BISHOPS
DIOCESAN COLLEGE

Welcome to Bishops

Bishops Diocesan College Information Guide



Welcome

Welcome to Bishops! We trust that this guide will offer practical support in navigating this exciting (though sometimes daunting) chapter of your sons' lives.

As the Bishops official website resource, MyBishopsLife provides vital information pertaining to the scheduling of sport and extra-curricular activities as well as updates on each student's academic and other progress. Please ensure that you are registered and able to access this resource in order to view academic reports, photo galleries and other information on your son's profile page.

Role of the Parents' Association Committee (PACom)

The PACom provides a vital link between the school and its parent body. It aims to:

- Foster a strong parent-school relationship;
- Provide a platform for open dialogue with the school leadership;
- Organise events in the interests of building school spirit and community; and
- Support initiatives that enhance the boys' college and life experience.

Every parent is a member of the PA, in recognition of the fact that the experience of students and parents at the College is enriched through collaboration and a sharing of ideas. Getting involved - by attending events, volunteering time or providing feedback - strengthens the school's ethos and ensures that no voice is left unheard.

Please reach out to us with any queries or feedback at:
collegepa@bishops.org.za



Communication

The attached communication organogram details the appropriate designated channels within the College, which we recommend be followed in order to ensure efficient and seamless exchange of information. Your Bishops experience will be simplified if you read emails, communicate via the appropriate channels and acquaint yourself with the school's policies, which are all accessible on the school's official website.

Email address conventions for Bishops staff and points of contact:

Initial + surname + @bishops.org.za Example: James Brown would be: jbrown@bishops.org.za









Contact

Contact Person (General)

In order to streamline communication and ensure that any queries are addressed and issues are resolved efficiently, please follow this process:

- **First point of contact**: Always your son's Tutor
- **If subject-related**: The teacher involved, but always cc the Tutor
- **For serious concerns**: Escalate to the House Director or Grade/ Subject Head where necessary

Contact Person (Sport)

Bishops enjoys a strong sporting culture and offers a multitude of diverse sports. Our sons' sporting schedules are often overwhelming, hence it is important to follow the following protocol regarding any questions relating to your son's participation.

- **First point of contact**: The coach of your son's team
- **If unresolved**: The TIC (teacher in charge) of the relevant sport
- **For serious concerns**: Escalate to the Head of Sport at the College

Our Vision and Mission

Please have regard to to the Expectations of Parents Agreement

Reading the Principal's fortnightly newsletter enables parents to stay engaged with their son's school progress and school initiatives.

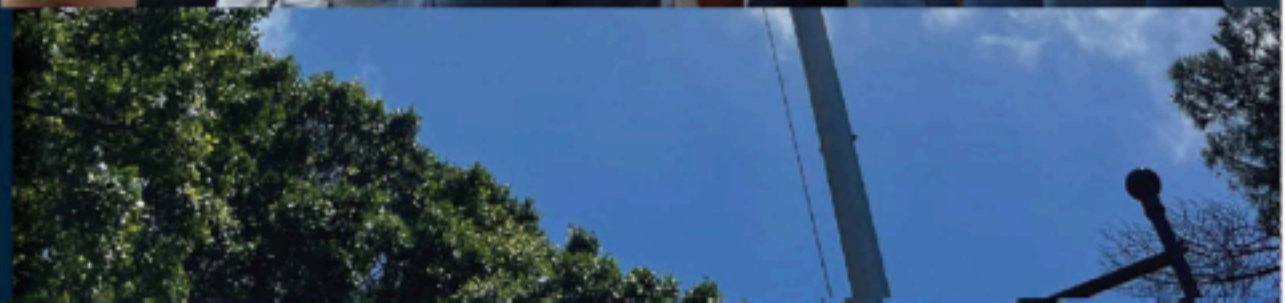
The newsletter provides:

- A broad overview of what boys are engaging with at school
- Key school updates and events
- Valuable talking points for family dinner discussions

Taking an interest in school topics encourages meaningful conversations at home and incentivises boys to reflect on their learning and social experiences.

The Principal can be contacted at: Principal@bishops.org.za





Stay Informed

As parents, we support the school by:

- Encouraging our sons to be independent, responsible and accountable;
- Maintaining open and respectful communication with teachers and staff members;
- Understanding that challenges are part of the learning journey; and
- Participating in the school community, respecting school processes and policies and supporting their enforcement.

WhatsApp Protocol: Keeping Communication Effective

DO

- ✓ Use groups for sharing important school-related information
- ✓ As with all communication within the school community, keep communication respectful and considerate of all members within and outside of the WhatsApp group
- ✓ Keep messages constructive, clear and to the point
- ✓ Check school communications first before asking questions
- ✓ Keep in mind that anything you post on the group can find its way into the public domain

DON'T

- ✗ Discuss individual concerns about your son, teacher or parent (communicate directly with the school instead)
- ✗ Use the group as a platform for airing political or religious views or anything that could be considered offensive
- ✗ Engage in negative discourse or gossip
- ✗ Overload the group with unnecessary messages or data-heavy posts
- ✗ Share personal information such as phone numbers or photographs without consent
- ✗ Use WhatsApp groups to promote your business or events without prior permission from the school









The Bishops Culture

Collaboration and Inclusivity

- We believe that diverse perspectives foster innovation and every voice is valuable.
- Communication is at the heart of our school's culture. We encourage respectful and open dialogue at all levels.

Trust the process

- Teachers make a lasting impact through the time, energy and care they invest in their students. These bonds help learners to feel seen, supported and confident to grow and excel.
- In order to nurture this, educators need our trust, respect and professional space. We encourage you to support teachers in their work and to encourage your son to navigate his relationship with his teachers independently.
- Let us support our teachers as partners and allies - we are on the same team, working towards a common goal the happiness and success of every student!

Accountability

- We embrace a culture of continuous learning and encourage the boys to take responsibility for their academic, sporting and extra-curricular activities. They are supported in forming direct relationships with their educators, coaches, tutors and mentors, with minimal parental involvement.

- Through this approach, we aim to help them grow into socially accountable, respectful, courageous, well-mannered, dignified, resilient and compassionate young men; individuals who are a credit to Bishops, their parents, the broader community and, just as importantly, themselves.

Final Thoughts

- Bishops offers more than just education – it is an opportunity for parents and students to engage as a community. We encourage you to get involved, support one another, and enjoy the journey.

- Your questions are valuable, and we're here to ensure you feel confident and well-informed. Let's make sure you're ready for the exciting journey ahead.





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