



# Bishop Wordsworth's School

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

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Excuse my initial indulgence in congratulating and thanking the boys of the 1<sup>st</sup> XV Rugby Team. They have been an absolute pleasure to work with and watch, and yesterday's 3-0 defeat to RGS High Wycombe showed how far they have come. They have epitomised all that we strive for in our boys, with a great work ethic and a never say die attitude.

The result may not have gone their way as they exited the NatWest Cup in Round 5, but their performance was an example to us all. Disciplined, controlled, fearless and smart with a free flowing expressive style that has come to be our signature. They are role models to all the boys coming up through the school, and I wish them all the best on the next part of their rugby journey. The U15s have also enjoyed success, getting to the last 32 at their level. A huge thank you also to the travelling and home support, not just for the 1sts, but all teams and all sports, we certainly appreciate it and I know the boys do too.

Now on to business ..... Wow! What a term.

I feel I should begin this update by apologising to my staff for causing them such logistical headaches this term; squeezing all of our fixtures in, managing the facilities and pitches as well as organising the boys has proved to be a Herculean Task! Safe to say this term has been huge for BWS Sport and all of it can now be followed on our new sports results page [www.bws-sport.org.uk](http://www.bws-sport.org.uk). We have also added a new TV screen to the Sports Hall foyer and would like to invite parents to send in their top 10 pics from sporting action to be displayed and posted on the website, please send to [website@bws.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:website@bws.wilts.sch.uk). Do also have a look at the Old Wordsworthian Twitter Feed (via the BWS website [www.bws-school.org.uk](http://www.bws-school.org.uk) for further details of all alumni updates.

The rugby season is always busy, but this term has seen no fewer than four football teams in action, cross country, basketball, swimming, badminton and also tennis, with representation on local, regional and national levels. Thanks to Mr Hole for all his time and effort on making the pitches look amazing.

This term has also seen me achieve one of my personal goals which was to reach out to our alumni and reconnect with sporting old boys; although this is part of a whole school project, my joy particularly comes in the form of catching up with the old sportsman as well as those boys (now men) of my year group at BWS.

I had the pleasure of watching ex-1st XV player Robbie Keith (2010-2012) play for Durham 1st XV at half term. We've also seen the return of Tom Heathcote (2003-2010) to The Premiership with Worcester alongside Mikey Daniels (2003-2010) while Alex Bradley (2005-2012) has been in the tries along with team mate Phil Chesters (1999-2006) at Ealing in the Championship. Dave Egerton (1 XV Captain 1979) ex-Bath and England was touch line for our match against Clifton, Tim Crouch (1996-2003) ex-1<sup>st</sup> XV Captain was over from Los Angeles and watched the Kingswood game, while two other former skippers Josh Green (2010) and Ian Miller (also 2010) have both taken teams against Millfield and Canford with great success this season. Marcus Olsen (1<sup>st</sup> XV Captain 1989) was with us for our annual Dauntsey's encounter which this year was in aid of Joe Landon (2007-2012) raising £555.

On the theme of raising money and supporting others, the highly successful Argentina and Brazil Rugby Tour raised over £700 for the RFU Injured Player Foundation who have helped another old boy Jack Fishwick (1999-2006). His peers rallied once again completing the Tour de Fish to raise funds for a new



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hand bike for Jack, finishing at Britford Lane on the Whitgift weekend with another BBQ that raised £500 to add to the money that the boys raised completing their ride. Huge thanks to all the supporters and volunteers on these weekends and also to Mr Gilmour for his efforts putting the events and rugby season as a whole together.

The rugby season has seen some outstanding performances and noticeable call ups to boys at various academies including Bath, Harlequins and London Irish. The Saturday Rugby fixtures were strengthened with the return of Bryanston as opponents, and the results from that day were very pleasing - 6 wins, 3 losses and a draw in our favour. We also added Clifton College to an already impressive list of fixtures. The U12s have had a great start to their rugby careers at BWS with a number of tough fixtures already played. They also competed in the Salisbury 7s School Games tournament, finishing 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>; the event was, of course run brilliantly by our Sixth Form Sports Leadership boys.

While it may be the rugby season, the football teams have been in full swing also with U15, U16, U17 and U18 teams representing BWS in the Schools' FA Cup while the U18 and U17 sides continue their campaign in the County Cup. The school has also brought in Futsal which has proved a huge success with the boys. Football is developing at a rapid rate and the hard work of the boys and staff, Mr Podger and Mr Oldham (2001-2003), is very evident.

The Cross Country boys have been busy too and in impressive form with 4 local league meets and all three age groups won, plus three ESAA meets including the Nationals Finals in Bedford in which the Juniors finished 22<sup>nd</sup> and Inters 21<sup>st</sup>. A huge thank you to Mr Griffey (1969-1971) for all his time and effort in training and managing the boys, a number of whom have been selected to represent Salisbury at the County Championships.

The Tennis Team has seen history made on two counts with the Y8 making Regionals Finals for the first time placing in the top 16 of 600 schools nationally. The senior boys marched into the last 32 of their competition where they face Peter Symonds in the New Year and, for the first time ever, a 'Swishop's' mixed Tennis Team played, making the last 16 in their National competition; they are off to Sevenoaks in the next round.

Basketball saw the U16s and U17s record excellent wins over Marlborough, while the U13s and U15s lost to excellent Bristol Met sides, but learnt a lot in the process. The U14s won the local round of the School Games and so qualify for the County Finals; they also won their first group game of English Schools' Competition. I am sure there will be more from Basketball and Mr Duckett in the Easter update. In the pool our swimmers performed superbly in the Salisbury Schools Gala winning all the relays and a staggering number of individual medals led by Sydney Fenwick who won three individual golds and two relay golds. In Badminton our teams played in the local round of the national competition and won both age groups at KS3 and KS4. They will now progress to the County Finals in the New Year.

Individual achievements have also seen Rob Jones win the County Cross Country for U13 with Jaymee Domoney also coming 2<sup>nd</sup> in his age group. Chris Marfell continued his tumbling form from last year finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> in Great Britain and 8<sup>th</sup> at the World Age Games. Oscar Kitchen finished 12<sup>th</sup> nationally at the National Skills Diving Finals with a personal best.



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With the football season to start locally after Christmas, along with more cross country and the Rugby 7s season as well as preparation towards the Rugby Tour to Australia in 2017, 2016 looks set to be another bumper year of sport just as the last year has been. If you're free over the holidays the Boxing Day game in memory of Rory Walworth (2001-2008) will be played at Salisbury Rugby Club. Please do come along if you can as it is always a great family event.

I wish you all a very merry Christmas and look forward to the start of the Basketball (proper), Football and Rugby 7s season. Old boys - we very much hope to see you on Thursday 17 December between 6pm-8pm in the Sports Hall foyer for our inaugural old boy drinks.

Mr Demain-Griffiths (1996-2003)