



Wednesday, 06 February 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians

This Friday will see us formally induct our 2019 Prefects and Mentors at St George's Garrison Church. The ceremony includes me washing the Prefect's feet and them in turn washing the feet of Grade 8 learners. We look to the example of Christ our Lord when He washed the feet of His disciples as the basis of our ceremony. The washing of feet has a twofold meaning.

Firstly it symbolises the humility required by a true leader. When Jesus came to earth, He came not as King and Conqueror, but as the son of a carpenter. As He revealed in Matthew 20:28, He came "not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." The humility expressed by His act teaches us all that leaders are not put in places of authority to be raised above others but rather so that they may lift others through their actions.

Secondly the foot washing symbolises that true leadership must be servant leadership. The leadership of St Nicholas has been put in place to ensure that your child receives the best possible education. You will possibly have noted that St Nicholas does not have initiation rituals for our Grade 8s and that senior learners have very few privileges that are not afforded to younger learners. This is because of our belief in the equality of all people and that we are all called on to help others no matter what their age. Jesus washed the disciples' feet, He told them (and us), "I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you" (John 13:15). As His followers, we must emulate Him, serving one another and seeking to build one another up in humility and love. When we look at positions as sources of personal power, we displease the Lord who promised that true greatness in His kingdom is attained by those with a servant's heart (Mark 9:35; 10:44). When we have that servant's heart, the Lord promised, we will be greatly blessed (John 13:17).

A St Nicholas education is about instilling Christian values in our children. Events such as the Prefects and Mentors Induction allows us to show our community how committed we are to following in Christ's footsteps.

Yours sincerely

Leon Grove