

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE ASSEMBLY FRIDAY 26TH FEB 2016

I am sure that you will be as shocked as I am when you see the effects of man's greed and abuse of the natural resources of the world as depicted in these videos.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xyL3OgSWB0U> and

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yI3hL_Wsfig. Over the next week you will be engaging in these matters in your tutor groups and I am sure that it will elicit some lively debate.

In the Bishops Vision Statement we are called to; *“address global issues including the sustainability of the environment, both as part of the curriculum and as demonstrated in school operations”*.

I am aware that you boys are engaged in the matters of sustainability and environmental issues in the curriculum and in societies such as GIN (global issues network). Several of our academic staff are champions of environmental issues and we can take our lead from them. We still have a long way to go though and I urge each of you to consider your own behaviour, for example, many of you are not supporting the recycling initiatives and disposing of your waste in the appropriate bins on campus which are clearly marked, glass, plastic, tins and general waste. I want you also to be aware of the fact that if you do not separate waste properly at source then our cleaning and ground staff have to sort the waste at the recycling depot.

You will be interested to know that from an operations perspective we have engaged a firm called Terra Firma who has installed 20 meters at various key areas of the school to monitor electricity consumption. This provides us with a dashboard of electricity consumption in these vital areas such as boarding and day houses, kitchen, swimming pools, Woodlands pavilion and Astro, etc. (*Please see the attached picture.*) This is fascinating as it shows us during the day where the “spikes” are and how to manage our usage accordingly. So, for example, we can see that there is a “spike” in usage in day boy houses during open period as all the toasters are turned on, which is fine, but then we can also monitor if the toasters are not turned off at the end of open period when you all go back to class. In this way we hope to change all of our behaviour and manage different areas of the school by switching off areas of low demand when there is high demand in other areas.

You boys will be shocked to know that our electricity consumption amounts to R6500 per day at Bishops and we hope to make a saving of 15% by this monitoring process and changing of behaviour. Once we have achieved this we will look at other alternative solutions such as solar energy and the like.

You need to take this message into your own homes as well and engage your parents. What happens to your domestic waste; is it recycled or composted. My challenge to each of us here today is to embrace these initiatives and change behaviors, we can make a difference, one little bit at a time.