



Head Master's Bulletin

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 9TH, 1996

FROM THE HEAD MASTER

At Assembly this week I brought to the boys' attention a simple technique which many companies and institutions employ periodically to gauge progress or plan for the future - S.W.O.T. analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats). I went on to say that one of the great strengths of our life at Trinity, which is the envy of many other schools, is the spirit of Christian community. At Trinity we ascribe value to each individual, irrespective of race, colour or creed. Perhaps this is the reason that such a disparate community as ours, which comprises some 29 religious groupings and is representative of 78 nationalities, can function so effectively with a common sense of purpose. Our educational aims in this regard are quite specific, viz.

"To encourage boys to develop relationships based on trust, mutual respect, care and concern." (Aim 11, 1996 Handbook)

"To develop a mature understanding of and respect for family, women, elders, peers and younger children." (Aim 13, 1996 Handbook)

In essence we strive to encourage our boys to put the challenging words of Galatians 5:14 into practice. *"The entire law is summed up in a single command: 'Love your neighbour as yourself'"*.

Having identified this as one of our strengths I then went on to speak quite specifically to the boys of a "threat" to our community in the form of anti-social behaviour which I would classify as bullying. Bullying is the wilful, conscious desire to hurt another person. There are many forms of bullying. For example, physical violence, verbal abuse, racist behaviour, threatening gestures and extortion are all acts of bullying.

I went on to explain to the boys that whilst bullying is in no way rampant at Trinity, neither is it non-existent and that bullying, in whatever form it takes, represents a cancer in our midst and must be extirpated wherever it is found. Bullying must not be seen to be an inevitable part of life in a good school such as ours. Neither should forms of bullying be confused with the legitimate rough and tumble of some everyday experiences in an all boys' school; nor should bullying behaviour be in any way associated with the true meaning of manliness.

The challenge for us as a community is not to take the easy way out. We must not ignore bullying or accept the "excuse" that it happened to me when I was a junior student, therefore now that I am a senior, I'm justified in making other junior boys' lives a misery.

I concluded my comments by encouraging any boy who is experiencing bullying to seek help from a student leader, his Housemaster, the Counsellor, the Chaplain, or any member of staff including the Head Master. Bullying of any kind is unacceptable at Trinity. Students who continue to behave in such an anti-social manner will forfeit their membership of the Trinity community.

FROM THE CHAPLAIN

The desire for power and the personal significance can play a very significant rôle in our lives. Our human nature often tends to be self assertive and focuses on how 'I' should be acknowledged by others as important. Even the disciples of Jesus did not escape the vice-like grip of 'I want to be great'. Jesus pointed out to them that the Kingdom of God was not about self importance but humble worship. He focused their attention on a child and told them to reassess their attitude.

When a child beholds awesome things they are struck with a wide eyed sense of wonder and delight. They don't react with the desire to use this discovery for personal gain but can hardly contain the desire to share the discovery with others.

Those who enter the Kingdom of God do so by being overwhelmed by the person of Jesus - His power, authority and self giving love - seen especially in His death on the cross by which he bore the guilt of our sin so that we might be forgiven. Jesus calls us to enter his Kingdom with an attitude of worship and recognition of His greatness - not to use His Kingdom as a means of hoping that others will worship us. (Matthew 18:1-5)

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

School activities

For The Head Master and Mrs Cujes.

The School Council, Staff Executive and all staff, both Preparatory and Senior.

The continuing Pine Bluff programme - 9 Science 1.

Those who are ill, injured or recovering



REDACTED