

## **Principal's Message Assembly Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2017**

Today I want to speak to you about **School Pride**. Now pride can have negative connotations, CS Lewis is quoted as saying:

“A proud man is always looking down on things and people; and, of course, as long as you are looking down, you cannot see something that is above you.”

I am not speaking about arrogant pride. While it is true that at Bishops we “inspire individuals” it is also important that we belong to something bigger than ourselves. When I speak to Bishops boys they always express a strong sense of pride and loyalty to Bishops which is wonderful; but what does this mean?

I would like to suggest that with being a Bishops boy comes responsibility. On Wednesday evening we had a fantastic Welcoming Service in this Chapel for the new boys in Grade 8. This is a “rite of passage” which marks the transition of the Grade 8’s into the College. As part of the ceremony the Grade 8’s made a pledge to uphold the values and traditions of Bishops, to honour and enhance the spirit of its founding Father, and to be found worthy of this privilege entrusted to them. They were then each presented with an admission certificate.

Being a member of the Bishops Community carries with it a responsibility to behave in a way which reflects the values and ethos of the school. It is also a commitment to abide by the code of conduct and the rules and regulations. This means that you need to be familiar with our code of conduct and how it applies to you. You should also be familiar with our Vision Statement which should guide all that we do at Bishops.

You need to understand that this applies to your behaviour and conduct inside and outside the gates of the school. You do not stop being a Bishops Boy once you leave the gates. You are always identified as a Bishops Boy, whether you are in school uniform or not, whether you are on the premises or not. Everything you do reflects on the school and you need to know that any behaviour which brings the school into disrepute will result in you being held accountable.

I would like to encourage everyone this year to really try and show commitment to improving school pride in another way: that is in supporting our peers in their extra-mural activities, whether it be sports events, in the theatre or in music concerts. Let us make an effort to really get behind our teams; we all know what a difference this can make. If we can do this, without being coerced to do so, the “Spirit of Bishops” will shine brightly in 2017!