

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE ASSEMBLY: 9TH NOVEMBER 2018

Impossible

I would like to start by congratulating Lukas Oelz on his terrific initiative last week in organising the magic show “Impossible” to raise funds for TEARS, a dog rehab centre. It was a fantastic effort and they raised over R20000. Well done to Lukas and all the boys involved:

Cast: Lukas Oelz, Nimba Mahlati, James Griffiths, John Smith, Felix de Bruin and Jake Oelz (Prep School)

Backstage and AV: Dominic Beaumont, Hamish McKenzie, Tristan Turner and Aidan Brand.

Manners

At Bishops some of the values we hold dear are:

- Manners
- Respect
- Courtesy
- Courage to do these all the time.

I believe there is a strong virtue in having good manners. The motto of Winchester College in the UK is “Manners Makyth Man”. I do get many compliments about your good manners, Mr van Zyl particularly often commends you to me after he has taken visitors on tours of the school. I personally find that you are good about greeting me, but then I am the Principal! I also often get complaints about your manners and lack of respect, especially to visitors and members of our support and admin staff. It is important that we all practice good manners at all times, it costs so little and means so much.

The Zulu greeting Sawubona means “I see you”. This is what a greeting should be, to acknowledge a person and show respect.

WhatsApp and Social Media Use

I continue to be concerned about the use of social media. Recently I have had sight of totally inappropriate dialogue on a Bishops WhatsApp social group in Grade 8. We have decided that all official Bishops WhatsApp groups in Grade 8 and 9 will be monitored in future. All official sports groups and subject groups will be broadcast groups only with the teacher or coach as the administrator. All House groups will have a Matric as the administrator. You may not set up other groups under the “Bishops banner”. The fact that I have seen the content of some of your interactions is further proof to you all that nothing is private on social media, even though you think it may be. While we are going to monitor Grade 8 and 9 groups closely we also expect Grade 10-12 to be mature enough to manage their groups appropriately in line with our values.

I would like to wish you well for your final cricket and water polo fixtures against Rondebosch and wish the Grade 11s well as they start their exams next week.