

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE - ASSEMBLY FRIDAY 7th APRIL 2016

Yesterday Father Terry's theme for Chapel was for the winter sports season. I would like to elaborate on this today so that you can all know what our expectations are for this season, which often evokes high levels of emotion. In fact, sport often brings out the best and the worst in us.

You will know that fundamentally Bishops has always believed in the education of the whole man, ie. we believe in an all-round education. It is well to remember that we are first and foremost an academic school which offers a wide variety of other activities to meet our overall philosophy.

Sport is obviously a very important part of what we do at Bishops. As with all our activities, it is important that we always do our very best – play to win. The famous Green Bay Packers coach, Vince Lombardi said, “Winning isn't everything, but making the effort to win is”. We need to be the best that we can be. At the same time we need to always keep sport and results in perspective and realise that we will not necessarily win every time. In fact, this would be unrealistic and not a good thing. Lessons are learnt in victory and in defeat. We must always be humble in victory and gracious in defeat. The late Margaret Thatcher said, “The desire to win is born in all of us. The will to win is a matter of training. The manner of winning is a matter of honour”.

I expect every Bishops team to take to the field properly prepared and to play with commitment and passion. We need to be courageous. We often play against schools that are bigger and physically stronger than us. We need to “front up” against them and play with skill, determination, courage and spirit.

Most importantly we need to exhibit good sportsmanship at all times - play fair, follow the rules of the game, respect and accept the decisions of the referees and umpires and treat the opposition with respect.

I wish you all well for the season. Train hard, play with passion and most importantly enjoy yourselves!