

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE: FRIDAY 15th September 2017

At Bishops some of the values we hold dear are:

- Manners
- Respect
- Courtesy
- Courage to do these all of the time

There is a strong virtue in having good manners; the motto of Winchester College in the UK is "*Manners Maketh Man*".

These are values which I think we practice well at Bishops most of the time, but I want you to consider the following questions:

- Do you stand up when an adult enters a room?
- Do you stand up and offer your seat to a woman or an adult who has entered a room?
- Do you allow a woman or an adult to enter a door before you?
- Do you assist an adult who may be carrying a heavy load?
- Do you thank people who have been good to you, parents of friends who have hosted you in any way?
- Do you thank teachers for an excellent lesson or coaching session or who have given up their holiday to take you on tour?
- Do you switch off your cellphone completely in a theatre, movie house or public gathering?
- Do you make sure that your cellphone is switched off in Chapel or in class?
- Do you refrain from taking a cellphone call at the meal table?
- Do you greet the staff? That means all staff no matter their position; academic, admin, grounds, catering etc.
- Do you greet and assist visitors to the school?
- Do you know the correct greetings in local languages other than English, for example in Afrikaans and Xhosa?
- Do you clean up after yourselves in the common rooms in the Houses, or do you expect the cleaning staff to pick up after you?

I get mixed messages from parents and staff about the manners of Bishops boys. Many think you have excellent manners and are courteous and considerate. Others think the opposite and that you are rude and inconsiderate.

My challenge to you is to be well mannered all the time, it should be a habit. It costs so little and yet means so much. If you practice good manners you are showing others that you are considerate of their feelings and respectful of them.

In the Zulu tradition there is a wonderful greeting; "Ngiyakubona", which literally means "I see you". By greeting people you are saying "I see you and respect you". In Xhosa the greeting is "Mholo, unjani", good morning, how are you. This shows respect and interest in the other person.

Strive to be Bishops boys who are distinguished by their good manners.