

## **PRINCIPAL'S ASSEMBLY MESSAGE: FRIDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> JUNE 2016**

In the Weekend Argus "Personal Finance" section there is a column called "Orchids and Onions" written by Brendan Seery. The column looks at marketing and media and, for example, will give "Orchids" to those advertisements in print or digital media which make a positive impression while giving an "Onion" to those messages or services which are less than desirable and don't deliver what they promise.

I thought it would be good to give some "orchids" and "onions" to you boys on some feedback I have had from the public about you this term!

I have two orchids to give; a few weeks ago I received an e-mail which read: (names changed for obvious reasons!)

*I must first mention a young man I came into contact with yesterday at Bishops who was such a fine example of good manners. I had to drop a squash racquet off at White House for my daughter's boyfriend's brother! On arrival, I couldn't find anyone and wasn't sure what to do with the racquet. A young man named "Johnny" passed and asked to assist. What a fine young gentleman he was! A fine example of a Bishop's boy. Thank you for that.*

And then after the rugby against Paarl Gym on Saturday:

*We were at Paarl Gym this morning watching rugby. During the morning, in pursuit of a snack I ended up at the pancake stand. I thought you might like to hear that the Paarl Gym parent serving the pancakes said that, of all the Southern Suburbs schools, the Bishops boys have the best manners. They were polite and friendly and chatted to her and remembered their "pleases" and "thank yous". Always good to hear this positive feedback which you might like to pass on to the boys. Well done to the Bishops staff in instilling these manners in the boys.*

So well done to you on those orchids! Unfortunately as is life I do from time to time receive a few onions regarding the behaviour of Bishops boys. Earlier this term a parent wrote:

*Two weeks ago I attended the SACS vs Bishops first team hockey game and would like to bring something to your attention.*

*After the game the Bishops scholars went onto the field and after celebrating (it was a fine win!) they turned to the SACS boys and sang a chant with the words "one day you'll work for us" or something close to that.*

*I was appalled and somewhat embarrassed to be associated with Bishops while this chant was being sung. The SACS parents near to me were correctly unimpressed with one calling it "pathetic". I had to agree. My son was in that crowd of boys singing that song and this is not the type of value I hoped to instil in him.*

So there you have it. It gets back to the simple fact that you are always a Bishops boy no matter where you are and your behaviour affects the reputation of the school. It is a reminder that good manners and simple courtesies make a very good impression and are important.

Remember to do the right thing no matter the circumstances and no matter who is watching.  
Good manners are important and part of what we believe in and stand for at Bishops.

I would like to wish you all the very best for the rest of your exams and for the hockey and rugby matches against Wynberg this weekend.