

Head Boy's Speech to the School:

Good Morning Mr. Pearson, Mr. Wood, staff and young men of Bishops.

As I have previously expressed, I am filled with humility and honour to stand before you. As the reality of the position has set in, I have adjusted my sights to the future and where I would like the school to be, come this time next year. As a school, Bishops is undeniably in a happy space at the moment following success in a host of fields over the past year. We as a matric group aim to maintain this high level of success and further build the bond that unites this school as a brotherhood.

Thinking back on my near 12-year journey at Bishops, I've learnt that this school has so much more to offer than just an academic education. Bishops provides an opportunity for each one of us to grow as an individual, from a boy to a gentleman. Allow this process to happen by buying into the philosophy of what Bishops represents on a moral and principle basis. By buying in, I don't just refer to agreeing with what Bishops stands for, but rather that each of us will actively contribute to Bishops. As I said in my acceptance speech, I think this can be achieved by volunteering for events and tasks, by attending sporting and cultural events like this evening's Music, Food and Wine Festival, and by representing the school in various forms and facets. The risk with a strong institution like Bishops is that if everyone just sponges off it, we will wake up one day realizing that the school has deteriorated, but by then it could be too late to try and restore it to its former glory.

School pride is something that our class feels very passionate about and as a matric group we aim to build on the pride that each of you feel for the school. However, this is not something we can achieve on our own, it is something each of you has to commit to in your heart. I hope that by the end of next year there will be a deeper sense within each of you that draws you to representing the school as best you can without the push of a matric group. I hope that the respect for Bishops comes from within each of you so that you will conduct yourselves in a manner that proudly represents the gentlemanly qualities associated with Bishops men. And remember the wise words of William Phelps: "The final test of a gentleman is his respect for those who can be of no service to him", in other words, display Bishops gentlemanly qualities to all people, regardless of their standing in society.

Something that sets Bishops apart is the number of extra mural activities available to us all. There is a niche for each one of us at Bishops. If you leave through the front gate at 3:15 every afternoon it will only be to your own detriment. I urge you to be involved outside the classroom as in the future you will look back at these times with the fondest memories. Aim to find what your talents are but remember the value of being all-rounded.

The last point I want to touch on is the senior-junior relationship. I hope that in the twelve months to come, the relationship between the seniors and juniors in the school can continue to grow. This relationship is fundamentally built on mutual respect and acknowledgement of each other's role in the future of the school, but the influential role of the seniors must not be lost in the midst of the new relationship. I appeal to all of you to trust and respect all the matrices and in return, I say with certainty this approach will be mirrored.

I speak on behalf of the matric group when I say we look forward to the year that lies ahead, to both the joyful and the tough times. I know, as a matric class our influence is one that will leave a legacy that is remembered for the right reasons. For me, if an individual operates in a manner which is supportive of

the school, all rounded in his actions, appreciative of his advantages, humble in victory and gracious in defeat, then this individual operates in the spirit of Bishops.

I ask that you remember the following words as we look towards next year, “The easiest way to predict the future is to create it.”

Good luck for 2016!