



# Bishop Wordsworth's School

Exeter Street, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP1 2ED

Telephone: 01722 333851

E-mail: [rec@bishopwordsworths.org.uk](mailto:rec@bishopwordsworths.org.uk)

Website: [www.bishopwordsworths.org.uk](http://www.bishopwordsworths.org.uk)

Head Master: Dr S D Smallwood BSc (Hons) PhD NPQH

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Dear Parents/Guardians

The penultimate week of term for me personally has been one of the busiest of the year, but also one of the most rewarding. We welcomed over 100 players and spectators to Britford Lane for our second cricket 6 aside tournament, the Big Bish Bash, raising north of £2000 towards our Artificial Grass Pitch. A huge thanks to everyone who gave their time to make such a fabulous event run, with last year's alumni team the Day 2ers retaining their title.

Following this we hosted The Kings School, Parramatta, Australia for a tennis match. We had 44 boys on court at Salisbury Tennis Club, with an exciting array of matches. TKS had been to the likes of Rugby School and Eton College before playing us and it just shows the standard of our tennis with our boys going toe for toe and just edging the contest.

We later had cricket against Sandroyd for the lower years, followed by Super 8 Athletics action, both leading to fine results as the athletes retained their county athletics title. Ultimate Rugby 7s were then in on the Thursday to coach our U13-U17 boys and girls in a talent ID day, that has become a regular fixture in the calendar and was this year attended by former GB7s Captain Tom Mitchell and former Fiji and Kenya coach Chris Davies, always a great opportunity for our aspiring rugby players.

Friday saw my marathon effort of Town Path laps and fun run participants which at the time of writing along with the non-uniform day, raised over £3000 again for our AGP. The response and support has been amazing and truly humbling, with donations from parents, students and alumni from beyond my time as well as those I taught what seems an age ago.

I am thankful for the continued support we receive for our PITCH IN campaign to deliver the AGP at Britford Lane. However, we are still a way off and if you can help with this project in some way, big or small please contact [cep@bishopwordsworths.org.uk](mailto:cep@bishopwordsworths.org.uk) or head to our alumni and development page <https://bwsnetwork.org.uk/supportus>

After the marathon we jumped on minibuses to Stoke for the Schools Cup National Athletics final with both our Y8 and Y10 teams and after setting a school record in the regional round at Millfield, confidence was high. Both year groups finished 8<sup>th</sup> nationally, a great result.

As well as the team competition our individual athletes saw success, winning at all age groups of area sports, brilliantly assisted by our Sports Leaders who helped run the event. A huge number of boys were then selected for county finals, with 11 making regional finals and three going through to national finals, W Taverner and J Giblin in the triple jump and C Cousins in the javelin. J Earle narrowly missed selection but will go to National Finals as a multi event athlete in September.

The Y8 group is a talented bunch with a number of the athletes also crossing over into the basketball team with them placing third in our region of the Junior NBA, losing to the eventual winners in the final.

Cricket likewise has been led by Y8 with the most fixtures across the year groups, partly due to the weather and accessibility of prep schools. All in all it has been a tough season in terms of clashes with clubs for selection, the weather and ultimately trying to take on the established independents in the early rounds of cup competition. That said it has once again been filled with highlights and a great list of matches against the likes of Marlborough, Dauntsey's, Portsmouth Grammar, Embley and Sandroyd.

Whilst cricket has struggled with the weather, tennis seemingly avoided the showers and has thrived this term with 70 players across the school representing. This has included both our Y8 A and B sides topping their local groups, hosting the local state school's tournament and mixed 6F friendlies with Dauntsey's and Warminster. We hosted our own Play Your Way to Wimbledon competition with E Angra winning the singles and the Chowdhury brothers winning the doubles. Most impressive though were the senior boys who were match point away from breaking into the last 24 nationally in the open Glanville Cup, our best run.

With one eye on next term, pre-season has begun for the senior boys and girls with up to 80 students on the park or in the hall for both rugby and netball. The level of commitment already has been exceptional including from those wishing to join the school. The buy in to our athletic development work off the playing field has been brilliant, supported by OW Ben Bealey and his program from Build a Body Online.

In the final week of term we look forward to hosting an RFU referee course. As we will not have sports assistants next year we are looking at innovative ways to solve our staffing, one being our older students assisting to referee the lower years. I have no doubt they will be a huge success.

Beyond BWS we have seen huge success. M Stahl continues his fine form in fencing, winning the Southern Region Senior competition and now ranking inside the top 20 for his age group. Current sports assistant G Smith played at Twickenham in the U20 county cup final and F Wilson featured for UR7s at the Rosslyn Park University 7s.

T Parker-Minty, whilst completing his GCSEs, has qualified for the English Swimming Nationals in four disciplines, following on from his success earlier in the year and A Webb came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the International Tetrathlon competing for Southern England. Finally W Bate continues his rise up the national polo ranks with an exciting summer ahead.

It is our diversity of athlete that makes BWS very special, and me very proud that we either offer or support opportunities. This wouldn't be possible without the team around us and it is with a heavy heart we say goodbye to this year's assistants Sam, George and Sophie who have been immense in their time given to make what we do possible. We wish them all the best in their next chapter. It is a great shame the school is unable to replace them due to a lack of funding and we wait to see how that may impact our delivery, already with some block fixtures cancelled in the wake of their absence. As always if you would like to help in any way, be it financially or in time please reach out.

This coming year I am pleased to list the following as recent supporters as part of our business partnership scheme; Fawcetts, Blue Frontier, Rathbones, Soper & Co. Mortgage Brokers and Wilsons Solicitors. Without their support many of the things we strive to do would not be possible.

Sports calendar: <https://sports.bws-school.org.uk/?id=482>

Whole school calendar: <https://www.bishopwordsworths.org.uk/main-school/about-bishops/school-calendar/>

BWS Sport Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/bwssport/>

May I wish you all a restful summer, a time to unwind and re-charge, but for our athletes also a time to steal a yard on the opposition. Keep up the good work so come September we can continue to be better everyday.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Demain-Griffiths'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R'.

Mr R Demain-Griffiths  
**Director of Sport**