

June 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian,

### **Introducing Epraise – a new online system to help Balcarras recognise the achievements of our students**

One of the most rewarding aspects of working at Balcarras is seeing students taking part in a wide range of activities and reaching their goals through effort and hard work. However, I felt that as a school we could improve the way we record and recognise the achievements of our students. This led me to set up a project team a year ago, with the objective of developing a better system of recognition and praise for students. I am delighted to let you know that following the recommendations of that team, the school has now invested in a new online system called Epraise.

Epraise provides an easy way for teachers to record and keep track of the great things students do in and out of school. The system works by teachers awarding a point whenever they recognise that a student has done well in one of the following categories:

1. Effort in class
2. Effort in homework
3. Effort in revision
4. Effort in extra-curricular
5. Good organisation
6. Helpful acts
7. Independence
8. Initiative
9. Resilience
10. Attendance and punctuality

In addition to the categories above, any effort grades on interim reports of 1\*, 1 and 2 will be translated into points and recorded on Epraise and teachers can also award virtual badges to recognise achievements such as being a member of a school club or volunteering for a local charity. Epraise allows students and parents to review the points and badges awarded via the Epraise website and app – more information about this is provided below.

Over the last few weeks, teachers have been learning how to use Epraise and over 22,000 points have already been awarded! We are only in the initial stages of developing the system and it will be improved in time for the start of the next academic year, but we wanted parents and students to have an early chance to get familiar with Epraise and celebrate the great things that students are already being recognised for doing.

In order to help us iron out any technical issues that may arise, access to Epraise will be rolled out in two phases:

**Phase 1 - students** will be able to log on to Epraise from **Tuesday June 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Phase 2 - parents** will be able to log on to Epraise from **Monday June 10<sup>th</sup>**

Tutors will provide information about how to log on for students in years 7-10 during the week commencing Monday June 3<sup>rd</sup> and year 12 students will receive information when they return from study leave. Instructions about how parents can log on are attached to this letter. If you have any queries or feedback, please email Nick Fivash [nif@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:nif@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk) (the teacher co-ordinating Epraise for Balcarras).

We look forward to further recognising the great efforts of our students and hope you enjoy being able to see their achievements using Epraise.

Yours sincerely,



Headteacher

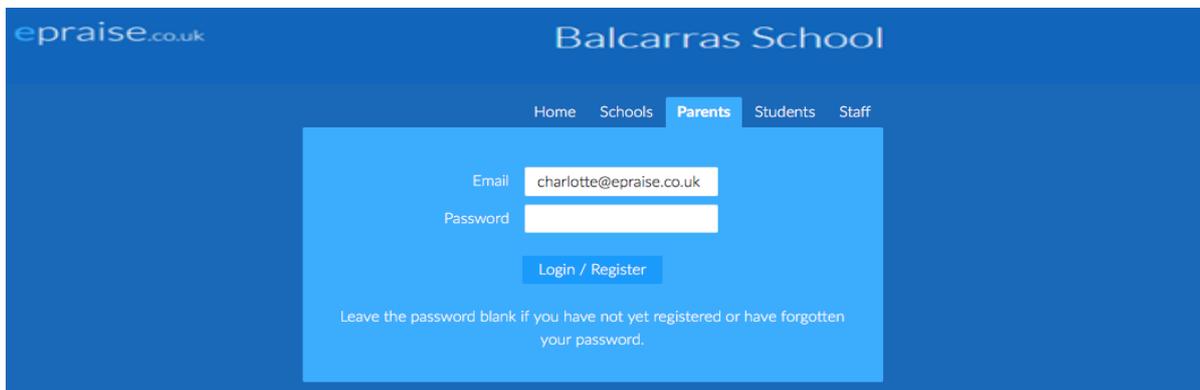
**Instructions for parents about how to log in to Epraise.**  
**Please note, parental log in will be available from Monday June 10<sup>th</sup>.**

### Logging in

You will initially need to register by visiting the website in one of the following ways:

- Click the 'login to Epraise' icon in the top right corner of the dashboard of the school VLE.
- Type the link <http://www.epraise.co.uk/index.php?view=schools> into a browser.
- Click the star icon in the top right corner of the home page of the school website.

When you are connected to the Epraise website, search for Balcarras School. You will then be shown the login page (pictured below). Enter the email address that is held in school for you. Leave the password field blank and then select the Login/Register button.



Epraise will send an email to the registered account that contains a link to create your Epraise password.

here.'" data-bbox="80 600 837 721"/>

Note: The password link remains active for 24 hours so you will need to create the password within that time or repeat the steps above to obtain a new email. Sometimes emails can take a few minutes to arrive or are automatically redirected to junk folders, so it is worth checking this before re-registering your account.

**Please turn over the page to see some examples of the information available to you.**

Examples of information available to parents on Epraise

## 1. The dashboard – an overview of the points awarded in the whole school

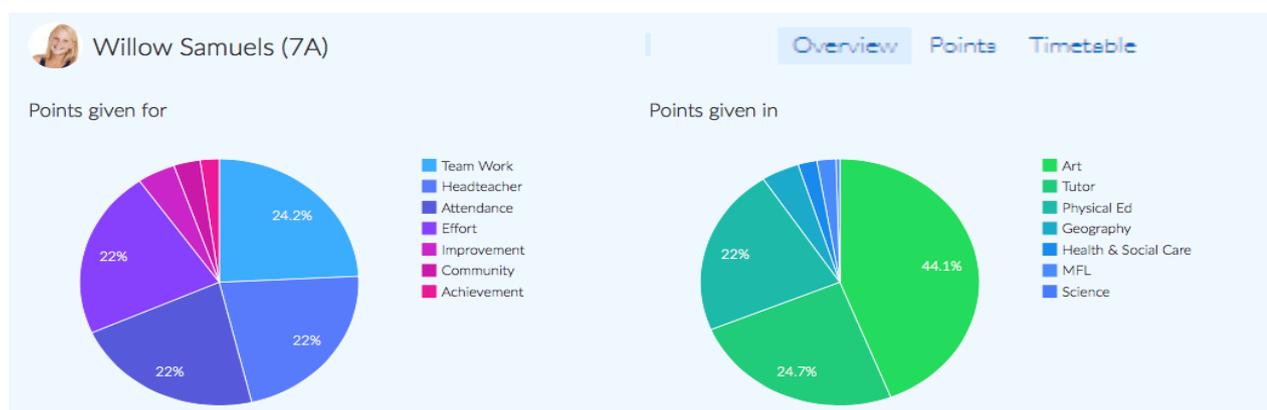
The first screen you'll see is the dashboard. This is an overview of the points awarded in the whole school. The dashboard also allows you to see the points analysed by different categories such as:

- House
- Tutor group
- Reason for the points being awarded



## 2. Reviewing your child's achievements by clicking on the 'My children' tab

You can view your child's profile under the 'My children' tab (an example of a typical 'My children' page is shown in the image below). Here you can see how many points or badges they have been awarded in each subject and category. Each tab on the page, if enabled, shows different information relating to your child's effort and achievements.



This is just a snapshot of the information available and we are sure you will find more items of interest as you begin to browse the site.

## 3. The Epraise app

Epraise also offers an app for Android and Apple devices. This can be downloaded from your usual app store, using the search term 'Epraise'.