



Bishop Wordsworth's School

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Dear Parents/Guardians

Opportunity and ambition, both in equal measure to take on and compete against the best in this country and abroad in friendly and competitive settings, that is what we have been striving for this term. We are putting ourselves out there for all to see and the boys are doing a quite exceptional job in representing our values and doing themselves and you proud.

Over the last three weeks we have had the pleasure of taking or watching BWS sportsmen play tennis at Canford, rugby 7s at Rosslyn Park, indoor cricket at Chippenham and football at Britford. Across these four sports we were competing in local, county, regional and national competitions. As a state school competing primarily in an independent school world our boys do an unbelievable job. Are we surprised? No. Are we immensely proud? Yes.

As well as our performance teams we are looking at how to drive up participation and interest in staying physically active. This term saw the introduction of flag (tag) NFL and ultimate Frisbee during games afternoons as we bring in our University Games concept. This will give boys the opportunity to try new activities, with the ambition that more boys will find the thing they love to partake in. When four of our Y11s opt for 2v2 frisbee for an hour and a half, while another 12 are playing NFL, 24 are playing badminton, 6 are at squash and a huge swathe are playing football you know you're doing something right – getting close to something for everyone.

Badminton

After winning the local area competition before Christmas, the boys went on to finish second in the county. With a young team, they are well placed to go one better next year.

Basketball

It has been another great year of Basketball with even more boys attending extra-curricular and then going on to represent the school. Progress in the National competition has been consistent with previous years with the U16's making the most progress (last 32). Unfortunately Bristol Met are our nemesis across all age groups and we have yet to get one over them. The now established link with Salisbury Sparks Junior club is having a massive impact on the level of play achievable by our boys in school as the extra competitive basketball is giving them more confidence and experience.

Most notable achievements go to Chris Penny who got selected and then played for Solent Kestrels U18's. Chris, George Curran and Sim Evans have also been a firm part of the Salisbury Suns men's team this season.

Right at the start of the term Luke Duckett completed his journey in the South West representative set up having made the cut to play at the National Centre in Manchester in the U15 Regional Development Tournament.

Cricket

We have entered every competition we can this year, primarily at U13 and U15 level and I look forward to seeing what the boys can do in the outdoor season. Before this however we had both age groups in the County Indoor Finals. We weren't sure what to expect as this was the first time we had entered the event. Both sides won their group, a semi-final and then took on Hardenhuish and St Johns Marlborough in the finals. Both came runners up, but both will be all the wiser for next year and it was a great opportunity to have a hit out before the outdoor season.

Cross Country

Following the Wiltshire Schools Champs in January, 9 BWS runners were selected for Wiltshire. Dan Poynting led the charge winning the senior race. With Toby Brawn finishing 3rd in the inters and Guy Mitchell and Jake Dinkele finished 2nd and 3rd respectively in the junior race. With the South West Champs cancelled due to the weather, 5 boys went to the National Finals in Leeds, with notable performances again from both Poynting and Brawn.

In the team events we have seen similar success with the seniors winning the Ken Bailey race at Bryanston as well as the separate Bryanston relays in which the inters also brought home the trophy.

Football

Rounding off with both U16 and U18 reaching the last 16 in respective national competitions, this final report comes fresh from the touchline as the U14s reached the County Cup final for a chance to retain the trophy claimed by the current Year 10's. BWS Football continues to grow and the philosophy behind the 1st XI is now firmly embedding itself within the younger age grades. The U12s are beaten Area finalists this year but have terrific strength in depth which has provided serious food for thought regarding the fixture structure for next season. Beyond the statistics however lies a much broader picture of success; both Barney Duffy and Noah Main have taken significant roles in refereeing Area and County fixtures for the younger years and, for the first time in its history, BWS Football hosted a touring team – Mereweather High from Australia. The example being set by the players in the 1st XI and the reach of the sport here at Bishop's is broadening and full of promise for the future.

Hockey 7s

Our U12 and U13 sides went across to Salisbury Cathedral School to play in some friendly matches earlier this term. The results may not have gone our way, but it was a fantastic afternoon seeing the boys play another sport we do not regularly play in school.

Rugby 7s

We have made a real effort to grow our 7s as we feel it will benefit our 15s game come the next season. Unfortunately the weather conspired against us and most tournaments were a wash out. That said we still experienced huge success and again gained some real experiences along the way. The U12s went 20 matches unbeaten, which was quite the feat given their size and some of their opponents especially at Warwick 7s. They won the Dorset Schools 7s and also the Wiltshire School Games.

Our U13 and U14 sides had multiple cancellations, but both performed exceptionally well at Warwick 7s taking some big scalps along the way including Millfield. The 14s also won the Dorset School 7s, while the 13s played up a year and despite a huge size difference stepped up in the face of real adversity and played some fantastic rugby.

The 15s were defeated in the Dorset Schools 7s, but none the less the season unearthed some real talent in a squad brimming with potential. The 16s played the famous Brown (Sedbergh) at Warwick and performed so well the spectators enquired who we were giving them such a tight match – for reference their U18 side have just completed their second consecutive clean sweep of school boy rugby at the 15, 10 and 7 aside game. We went to Rosslyn Park with high hopes and a huge amount of heart. Cheltenham College just beat us to steal a knock out spot, but the performances and attitudes far outweighed the result. The boys ran their own warm ups, conducted their own debriefs and played with such discipline they showed a level of maturity beyond their U16 status. With two U15s playing up as well, it is safe to say the future of BWS rugby is safe!

The senior side at full strength looked good to go toe to toe with anyone, and at Seaford narrowly missed a final spot against Dulwich after a freak score by Epsom in the semi-final earned them a win. Both of these sides were finalists in later competitions, Dulwich at Rosslyn Park and Epsom at Surrey 7s. The boys lay down a real marker, so much so that Ultimate Rugby 7s has invited some of the boys into their academy camps later this year.

Unfortunately as the season went on we lost boys to injury and international rugby - Xavier Hastings becoming the second school boy international in the last three seasons. A great reward for a young man who had an outstanding season with us and who we hope to see in Bath senior colours in the near future.

We still entered Rosslyn with the intent to make day 2 and played some fantastic rugby, Adam Farr earning one of the tries of the day. However it was not to be as Cheltenham College boasting their own internationals were too strong in the group. The boys however were outstanding as always and Rosslyn Park is an unbelievable way to finish the season. We would like to thank the Old Wordsworthians for their support in providing us with a physio for the duration.

Squash

Our first competitive squash match in nearly 10 years, thanks to the help of Paul Chaplin and the support of Mrs Elliott. A group of middle school boys went to Bryanston and despite losing the match overall had a great time and we hope to continue the option into the 6th form as well as middle school next year.

Table Tennis

Our team won the local round of the school games and progress to the county finals, with high hopes of similar success to last year. Table tennis has grown exponentially since the arrival of our outdoor tables and if anyone has any interest in running a club, please do get in touch.

Tennis

The senior tennis team went down to Canford for the first round of the Glanville Cup, but were beaten by a better side boasting two exceptional brothers.

Tennis for the rest of the school continues after Easter with fixtures against Dauntsey's and Warminster as well as our Road to Wimbledon. There is also the opportunity for tennis coaching during games time and a separate letter has been issued about this.

Tour/Sponsors/Volunteers

With the summer now fast approaching our thoughts begin to focus on our inaugural multi sports tour. The final pieces of the itinerary are being put together and the kit is ordered. We're excited to be partnering up with Tsunami for the tour to provide all of our kit and with a view to them supplying our team wear for next season. Clarify and Johnsons Valves have taken the opportunity to sponsor the tour kit, but there is again availability for companies/businesses to sponsor our new kit for the 2019 season. This could be for a team, a sport or all. If this would be of interest or for more information please get in touch.

Finally, thank you to all those who have helped make this term so successful and rewarding for the boys. Without your help we cannot provide the opportunities that we do. Have a great Easter break, for some it is the end of a long rugby 7s or football season, for others it is the beginnings of the athletics, tennis and cricket season. Whichever one, enjoy the holiday and we look forward to what next term brings.

Best wishes



Mr R Demain-Griffiths
Director of Sport