



November 2020

Dear Parents

During your son's time at Bishops he will be involved in a series of other activities which incur additional costs for parents. The purpose of this letter is to highlight such activities to allow you to plan appropriately. This list excludes activities for which your son might be **selected** during his time at Bishops – activities vary from boy to boy.

Grade 8

A grade 8 camp is held in the first few days of the year. In 2020 the cost was R2245.

Grade 8s start using laptops in classes from the beginning of the first term annually. The cost of purchasing laptops, of software and of support is borne by parents. There is documentation about this on the [College website](#). It is difficult to predict the exact cost of the purchase, but the laptop recommended by the parent selection committee has been priced at between R20 000 – R30 000 **ex VAT** for a number of years now. There is a once-off technical levy of approximately R5400 which is compulsory for every boy and will be billed in the first quarter as well as an annual software charge of approximately R450.

Grade 9

A series of camps are held at the end of the academic year. The boys may choose which camp they wish to attend, but the most popular and most expensive is the trip to the Orange River which cost parents R5000 in 2019 (this did not take place in 2020). There are several cheaper alternatives.

Grade 10

All Grade 10s, excluding those on exchange, attend the Epic which is a 16-day adventure in the Cederberg. The cost of the Epic in 2020 would have been R18 000 per person, and boys are also required to supply some of their own food for hikes and to buy hiking equipment if they do not already have access to it.

Grade 11

A leadership training camp is held in September of each year. In 2020 the cost of the camp was R1050 per person.

Grade 12

Fees are charged over 3 terms in the Matric year. In 2020 parents were also charged R2466 for the Matric dance, after party, class photo and yearbook. Membership of the Old Diocesans (OD) Union is also offered at R5200 (2020 price) for lifetime membership.

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All grades – Capital Levy

The voluntary capital levy of R1500 per term (R6000 per annum) will continue in 2021. These funds will be reserved and used to upgrade boarding/day boy houses and classrooms across all schools. The school is very grateful for this contribution. Please note that it is voluntary and hence deductible for taxation purposes. These funds will be recognized when receipted in our bank, and Section 18A taxation certificates will be issued at taxation deadlines and at the end of the calendar year.

ODU Life Membership Fees

Parents were previously charged a single once-off amount for ODU Life Membership during their son's Grade 12 year. This charge was included together with many other school expenses and not itemised as an ODU Life Membership Fee.

The billing process has changed from this once-off payment at the end a student's school career to termly payments spread over his career at Bishops.

The advantages of this are:

- The cost to parents is spread over time without one large payment in grade 12
- The ODU receives revenue from Bishops boys who leave the school before grade 12; these boys are also ODs and should be members of the ODU
- The ODU also collects fees from Prep and Pre-Prep boys, although at a lower rate.

Some points to note:

- Grade 12 fees are collected in three termly instalments and not four
- There is a phase-in period from 2019 until 2023 for boys who are partly through their time at College – i.e. partly monthly with a lump sum to make up the shortfall. This will reduce annually until the situation normalises.

Kind regards

**A Reeler
Principal**

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