

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE ASSEMBLY FRIDAY 5th April 2019

This afternoon and tomorrow we play hockey and rugby against Paarl Gym. The winter sports encounters often bring out the best and the worst in us and our supporters.

While we are first and foremost an academic school, 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 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. It is important that we always show good sportsmanship when we play sport.

Sportsmanship is an aspiration or ethos that a sport will be enjoyed for its own sake, with proper consideration for fairness, ethics, respect, and a sense of fellowship with one's competitors. (Wikipedia).

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.

But I also expect you to show good sportsmanship:

- 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 our supporters encourage our teams in a positive and appropriate way.

- 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!