



Bishop Wordsworth's School

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

7 April 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians

Spring Term Sports Report

Rugby

The 1st XV rugby team have taken all the plaudits this term, dominating the headlines in school, on Twitter and in the press with their outstanding form this season and cup run to Twickenham for the **national final**. For those of us there or watching on the live stream, it was an awesome occasion with boys and old boys revelling in the atmosphere and immensely proud of all those involved. The teams exploits on the pitch however is only the finishing touch and one piece of a journey that has taken years in the making. Huge credit must go to Mr Gilmour as he has led the rugby for the last three years, but also our volunteers, Jon Murley who masterminded the forwards and Mr Griffey who has been a huge support running fitness sessions, maintaining player health and adding his wealth of experience in high end competition.

Rugby 7s

Your ongoing support and the hard work of the boys have yielded other successes beyond the 1st XV this term. The U12s finished their maiden season as County 7s Champs while the U16s were Vase winners at Stowe and played at Rosslyn Park **Nationals 7s**.

Basketball

Basketball has seen its greatest success on a **national** level with the U14s reaching the quarterfinals and in turn providing an excellent springboard for next season as Mr Duckett strives to make Salisbury the basketball capital of the south both in and out of school. It's safe to say the sport has never been so popular.

Football

Football's philosophy is finally paying dividends with all year groups through to area semi-finals for the first time in years and the U16s reaching the quarterfinals of **nationals**. Mr Podger and Mr Oldham have been aided by the return of Joe Corley a BOB (Bishops Old Boy) in his second year at university working on placement for the year with us - another volunteer.

Cross Country

Cross country has continued its fine vein of form with numerous boys running at regionals and **nationals** as part of Wiltshire. Again without Mr Griffey this would not be possible.

Badminton

Finally the racket sports. Badminton made the regional finals for the second year running, finishing top 16 in the country.



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Tennis

Tennis reached **national finals** for the second time in three years. A fantastic result for a school without any tennis courts! At the end of the three day tournament in Bolton we finished 3rd, and with some strong youngsters we hope to boost our national ranking come the years end.

The Future

We are very proud of our breadth of sport and the success achieved on all fronts. The honest truth however is that without help we will struggle to maintain and progress in such a variety of activities, especially at a national level, with the school and department facing cuts on a financial and staff level.

We need one thing over all others, and that is your time as a **volunteer**. Without mini bus drivers, coaches on Saturdays, and most importantly referees, on big fixture days we will struggle to run our rugby programme or simply get to and run local sporting fixtures. If you're free for even one Saturday or one day in the week to drive your son's team it would be a huge help.

The second thing that is of huge importance is that every single sports person supports the **Sports Subs** which cover the cost of equipment, facilities, referees, first aid and travel beyond the curriculum.

If you're able and willing to support beyond subs for sport as a whole or a specific sport please do. We are actively seeking sponsors or supporters to contribute and these funds may be used in a variety of ways. This includes the running of or subsidising coaching and referee courses in various sports for students so we have a growing bank of referees and coaches to call upon while they are at school and beyond.

Finally we have the opportunity for two 'gap year' students to work at the school within the PE Department, preferably post graduates or at university. If you are able to help in anyway or know someone who would like to work within the department on placement please do get in touch.

This year has already been one of the best in the school's history. Three teams in **national finals**, two other teams making **national** quarters and other various regional and county successes. My hope is that we can make this more than a one-off, use it to keep building on the legacy and make this one year become some of the best years of sport at BWS.

Thank you all for your ongoing support, it has been a special year so far. I look forward to the athletics season and preparations in earnest for the forthcoming tour and the next season.

Best wishes over the Easter break.

Mr Demain-Griffiths
Director of Sport