

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE: Assembly Friday 19th January 2018

As we prepare for the new year at Bishops, I thought it important to speak to you boys about how we define success. On Friday, Revd Commin challenged us to consider that the year before us was a blank canvas and that the outcome at the end would depend on what each of us makes of the opportunities before us.

We live in a very materialistic world where success is defined by status, wealth, achievement, coming first, wearing designer clothing etc. Whilst there is nothing wrong with these things in their own right, it is when they are used as the only yardsticks for success that it becomes a problem. It is a very limiting definition and would probably mean that most of us would be considered 'losers'!

I would suggest that every one of you can be considered a "winner" if you displayed the following characteristics and behaviours:

- Take responsibility and have an understanding of consequences; be accountable for your actions, do not have a victim mentality and blame others;
- Show respect for self, others, property and the environment;
- Get involved (an involved boy is a happy boy!) and make a contribution;
- Set yourself realistic goals, based on your potential, and work hard to achieve them, be the best that you can be;
- Display characteristics such as honesty, integrity, courage, determination, commitment, self-discipline and compassion;
- Know how to win graciously, how to lose without making excuses and how to deal with disappointment

It is within this context that we can celebrate excellence and acknowledge individual and group achievement in whatever circumstance we find ourselves.

I find this quote from UCLA coach, John Wooden, very useful in this regard – *"Things work out best for those people who make the most of the way things turn out."*

Most importantly, we need to have no regrets; at the end of this year we need to be able to say that we did our very best and made the most of our opportunities. Ralph Waldo Emerson said *"What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lives within us"*.