

Friday, 22 September 2023

Dear Epworth parents and guardians

Publication of the 2024 fee structure

Epworth's fee increases have consistently been below the ISASA 75th percentile and we continue to strive to hold this position.

Our 2024 tuition fee and boarding increase will be 7.5%. The General-Purpose levy is 7%, before the addition of all compulsory costs, and the Development Levy increase is 5%.

We have considered various economic indicators in arriving at the fee increase:

- CPI – 6.6%
- Municipal – 15%
- Fuel – 10%
- Food inflation – 9.9%
- ISASA – 7.8%

The impact of COVID-19 and the current economic environment is reflecting in the analysis of our fee collection.

We have thus introduced a few changes which we hope will help both parents and the school.

1. The General-Purpose levy will now include all compulsory charges. A list of these charges is included in the fee schedule. We hope that this will reduce the number of additional entries on the school account and assist parents with better budgeting. Should you choose to sign up for optional activities, these additional amounts will continue to be charged to your account.
2. We have revised the payment terms for monthly accounts from 12 months to 11 months. Although this does push monthly payments to above the annual fee increase, it does give relief in December which will be 'fee free' for those up-to-date accounts.
3. We are also pleased to offer the following early settlement discounts for fees paid in full by the following settlement dates:
 - 30 November 2023 – 5.5%
 - 31 December 2023 – 3.5%
4. A survey was conducted with High School day scholar parents inquiring whether they would prefer to move from compulsory school provided lunches to home provided lunches. This would have impacted on the fee increase and given parents the choice to provide a more tailor-made lunch for their children. We would have offered a lunch programme like that which is run in the Preparatory School. There was a resounding call to remain with the status quo.

Please note that the school shop account will be moving to a cash or card basis in 2024. Purchases may no longer be charged to your school account.

The Epworth Board of Governors would like to thank those families who have honoured their financial commitment to Epworth during the year.

Yours sincerely
Jeremy Diedricks
Chair of the Epworth Board of Governors