

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE ASSEMBLY FRIDAY 29th April 2018

Yesterday Father Bob mentioned in Chapel that we are now in our Winter Sports programme. Sport at schools brings out both the best, and the worst, in us as players and spectators. At the start of the season it is important that I speak to you about my expectations of you as players and spectators this season.

At Bishops we believe in the education of the whole man; i.e. we believe in an all-round education. It is well to remember that we are first and foremost an academic school which does a whole lot of other activities to meet our overall philosophy.

Sport is obviously a very important part of what we do at Bishops. Like any activity we do, it is important that we always do our very best. (Play to win). We need to be the best that we can be. At the same time we need to always keep sport and our results in perspective and realise that we will not necessarily win every time, in fact this would be unrealistic and not a good thing, lessons are learnt in victory and in defeat. We must always be humble in victory and gracious in defeat.

I expect every Bishops team to take the field properly prepared and to play with commitment and passion. We need to be courageous, we often play against schools that are bigger and physically stronger than us, we need to “front up” against them and play with skill, determination, courage and spirit.

Most importantly we need to exhibit good sportsmanship at all times:

- Play fair
- Follow the rules of the game
- Respect and accept the decisions of the referees and umpires
- Treat the opposition with respect and be humble in victory and gracious in defeat.

It is also very important that the supporters encourage their teams in a positive and appropriate way. We have been working on a protocol with Rondebosch to make sure that fixtures between our two schools are occasions of enjoyment and celebration, we need to apply this protocol to all our fixtures. I know the cheerleaders will be speaking to you about these protocols, but the two key aspects are the following:

- Always support your teams in a positive way by “cheering and not jeering”
- Allow our players to shake hands with the opposition and officials before running on to the field to celebrate.

I wish you all well for the season, train hard, play with passion and most importantly enjoy yourselves!