

Good morning Mr. Pearson, members of staff and men of Bishops.

Once again, it is with great pride and honour that I stand before you. As I have started to realise the depth of my role within the school, my focus has been firmly fixed on the future and where I see the school this time next year. For years on end, I have been told by numerous people, "Enjoy your years at Bishops while they last, because before you know it, you'll blink and it'll all be over." I honestly never listened, but now I look at myself and fellow grade 11's and realise how quickly it has all passed. I can still remember what it felt like walking through the school gates. Feeling incredibly out of comfort zone, and incredibly nervous.

But over time, I have grown to love this place like a second home. I have made some of the greatest friendships one could ask for and I have been given countless opportunities to develop and grow in so many areas. This is why Bishops is so unique and I would love to make this last year for us Grade 11's a special one. Some of you are going on to your 13th year, some your 5th and others just your 2nd, but I feel that I can say with confidence, that we have learnt some valuable lessons along the way. Lessons that have defined the type of men we are today and I look forward to us working together to ensure that when we leave Bishops, we leave having made our mark on the Bishops community as a whole.

There are few schools in South Africa that are able to provide the opportunities Bishops is able to. Whether it be in classroom, sports field or in the cultural realm. Boys are able to express themselves and feel free to be who they truly are. We've just had a rowing tour to Boston, We have debaters overseas competing against the worlds best, and we've had unbelievable cultural tours all over the world. But to me, Bishops is about the people that come out of this fine institution. But this cannot be continued if we as students do not uphold the values of this school. One must never, ever forget the "MITRE", which stands for Manners, Integrity, Tolerance, Respect, and Empathy. This is something each and every single person sitting here today, including myself should follow. And we as leaders next year promise to do our best to uphold these values and make every boy feel welcome at this special school.

Looking on towards next year, Murray, Tom and Myself want to work hard to reignite the sense of passion, and pride for the school we love so much, that we feel has been lacking a little over the past few years. We want to ensure that each boy feels proud to get down and support his school no matter what the event. Whether it be for the massive Bish'Bosh derby in the third term or heading down to the theatre to support your mates in the school play. We want to make sure that boys feel a sense of belonging, so that when the time comes, they will scream and shout for the boys giving their all for this school.

On top of this we want to try our best to better the respect shown by boys towards each other, this school, to other schools, and members of staff and guests. Arriving at this school four year ago, I was immediately struck by the immense amount of respect boys had for this school and for the traditions that made it so unique. But over time this seems to have faded. It's our intention to do everything we can nurture a culture of respect amongst every single person in this school. This would mean the intrinsic value of every individual is recognised regardless of age, status, culture, religion or gender. We do this through the way we greet each other and anyone visiting the campus, the way we conduct ourselves as men of Bishops in the classroom, on the sports field and in the stands. We're all aware of the work that has been done this year to restore damaged relationships with our neighbouring schools. This is an ongoing priority for us, and we need commitment from every member of the Bishops community to continue this relationship building as a matter of priority.

We want to work hard to better the relationships between the juniors and seniors. Next year all of you will find a new position in the ranks of this school as you move up a grade. With that move comes a new status which brings a greater amount of responsibility. We all must understand where we fit in the school system, without forgetting where we've come from.

We are not wanting to demand a respect that is only given because of somebody's position, we are wanting mutual respect at Bishops to be evident by the way we treat each other. We cannot force anything upon you, but we encourage you to join us in upholding the values of the MITRE as we move into 2019 together. *PRO FIDE ET PATRIA*