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FRIDAY 27 October 2017

Dear Parents

We have for a while been thinking about our Grade 7 leadership structure. In the process we have reviewed what other prep schools are doing across the spectrum. While there are many different models, there is one dominant theme and that is to give each boy an opportunity to take responsibility and experience leadership. While in our current system we do have a “job” for each boy in the House, it is sometimes a short-lived responsibility. We are also unique as a prep school in that all our pupil leadership takes place within the House system and we want to stay within that system.

We will keep most of the current positions in the House but also ensure that each boy has specific responsibilities during the House Duty week, whether as a peer mediator on the playgrounds, part of the audio-visual team, assisting in the corridors, etc. Individual Inter-House event co-ordination will still be given to each of the Grade 7s in the House. But expanding the duties will give each boy more hands on experience and also a chance to look after an aspect of his school, assist others and a chance to practise what they have learnt as Bishops boys up to this point.

We have also decided to discontinue the position of Head Boy. This is in no way meant to detract from those boys who have occupied the position up to now. They have been impressive young men, displaying often a quiet dignity unexpected in a thirteen-year-old and many have gone on to be Heads of School at College. But some have found it a stressful experience, having to be a constant good example to the pupil body. And at prep school the need for a main pupil leader is very different to that of a high school.

We will continue with Heads and Deputy Heads of Houses in line with focusing on leadership through the House system. However, we will only finalise these positions during the first term, probably around the start of March. This is to make the selection a more evolutionary process but also an attempt to move away from what was often a very stressful time and process for boys with the announcement of appointments on the last day of the year at Prizegiving. At present there is enormous “hype” around such a public community announcement and we hope that starting the year together as seniors and taking responsibility in their House before the decision is made, will alleviate a lot of this.

The Student Council will also remain. It is a body elected by the boys after a short speech by each of the candidates. It brings issues to the fore, requests from the boys, is involved in outreach on

behalf of the Grade 7s and is a very useful forum for the staff and me to raise issues or plans with and get the boys' feedback.

Leadership training will continue in the Houses and selection will involve pupil votes, discussion at the Housemasters' Committee and consultation with myself. There is no perfect selection process and we endeavour to make the decision in the best interests of the boys and the House. Ultimately selection for the twelve main leadership positions is not a perfect prediction of where or how they will go on in life but rather where they are now and whether they can develop the skills necessary to manage their peers during the year.

Grade 7 is an exciting year not only because they are the seniors but because it includes special experiences in music, sports, the Grade 7 tour and so on. In spreading responsibility and leadership we hope to give each of them a chance to experience not only the perceived privileges of being the seniors but also the responsibilities.

We will monitor the changes we are making very carefully during the year and review accordingly. Housemasters and Assistant Housemasters together with their House leadership will play a key role in ensuring that these changes are effective and an improvement for our boys.

I am very positive about these changes in approach and look forward to our boys embracing these opportunities.

Kind regards

GREG BROWN
HEADMASTER



DIARY Dates

Friday 27 October 2017

Van der Bijl Games Evening

Venue: Jagger Hall

Time: 18h00

Thursday 2 November 2017

Brooke House Grade 6 Leadership Evening

Time: 18h00



CONGRATULATIONS

Afrikaans Eisteddfod



The following boys won silver medals at the Afrikaans Eisteddfod this year. This means that they won their age category across the entire Western Cape. Congratulations!

James Grieve Junior Voice 9 – 10 years

Liam Hacking - Junior Piano Recital 8 years

David Handley - Violin 10 years

Kayan Jaga - Junior Piano Recital 11 years

Ben Karlein - Junior Piano Recital 10 years

Nimba Mahlali - Junior Voice 11-12 years

Morné Ogada - Two silver medals - Violin 11 years & the Concerto category for 12 years and under

Morné also received the Gold Medal that he was awarded at the Hugo Lamprecht Concerto Festival. Morné was one of hundreds of young people who auditioned for this prestigious event. He was one of only 9 finalists chosen to perform. At this Festival, the finalists perform a concerto movement and a full orchestra accompanies them. Well done, Morné.



TAKE Note

2018 Bishops Calendars for Sale



The 2018 Bishops calendar has arrived, and it looks spectacular! You may view the exquisite calendar showcasing the artwork of the talented Pre-prep and Prep boys with Kashiefa Kerven, the School Secretary. The calendar is a beautiful A3 ring bound portrait-oriented Bishops-bespoke collaboration between the Pre-Prep and Prep art departments, and the Bishops Prep PA. The calendars are R150 each and will make superb Christmas or end of year gifts. Numbers are limited so please reserve your calendar(s) by paying the Bishops Prep PA via eft.

The PA's bank account details are:

Bishops Prep PA

FNB Rondebosch

Account no: 50171134709

Please reference your payments: Surname / Child's Grade / 2018Calendar

e.g. Smith/Gr2/2018Calendar

Calendars will be delivered to the Prep reception on Friday mornings for collection with a list of the names of the parents who have paid for them.

* If you have children at both Pre-Prep and Prep, please just provide one grade at Pre-Prep or Prep, and your calendar(s) will be delivered to the relevant reception.

Water Management

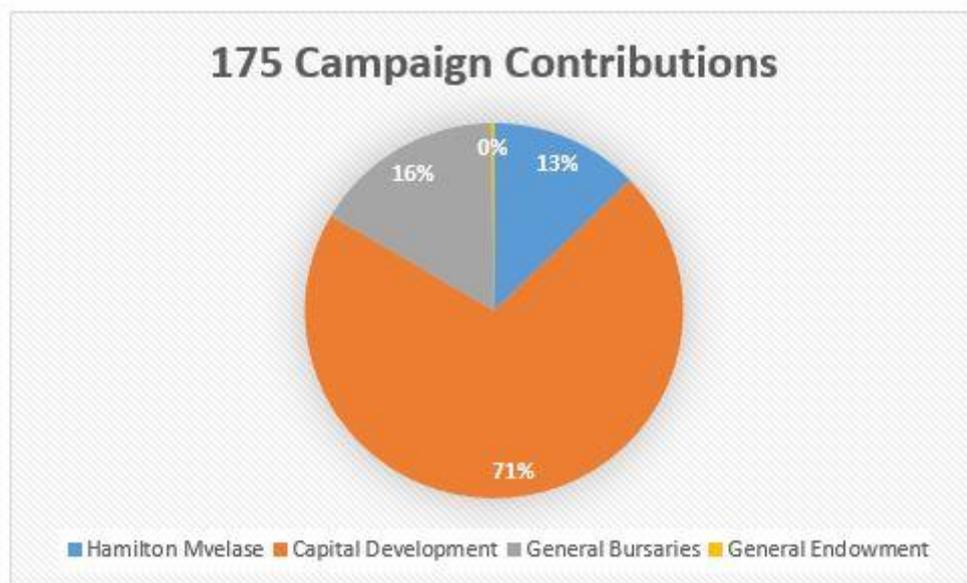
The rain this week has been a welcome relief but certainly not enough to make a dent on the severe water crisis in the Western Cape. We have received notice from the City of Cape Town of the implementation of water shedding between the hours of 05h00 - 09h00 and 17h00 - 21h00. There is no roster, so we are putting in place plans on the assumption that it could occur on any day. We are going to ask boys to at least bring a bottle of water to school for drinking water during the shedding hours. As a school, the intention is to be off the water grid by February/March next year. In the meantime, we all need to save every drop of water we can. Our swimming pools are being filled with borehole water only (being aware of limits around this too).

The Bishops Trust

We are extremely grateful to the Bishops community for their support to the 175 Campaign. We have had wonderful feedback about the launch of the Hamilton Mvelase Bursary Fund in September, and since then, we have received R96,270 towards this worthy programme.

In order to make giving easier, we can now receive payments through [Snapscan](#) and [PayFast](#). PayFast is a secure payment gateway which offers several convenient payment methods, including a 'regular giving' option for those who would prefer to donate small monthly contributions. Additional payment methods now include: Credit Card, Instant Eft, MasterPass and Bitcoin. (Contributions through these payment gateways are still eligible to receive Section 18A receipts.)

Details of the contributions we have received thus far (R40,555,039) towards the 175 Campaign Programmes are represented in the graph below. Thank you so much to *everyone* who has contributed so generously. If you are able to assist the campaign in any way or should you have any queries, please see our [webpage](#) or contact [Nikki](#) at the Trust office.



Thank You

We would like to thank you, our parents, for all the hosting you did this year. It is much appreciated and a great way to build friendships amongst boys from other schools.



NEWS

ABRSM High Scorers' Concert

The ABRSM High Scorers' Concert took place in the Jagger Hall on Sunday 22 October 2017.

The following pupils were selected to play at this prestigious event:

Sebastian von Bormann (Grade 1 Piano); Michael Kotze (Grade 2 Piano); Oscar Baum (Grade 2 Bassoon); Kieran Hollis (Grade 2 Violin); Dylan de Groot (Grade 3 Trombone); Robert Handley (Grade 3 Saxophone); Morné Ogada (Grade 5 Violin).

Congratulations to all these boys!

Inter-House Relay Sports



The Inter-House Relay Sports took place under grey skies on Wednesday. Congratulations to Van der Bijl on winning the event and Charlton on winning the spirit trophy. Well done to all boys who participated.



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