They will be asked to provide details about their children, including their age, proposed date of entry and current school.

Under the Ministry of Education rules Epsom College in Malaysia is not allowed to formally register students at this stage. Instead, an official letter confirming that the child has a confirmed place, subject of course to them satisfying the school's entry requirements at interview and testing, will then be sent out by the school.

Query 2: **How can I secure a place at Epsom College in Malaysia?**

Although Epsom will be an academically selective school, it is not an academic hothouse. As with the UK school our greatest successes will be with able all-rounders whose strengths are across a wide spectrum and who will be able to make best use of our excellent facilities, generous time and top-class teaching. We will encourage ambition and provide unparalleled pastoral support in our House system for both Day and Boarding pupils, enabling them to shine.

Epsom College operates an equal opportunities policy, and all applicants are considered on merit.

We anticipate that we will start interviewing and testing children who have registered for the Senior School from April 2012 and for the Prep School in April 2013. The level of assessment will be dependent on the age of the child.

Children wishing to join Year 2 or below will simply be interviewed by a member of the Prep School teaching staff. Children wishing to join Years 3 to Year 6 will be asked to complete a simple maths, English and verbal reasoning assessment, as well as being interviewed by a member of the Prep School. Those pupils wishing to join Years 7, 8, 9, 10 or 12 will be asked to sit three Cognitive Ability Papers (Verbal, Non-verbal and Quantitative) and have an interview. Offers of a place in Year 12 will be conditional on a minimum of seven GCSE passes at A*/A or B, or the equivalent.

We would not usually accept pupils into Year 11 or Year 13 as these are part the way through a two year examination syllabus, but will of course consider applicants in exceptional circumstances.

Query 3: Most Malaysian students complete Primary 6 by November every year. Epsom College in Malaysia starts in September 2013. What should I do with my child from January to September 2013?

In the UK pupils complete Year 6 (at the top of the Prep School) and enter Year 7 (the start of the Senior School) aged 11+ on 1st September in the year of entry. They will have their twelfth birthday between 1st September and 31st August of the following year.

We are looking into the possibility of offering some schooling for those pupils who have completed Primary 6 in November 2012 and would want to join Year 7 in Epsom College in Malaysia in September 2013. This is being investigated, and any decision will be dependent on demand. We will update parents who have expressed an interest in finding out more in due course.

Once the school is fully open, parents whose children are moving into Epsom College from a school with an alternative academic year will need to make a decision as to which school year they should join. This decision will be made following the entrance assessments and in discussion with the Headmaster.

Query 4: How are the houses operated?

Epsom College aims to provide a happy, friendly and purposeful atmosphere in which pupils develop a high moral code and respectful conduct towards others. The development of their own talents — academic, athletic and cultural — is seen as a means of taking this progress to maturity.

Great emphasis will be placed on individual guidance and support for each boy and girl, and at Epsom College Malaysia, as at Epsom College UK, the framework for this guidance will be the house system, supported by the work of the Medical Centre and indeed the whole community of teachers. All boys and girls at Epsom College, regardless of whether they are day students or boarders, will belong to one of fourteen houses. Each of these are under the direct supervision of a resident housemaster or housemistress assisted by a team of tutors, one of whom will also be resident, and a housekeeper who will manage all domestic matters.

The principal function of the house structure, which has always been very much the backbone of Epsom College in the UK, is to provide an efficient and well-tryed means of implementing pastoral care, which includes overseeing the academic and personal development and the welfare of its members. Each pupil has a tutor who regularly monitors academic progress and who will advise the pupil on the best means of moving forward, keeping parents and the housemaster or housemistress informed of all developments. In

addition, the houses offer safe, secure and well-supervised residential accommodation for those pupils who are boarding.

The houses act as the focus for a sense of belonging, of support, of commitment, of friends and of place. They provide a compassionate and caring environment that becomes home for each of its boys and girls.

For those who are boarding we see their life in the house as an extension of the pupil's home where interest and guidance are offered and self discipline nurtured. Boarders develop tolerance, respect for others, sociability, personal independence and self-esteem. They enjoy closer supervision of their work and are able to spend more of their time engaged in profitable activities (instead of travelling to and from school). Boarding offers the experiences of shared living, accepting community values and learning to take into account the point of view of others. For many families, weekly boarding offers all this while still allowing frequent contact with what can be very busy home and professional lives.

Houses will be arranging their own plays and concerts, and of course most sports will be played at inter-house level to reinforce a competitive ethos that also takes in several other school activities. Inevitably, differences in the background, interests and outlook of the house staff, possibly even the location of the buildings, and eventually the tradition of the houses as communities within the College, will combine to give each house a 'style' and character of its own. However, all houses employ a broadly similar basic working structure and function on common guiding principles in such a way that houses will have far more in common than may be generally regarded.

Each single sex boarding house will occupy one self-contained building. Pupils in Years 7 and 8 will be housed in one of the four Junior houses in small dormitories of no more than 4. In Year 9 they will move to one of the ten senior houses, again in dormitories of no more than 4. In Years 10 and 11 the pupils will share a study bedroom with one other. In Year 12 pupils will be in either shared or single study bedrooms but in Year 13 all pupils will have their own room. All houses will have plenty of washing, shower and bathing facilities and extensive communal areas with common rooms, games rooms (for pool, table tennis etc.), a television room (all are equipped to receive satellite broadcasts), kitchens and a house library. Extensive networked ICT facilities give all pupils the opportunity to access the College network and the internet.

Query 6: Are there boarding facilities available for Year 5 or Year 6?

There are no current plans to admit boarding pupils below Year 7, since the likely structure of the Prep School day could leave boarding children, who would otherwise be returning to the care of their parents early in the afternoon, unsupervised in houses. The possibility of doing so will be reviewed from time to time.

Query 7: Is there transport available to and from Kuala Lumpur?

It is our intention to arrange transport from central Kuala Lumpur to the school for the weekly boarders. They will leave Kuala Lumpur on Sunday evening or Monday morning and

return the pupils back to the city on Friday evening. In addition, we are investigating a daily local bus service, including stops at the local train stations. The extent of this service will be dependent on demand from the parents and the charges have yet to be determined, but we can confirm that it would be operated at cost.

Query 8: Are there any scholarship programmes?

Epsom College will offer a wide range of Scholarships, based on ability and potential, at 11+, 13+ and 16+ in the following categories:

- Academic
- Music
- Art
- Drama
- Sport
- All -rounder

Scholarships are numerous and highly prized, and may be up to 100% of the fees.

In addition to Scholarships, the school will also be able to offer financial support (a Bursary) to those parents with a proven need.

Further details about the application process will be sent out to all registered applicants approximately 10 months prior to entry into the school.

Query 9: Does Epsom accept Gifted and Talented students?

The different academic departments will organise their classes in different ways; some will divide students into sets, whilst others will teach students in broader bands of ability. Whichever approach is used, however, our teachers will recognise that every class will contain students with a range of abilities and needs. In response they will employ 'differentiated' teaching methods, using a variety of strategies and material. To support the needs of Gifted and Talented students we will be offering the following:-

- Provision of a higher standard of work than the norm for the age group;
- Work covered in significantly more depth;
- Work that promotes higher level thinking skills;
- The inclusion of additional subject areas where appropriate;
- Independent, extended research

As in the UK, the school will have specific policies for the identification and support of pupils applying to Oxford, Cambridge, American Universities and Medicine.

Query 10: Does Epsom provide the necessary support for children with special educational needs?

At Epsom we will believe that all pupils can improve and achieve given the appropriate support for their special educational need, (SEN). At Epsom College, qualified and experienced specialist teachers will be able to provide for a wide variety of mild SEN: dyslexia, dyspraxia, Asperger's Syndrome, AD(H)D and other behavioural, social and emotional needs. On average in the UK, 8% of our pupils have individual support for a variety of SEN.

We aim to provide personalised learning for every pupil with a SEN. Teaching programmes will be customised and take various forms: literacy or spelling programmes for pupils with dyslexia; handwriting, touch-typing and organisational support for those with dyspraxia; support programmes for pupils with AD(H)D; exam and revision technique; study skills and time management. The SEN provision will also include a counselling element. The aim will be to produce confident independent learners who can invoke learned strategies and techniques automatically across the curriculum.

Epsom College will also offer first class provision for those pupils for whom English is an Additional Language. Fully-qualified specialist teachers will ensure that every pupil reaches the highest level of proficiency in all four language components: speaking, listening, reading and writing. The expectation is that all pupils will reach an advanced level of English, which will qualify them for acceptance in their chosen subject, by any university in the United Kingdom, (including Oxbridge), the USA and worldwide.

Query 11: What are the arrangements for music lessons within the school?

The Music Department will promote a wide range of activities designed to meet the needs and aspirations of all pupils at Epsom College in Malaysia. All pupils will be encouraged to take an active part in the musical life of the College. Full-time staff will be assisted by visiting instrumental teachers. It is likely that piano, guitar (electric, bass, classical), drum kit, saxophone and voice lessons will be offered, as well as lessons in the major orchestral instruments.

A full programme of concerts and events will be organised throughout the year. There will be many performance opportunities as soloists, in instrumental ensembles and choirs.

Query 12: If my children excel at certain sports, will the school support them and pave the way for them to represent their country?

In the UK, Epsom College enjoys an enviable reputation for producing highly successful individual and team performances in a wide range of sports. It is our intention to replicate this in Malaysia.

Whilst excellence will be pursued for those with talents and, we hope, will lead to many pupils achieving county/state, national or international representative honours, the aim is to cater for every pupil at their own level of ability and enthusiasm. All pupils will have a carefully considered games programme and the opportunity to play competitively at School and House level.

We intend to challenge the elite athletes and games players but also try to foster good practice for all in sport and find something active for everyone. Coaching will be organised by members of the teaching staff and supplemented in many areas by visiting professionals and specialists. A busy programme of Inter-House competitions across a range of sports will take place to promote both the concept of sports for all, and of House spirit spanning the whole age range of pupils.

For the younger pupils a breadth of opportunities will enable them to discover un-known talents, whilst the older students will be given the time and resources they need to excel at their chosen sport. A programme of long-term athlete development will be organised for those elite athletes in conjunction with any external coaches they work with.

November 2011