

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE ASSEMBLY: 22<sup>nd</sup> JULY 2016

It is true that we can learn so much about life just by looking at the examples which nature provides. At the start of a new term it is appropriate to take some lessons from how geese fly in their annual migration from North to South each year, often covering vast distances over land and sea. The video which we have just seen illustrates how amazing nature is in meeting the challenges which we face. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5rOg4WfNDfM>

### THE GOOSE STORY

Next  
fall, when  
you see Geese  
heading South for  
the Winter, flying along  
in V formation, you might  
consider what science has dis-  
covered as to why they fly that way;  
as each bird flaps its wings, it creates an  
uplift for the bird immediately following. By  
flying in V formation the whole flock adds at least  
71% greater flying range than if each bird flew on its own.

*People who share a common direction and sense of community  
can get where they are going more quickly and easily  
because they are travelling on the thrust of one another.*

When  
a goose falls  
out of formation,  
it suddenly feels the drag  
and resistance of trying to go it alone  
and quickly gets back into formation to take  
advantage of the lifting power of the bird in front.

*If we have as much sense as a goose,  
we will stay in formation  
with those who are headed the same way we are.*

When  
the Head Goose  
gets tired, it rotates back  
in the wing and another goose flies point.

*It is sensible to take turns doing demanding jobs with people or with geese flying South.  
In leadership we need to provide opportunities for those who are gifted in certain areas of school life to take the lead there.  
We recognise this at Bishops with our leadership programme.*

Geese  
honk from behind to  
encourage those up front to keep up their speed.

*What do we say when we honk from behind? How do we encourage those who are in front.*

Finally,  
and this is important,  
when a goose gets sick or is tired  
and falls out  
of formation, two other geese fall out with that  
goose and follow it down to lend help and protection.  
They stay with the fallen goose until it is able to fly, or until  
it dies. Only then do they launch out on their own, or with another formation  
to catch up with their group.

**IF WE HAVE THE SENSE OF A GOOSE,  
WE WILL STAND BY EACH OTHER  
LIKE THAT**

By Dr Harry Clarke Noyes

Good luck to you all, have a wonderful term and think of the goose story as you tackle the challenges ahead.