



Bishop Wordsworth's School

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15 December 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians

As I write the temperature is currently -3 outside, the pitches are frozen and the basketball court looks more like an ice rink. Winter is certainly upon us but with only a handful of fixtures to go before the end of term, the seasonal disruption is minimal to a term that has brought some euphoric highs and agonising lows, such is the way of sport. I likened it to the most addictive of drugs when speaking to the 1st XV after the weekends result, win or lose we always crave more, win or lose there is always the next time, be it in BWS colours, club colours or further afield and that has been the key message to all sportsmen this year. We take our opportunities, do our best, enjoy ourselves and see where it takes us, be it the first round or final, a friendly or hotly contested derby, we immerse ourselves in the action and regardless of the result, embrace our mates at the end and look forward to when we go again.

Badminton

Both KS3 and KS4 teams negotiated the local round of the school games to qualify for the county finals in January.

Basketball

The U14s have made the County Finals of the school games after winning the local schools tournament. The finals and group matches of the other age grades will be played after Christmas.

Cross Country

Once again under the guidance of Mr Griffey the #bishopsbullets have literally run riot. All four teams won their respective local leagues with multiple boys finishing on the podium in their individual categories. This strength in depth has seen nearly 30 boys asked to race at the county trials in January with a number expected to make it through to regionals and then nationals in March. Of course a number of boys have already raced at one National Final this year with both the Junior and Inter teams making nationals. The juniors came a school record 7th place and Lukas Bailey in Y8 came 3rd individually. A marvellous achievement for the boys and testament to the hard work they put in – I look forward to seeing how they get on in the races coming up (**fixtures attached**).

Football

Although traditionally not the football term, we continue to grow as we endeavour to catch up with rugby. This year has seen a 2nd XI entered into the ESFA Schools Cup with rich

reward as the boys have progressed to the last 16, unfortunately losing out in extra time to Ivybridge College. The 1st XI similarly were unfortunately knocked out in the ESFA Elite Cup in the last 16, however are currently top of Pool A in the WSFA County Cup. It's cracking to have two senior football sides and again will only strengthen our depth in the years to come. Outside the Sixth Form, the U16s also reached the last 16 in their ESFA Elite Cup and into Round 2 of their WSFA County Cup as are the U14s. Mr Podger and Mr Oldham have done a fine job and with the local leagues kicking off in the New Year we expect another excellent season with the round ball.

Rugby

Nearly 40% of the Year 7 intake have represented the school this term, with teams of 12 aside, that is effectively 5 teams, which is simply brilliant. To have so many boys out on the park is great to see. With a focus on performance and fun, the new Age Grade laws and values have been displayed and played to with great effect. I must also say how refreshing and easy it has been to organise fixtures with our local rivals Salisbury Cathedral School and Wyvern College, a competitive triangular we hope to grow and nurture to the benefit of all schools, boys and local clubs in the next few years. To have competitive rugby on our doorstep is awesome.

Our links with other schools have gone one step further in inviting external boys to play for our U16s. Contrary to opposition rumours, we sent an open invitation to our neighbours asking if they had anyone who had some experience of playing and wanted the opportunity to represent BWS in our Saturday blocks. The aim is two fold, one to offer other state school pupils the opportunity to play a high level of competitive school rugby, but also to supplement our U16 team, as without the external boys we would not have been able to fulfil our fixtures this year. On the whole the process has been well received, none more so than against Canford when we mixed all the boys in and played a Barbarians type game. I don't like the fact we have been unable to raise solely BWS sides (hence my joy with the Y7 teams), but at the same time I am pleased our invitation has been so well received and has given 7 boys from 3 other schools an opportunity they would not have otherwise received. But most importantly it has meant 30 U16B boys, 15 from each school have been able to play fixtures every Saturday and that's really what it is all about, getting as many young men out on the park as possible, pulling on a shirt and pitting themselves against each other and having a good time. Credit to Mr Oldham for managing the logistics and once again instilling our better men culture in to the U16s this year, who I must say at A team level have been brilliant with the best winning streak in the school against some of the best independents.

The 14s have had a more than solid year under Mr Jones and look in good shape for the tilt at the Schools Cup next season, with the U13s playing up, these two years have plenty to be happy about. The 15s have had a slightly tougher season but recorded some notable performances along the way, especially against Dauntsey's and a dogged victory (albeit not the prettiest) over Bryanston.

The senior sides have been in fine form as well, the 3rd XV winning and losing 3, but finished on a winning high in their final match against Canford as did the 2nd XV who put in some fine defensive displays to defeat Dauntsey's and Hampton, both at home, a great end to many boys rugby days at BWS.

The 1st XV team until the weekend had gone 6 matches unbeaten, including defeating a previously undefeated Canford and holding Marlborough to a scintillating draw with just 14

men. They made it to the last 8 nationally in the Schools Cup, succumbing to a fine second half performance from an excellent Whitgift. At the start of the season we set out a simple objective, strive to be perfect, this has been something reinforced in all we do on and off the park. Although some of us could maybe strive a little harder in areas outside of rugby, I cannot fault the boys in their attitude and work rate. There have been some tough matches with some physical encounters, but it has been the psychological edge that these boys have developed that has carried them through. It hasn't come easy, but we have learnt and grown along the way to be more resilient and believing in our systems. This belief and trust in one another has been the glue of the team and even at half time on Saturday when earlier in the season it may not have been there, the boys had 'blue heads' on and remained solely focused on their objective and although the result didn't go their way I cannot fault them in their quest to be perfect.

Congratulations to Paddy Case who despite long term injury has been a part of the last couple of England U18 camps and fingers crossed will play some part in their fixtures come spring.

I can't wait for the 7s season (**fixtures attached**), but also encourage all our boys to not stop now, but go and play club rugby, keep the engine and hunger ticking over ready for next September. For the seniors go and play some colts or even mens rugby, or if you've had your day, don't stop being active, get in the gym, jump on a rower, get running, do something. Don't stop.

Tour/Sponsors/Volunteers

Having just hosted our good friends from Kings, Parramatta, I should mention the Japan 2019 Multi Sports Tour which has 36 boys signed up with still a few more in the wings, it is most certainly on as we finalise the itinerary and seek potential sponsors. Blue Frontier and Fawcetts have both helped with the rugby this year and we are very grateful. Some of the money has been used to train up young referees who have helped us over the course of the season. Along with no less than 30 individuals who have given their time to support the rugby this term, without whom we wouldn't be able to field the teams and give the boys the opportunities we do. Finally all the mums and dads on the touch line, you've been brilliant. The photos, feedback, retweets and support have been second to none. Thank you all.

Have a great festive season, please encourage the boys to get out and keep on top of things, with cross country, football, rugby 7s and cross country next term we have plenty to be getting on with!

R Demain-Griffiths
Director of Sport

Bishop Wordsworth's School



Cross - Country Fixtures 2017/18



OCTOBER 2017

WED 18	LEAGUE RACE	AVON VALLEY
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NOVEMBER 2017

WED 1	LEAGUE RACE	LAVERSTOCK
SAT 11	ESSA REGIONAL FINAL	LEWESTON SCHOOL
SAT 25	ESSA FINAL	SEVENOAKS SCHOOL KENT

JANUARY 2018

THUR 11	KEN BAILEY RACES	BRYANSTON SCHOOL
SAT 20	WILTSHIRE SCHOOLS CHAMPS	SHELDON CHIPPENHAM
SAT 27	WILTSHIRE SCHOOLS RESERVE	

FEBRUARY 2018

SAT 3	SOUTH WEST SCHOOLS	NEWTON ABBOTT DEVON
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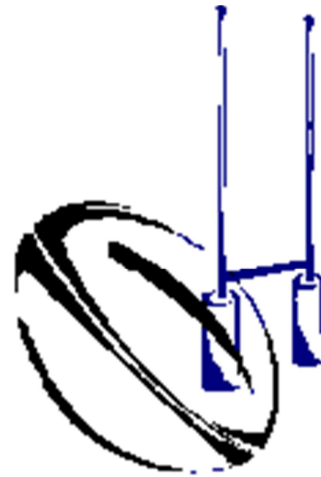
MARCH 2018

THURS 1	BRYANSTON SCHOOL RELAYS	BRYANSTON SCHOOL
THURS 8	CLAYESMORE SCHOOL RELAYS	CLAYESMORE SCHOOL
SAT 17	ENGLISH SCHOOLS CHAMPS	LEEDS

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Rugby 7s Fixtures 2018



Schools

JANUARY 2018

WED 17	7S TOURNAMENT	HOME SCHOOL FIELDS	U12
SUN 28	SEAFORD 7S	AWAY SEAFORD SCHOOL	1 ST VII
SUN 28	MILLFIELD 7S	AWAY MILLFIELD SCHOOL	U16

FEBRUARY 2018

SUN 4	MERCHANT TAYLORS' 7S	AWAY MERCHANT TAYLORS SCHOOL	U14
SUN 18	TRAINING DAY	AWAY WELLINGTON SCHOOL	1 ST VII
SUN 25	CANFORD 7S	AWAY CANFORD SCHOOL	1 ST VII U16

MARCH 2018

WED 7	STOWE 7S	AWAY STOWE SCHOOL	U16
SUN 11	BRYANSTON SCHOOL WOODEN SPOON CHARITY 7S	AWAY BRYANSTON SCHOOL	1 ST VII U15
SUN 18	SHERBORNE 7S	AWAY SHERBORNE SCHOOL	U14
TUES 20 – WED 21	ROSSLYN PARK 7S	AWAY	U16
WED 21 – THUR 22	ROSSLYN PARK 7S	AWAY	1 ST VII