

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE ASSEMBLY: FRIDAY 18TH MAY 2018

There are two matters which I would like to speak to you about today. The first is the wonderful story which appeared in the Cape Argus on Monday 14 May regarding the 100 year celebration of the firing of the **Noon Day Gun** on Signal Hill. This story has particular relevance to Bishops as it was started on the 14th May 1918 by the then mayor of Cape Town, Harry Hands, in memory of his son, Reginald Hands, who was an OD and died in WW 1. He introduced the 2-minute silence, one minute in memory of those soldiers who returned alive from the war, and one minute in memory of those who died. This practice spread throughout the Commonwealth and other countries and is now practiced on Armistice Day, the 11th day of the 11th month at the 11th hour.

So, next time you are asked to stand for a “minutes silence” you will know that Bishops had a significant part in establishing this practice.

The second matter I want to speak about as we approach the first exam session of the year is our policy on plagiarism and cheating. I am not going to go through the policy other than to bring it to your attention; it is on the website under academic policies and it is very important that you familiarise yourselves with the contents and the consequences of academic cheating.

There are many reasons why you should not engage in academic dishonesty; most obviously is that it is unfair on those pupils who are honest. It also erodes the mutual trust between pupils and teachers That is a core value here at Bishops. How can you really look a teacher in the eye if you have cheated on an exam or an assignment? More importantly, how can you look at yourself in the mirror and have a clear conscience, if you have been cheating?

Cheating undermines the very essence of learning; it assumes that results are the most important aspect of learning and that the end justifies the means. Eventually cheating will catch up with you, it is a short-term gain. In the end it is just not worth it. Hopefully all honest pupils will help create a positive environment and stand up against those who cheat.

Finally, some compliments:

Mr WP van Zyl, Secretary of the OD Union, takes prospective parents on school tours. He mentioned to me the other day what a pleasure it was to engage with you boys on the tours, he was particularly complimentary about your manners and what an impression you made on the visitors, well done.

Last week, Simply Blue performed brilliantly at the concert with the Heschel a Capella group; truly a wonderful evening of entertainment. They are preparing for their trip to Greece in the holidays.

I must compliment all of you for your excellent singing, lead by the Choir, at the Evensong on Wednesday, it was terrific.

Good luck to all of you on the sports fields this weekend and next week with the start of exams.