



# Bishop Wordsworth's School

Exeter Street, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP1 2ED

Telephone: 01722 333851

Email: [rec@bishopwordsworths.org.uk](mailto:rec@bishopwordsworths.org.uk)

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

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Dear Parent/Guardian,

Firstly, a huge thanks to everyone who has contributed to making this term possible. With 10 weekend block fixtures and up to 12 teams on a Saturday, it takes a small army of volunteers to allow the Autumn term to function. In the last 10 years, we haven't noticed the apparent absence of society referees as we had our own in-house referees. We ran an introduction to referee course in July, and thankfully, several participants from our sixth form have stepped up and refereed brilliantly. Without that person in the middle with the whistle, the game cannot happen, so a special thanks to those who have stepped out of their comfort zones and grown as individuals while shouldering the responsibility of safety and fun for their younger peers – what great role models we are lucky to have!

The highlight of my term was watching some of those same sixth formers take the reins of the U12s in their final matches of the term, where everything finally clicked, and they played their best rugby. Supported by their parents, it was a great morning. It was made even better when those same U12's stayed and vocally supported the older boys they aspire to be, as the 1st XV took on Portsmouth Grammar in what was their final match of the term. Seeing those boys at the start of their journey, coached by those towards the end, and then supporting those same boys who they will be one day, was special.

A similar event unfolds on Boxing Day with 50 of our finest former players coming together in memory of one. The Rory Walworth Memorial match kicks off at 1pm at Salisbury Rugby Club. It's a brilliant family occasion with outstanding players and hundreds of supporters on the touchline. Sadly, I won't be involved this year, but it's always a firm favourite when I'm home for Christmas.

This year, the boys will be wearing our newly sponsored OW shirts, courtesy of two of our BWS Business Scheme Partners, [Soper & Co. Mortgage Brokers](#) and [Wilson Solicitors](#).

## Basketball

Mr. Duckett continues to work his magic with our sides from U12 through to U19. Although the season is in its infancy, he has still managed to make an early mark. The U14s won their first national cup match last week, while the U13s have been up against it in the Junior NBA but continue to make progress. As I write, we look forward to hosting the annual local tournament in the final week of term and look ahead to more to come after Christmas.

## Cricket

Thanks to Mrs. Sharman, we have run a winter nets session all term with good take-up across the ages. With indoor matches to commence in the new year, we hope the hard work pays off as we

then look forward to some summer fixtures post-Easter. Unfortunately, this will be largely for Y7-10 as we will be unable to field Y11 or Y13, and Y12 with their mocks around that time.

## Cross Country

Once again, Mr. Griffey's runners dominated the local leagues with strong performances across the board, taking the honours in all the boys' categories. In the ESAA Cup, we narrowly missed out on National Finals, having made regionals with the teams a year young. I know Mr. Griffey is plotting a strong return next year from these boys. With a mixture of relays and races in the new year, along with county trials, which 30 of our students qualified for, there is plenty to look forward to as cross country enters its business end before we look to move our middle-distance form off the track and onto it in preparation for the athletics season.

## Football

With the main season to come for Y7-11, it has mostly been the seniors in action who had a good run under Mr Edney and Mr Oldham in the ESFA National Cup, exiting just before Christmas to a strong Marlborough side, with whom we've developed a fierce rivalry in recent years. However, they continue after Christmas in the Wiltshire Cup.

To combat the weather, we concluded the rugby season at the end of November to allow football to begin this side of Christmas for Y7-11. Already, the signs are bright with some strong boys across the ages. We look forward to getting into the local schools' competition upon return.

## Netball

Mr. Hole continues to produce an exciting brand of netball with a group of girls who have worked hard to compete at the level that we do, pushing the Independent Schools as close as we ever have and picking up some good wins at the county finals.

## Rugby

Our rugby teams have been consistently strong, showing great skill and dedication throughout the term. From U12 to the 1st XV, every team has put in commendable performances.

As we try and compete on a circuit filled with Independent Schools, the boys and girls continue to perform above and beyond.

The U14 year group, in particular, have had an outstanding season and are into the final 32 nationally of their competition. Meanwhile, the senior boys played some of their best rugby before half term to sneak victory against strong sides from Lord Wandsworth College and Gordon's School, both of whom are new, more local blocks for the 2025 season.

Despite having 50 girls playing rugby, we have unfortunately been unable to field multiple sides this term. They have played Dauntsey's, Brockenhurst, and Gryphon, hosted our own festival supported by Salisbury Girls Rugby, with plenty more in store beyond Christmas.

A highlight earlier in the term was both the boys' and girls' senior sides playing under lights at Salisbury RFC, proudly supported by BWS Business Scheme Partner, [Fawcetts](#). It was a real

watershed moment for girls' rugby, as I don't think any school had yet had both the boys and girls play in a doubleheader as we did with Dauntsey's. It's something we hope to do again next year and really epitomises our commitment to offering opportunities for both boys and girls.

## **Squash**

Our defending National Champions got their KS4 campaign underway without a hitch. They now play their second-round matches in the new year. We hope to secure some friendly fixtures against Clayesmore after Christmas,

## **Tennis**

Our tennis sides continue to impress with a strong group now in Year 9 along with our seniors. The U14s had their regional knockout match rolled over from last year to make regional finals. With a clutch championship tie-break win, the group went to Bath and were placed 3rd regionally, losing to Ralph Allan, who went on to place 2nd nationally. A top 12 finish nationally for the boys was a fine reward for an excellent season.

The seniors, meanwhile, got their seasons underway this autumn with a boys' A and B team. Both topped their groups with wins against the likes of Collegiate, Monkton Coombe, and Sherborne School and await regional knockout matches in the new year, with a win securing a place at regional finals in March. The girls had a tough group with three strong schools and were narrowly defeated in their final match. We look forward to the summer when we will enter both the boys and girls into the National Champions.

## **Sports Leadership**

For the first time in 15 years, the school is running a Level 3 Higher Sports Leaders program. Our leaders will be helping within the school and the community to deliver sports. They helped towards the end of the term with a SEND Boccia event and did a fantastic job. With another SEND event, our primary tag festival, and area sports in the pipeline, I have no doubt they will continue to make a positive impact on those they support.

## **Beyond BWS**

If you follow our Instagram, you will have seen two old boys excelling in their sporting careers. Cadan Murley captained Harlequins for the first time this season as well as representing England A on the wing. Vaughn Covil continues to impress in Las Vegas with his new team, who had a breakthrough season reaching the playoffs and the Western Conference final.

Slightly more seasoned OWs have also been busy with Richard Hill working with Looseheadz mental health charity earlier this term at Salisbury RFC. A group of OWs took on the Barcelona Iron Man, Monty George qualifying in a time that will take him to World Championships.

Closer to home, we continue to have athletes in school competing on a stage beyond what we offer in school. A Webb placed top 10 in both shooting and eventing nationals representing BWS.

M Stahl has had a busy autumn representing GB in fencing across Europe, with more to follow. As I write, T Parker-Minty is competing in the national swimming short course winter champs. A Beebe came second nationally with hockey mentors at the national schools indoor hockey championships. Finally, I've just heard W Bate will play for England youth polo at Hickstead in January.

The breadth of talent at BWS is what makes it such a rich and diverse place to work, with many of the above being multi-sport athletes competing for the school as well as pursuing their passions beyond.

As we reach the end of this term and a well-earned rest, we have one eye on the new term where we get to the pointy end of most competitions with county, regional, and national finals afoot. You can guarantee our opponents will be trying to steal a march on us, and while we recuperate, I have no doubt our athletes will also be keeping busy in preparation for what is yet to come.

Thank you again to everyone who made this term happen and, of course, to our students who have represented the school brilliantly.

I wish you all a restful break with your families over the festive season.

Yours sincerely

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

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