

Good Morning Mr Pearson, Members of Staff and young men of Bishops.

It is truly an honour to be addressing you all properly for the very first time. I am humbled to be here, standing before you all, to give my vision for the year ahead.

Having been a student here at Bishops for 12 enjoyable years, I say with certainty that Bishops is the best institution to be a part of. Bishops is not only a school for academic learning, but a school for life learning. Bishops teaches us much more than academics, it inspires us to be responsible citizens of the world. As Headboy, I hope to maintain Bishops' excellent reputation and I thank you for the support that you have all given me thus far. It is said that, *"Coming together is the beginning, keeping together is progress, working together is success."* In 2018, I hope we can achieve this success and continue building on the strong foundation set for us in the years gone before this.

For me, being the Headboy is not about the position or a title but it is about action and being an example to all. I promise to lead by example and to uphold the values of the school. I will never forget a very effective lesson which I was taught early on in my time at Bishops. The lesson was: never forget to follow the Mitre. This is a very simple mnemonic which stands for: Manners, Integrity, Tolerance, Respect, and Empathy. Something which we all should strive to uphold. I am very lucky to have such a strong leadership team working alongside me and we are all excited to make a difference. Some of the key areas of our vision include: maintaining Bishops' all-round achievement in academics, sport and culture; continuing to uplift less privileged communities and encouraging the embracement of diversity.

There are few schools in South Africa that are as well-rounded as Bishops. Bishops excels in the classroom, on the sports field and on the stage. This is made possible by the committed staff who work hours on end towards this and the boys who spend hours honing their skills. It is this synergy that makes Bishops great. In 2018, I look forward to us going from strength to strength as a school in all of these spheres.

Here at Bishops, we are afforded many opportunities that few are fortunate enough to receive. And I would like to encourage all of us to "gryp elke geleentheid met twee hande vas", as Mevrou Hoefnagels likes to say. For those of us who aren't inclined to Afrikaans, this means take every

opportunity that is presented to you, get involved in the school and buy in. This is our responsibility as the boys. It is also our responsibility to continue to uplift the less privileged communities here in South Africa who are not presented with such opportunities.

I remember once being asked by a young boy not more than 10 at an Interact event, what school are you from? So I replied proudly, I'm from Bishops College, it's in Rondebosch. Do you know it? And he replied, yes I know the Bishops College. So I thought to myself, you know, you can drop the "the", it's kind of unnecessary. But then thinking about it again, the wise, young boy was not wrong in the slightest. This school is indeed "the Bishops School" and it's very important that we stick to our founder, Bishop Robert Gray's vision and keep God in the centre of everything we do.

Whilst we at Bishops are individuals, we are greater as a group and are shaped by those around us. Celebrating difference is therefore another one of our visions for 2018. If we can see our interconnectedness and what is similar between us, we will be able to accept what is different. In this way, we will be stronger together. I encourage you all to make an effort to learn about cultures and languages that you are unfamiliar with and to get to know as many boys, ground staff, catering staff and cleaning staff as you can around the school. After all, we are more than a learning institution – we are together - thina simunye.

On behalf of the Matric group of 2018, we are extremely excited for what lies ahead and I hope that come this time next year, we can leave knowing that we have left a positive legacy for all to treasure and remember. All of us, are merely custodians of the Mitre.

Whilst I have shared my vision for 2018, it's important to put our faith in the Lord. As Mr Ledwidge says, let go and let God... In Proverbs it is written "*The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps*" – Proverbs 16:9.

Thank you.