

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE ASSEMBLY 13TH JANUARY 2017

As we start the beginning of a new school year it is very important that we build on the successes of the past while striving for improvement. While I am very satisfied that Bishops is in a very good place, there is no room for complacency. I would like to encourage each of you to work on developing a few important attitudes which will help you to reach your full potential. One of my favourite sayings is “**it is your attitude, not your aptitude which will determine your altitude**”. From a practical point of view I want you to develop the following 4 attitudes:

1). **Try Hard:**

This seems obvious but it is amazing how many of us do not always try our best. As a school we need to see “trying hard” a virtue that we all need to strive for. We know that nothing worthwhile can be achieved without hard work. They say that it takes 10000 hours of practice to really become an expert at something. That is a challenge; we need to put in the hours. Sometimes we do not try for “fear of failure”. To quote J.K. Rowling; “It is impossible to live without failing at something, unless you live so cautiously that you might as well not have lived at all.”

2). **Aim High:**

Do not settle for second best; let us not accept mediocre performance. It was Michaelangelo who said; “The greatest danger for most of us is not that our aim is too high and we miss it; but that it is too low and we reach it”! I want you to aim high, be ambitious, and stretch yourselves. In some activities I think many of you are complacent and lack the “fire in your bellies”. Things are too easy; I challenge you to get out of your comfort zones and aim high!

3). **Focus:**

I want you to learn to focus on the job at hand at a specific time. One of the biggest dangers of our time is the constant distractions we face with digital and social media. It is fallacy that you can multi-task effectively, something will suffer. Learn to focus on the task, sportsman talk about being “in the zone”. Hashim Amla who yesterday scored a 100 in his 100th test match is known for his ability to be “in the zone” when he bats. Learn to get in the zone and concentrate on one task at a time.

4). **Take the gap (opportunities):**

One of the biggest strengths of Bishops is the breadth of opportunities available to you boys. Every single one of you can find his niche here, you need to do that. Take the gap, try something new this year, when you leave Bishops you must have no regrets.

We need to apply these attitudes in all aspects of school life, if we do, individually and collectively, we will reach even greater heights. We need to strive to be the best that we can be. Good luck to you all.