



# Bishop Wordsworth's School

Exeter Street, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP1 2ED

**Telephone:** 01722 333851

**Fax:** 01722 325899

**E-mail:** admin@bws.wilts.sch.uk

**Website:** www.bws-school.org.uk

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

## **April 2016 - Spring Term Sports Report**

Country Life voted it 'The Best View in Britain' in 2002 and John Constable painted the cathedral a stone's throw from our route. Little do the boys know it, but the Town Path Run, all 2.2 miles of it, is through some of the most sought after scenery in the country. Luckily for them, they had ample opportunity at the start of this term while the hall and fields were both out of use to explore the glorious landscape in which we all live and work.

Few schools offer boys the opportunity or responsibility to make their own way around such a route. However, as a product of the system (having once been one of the boys at the back), I can testify to the character and determination it instils in our boys as well as the physical health benefits that accrue. It is this run, along with our need to run to the field and our weekly runs in Lower School around The Close, that I feel give our boys that mental and physical edge over opponents from other schools. Timed sessions in The Close and beyond make quite a difference!

### **Cross Country**

It is little wonder that Mr Griffey and his band of cross country runners have experienced such success this year culminating in two boys running at Nationals with Dan Poynting placing 90<sup>th</sup> in the country. Led by the imperious Rob Jones, the youngsters have also brought success notably at the Bryanston Relays, but also at Canford and Clayesmore. My personal highlight was my first outing to Grittleton House to watch our boys battle it out for selection to the Wiltshire County Team. With such a hot bed of middle distance talent I look forward to the Athletics Season to see what our boys across the school can produce on the track. Training for this has begun and takes place on Tuesday and Thursday nights at South Wilts. There will also be training at the field at lunchtimes and boys should enquire with the PE department.

### **Badminton**

The badminton boys in key stage 3 travelled to Plymouth for the South West champs where they narrowly missed out on a shot at Nationals finishing 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### **Table Tennis**

Table tennis lives to fight another day having won the local round of The School Games and we will compete at counties in Marlborough this Summer.

### **Tennis**

The senior tennis boys travelled to Truro, but, unlike last year, were just unable to progress to the National Finals; they exited their competition having reached the last 16.

### **Basketball**

The basketball teams have had a tough season with arguably some of our best basketball being played against some of the best opposition we have come up against. This unfortunately has meant few teams have progressed, but is not to say there haven't been some highlights. The Y9



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team won their respective county champs, while Luke Duckett, Alex Bairstow and Charles Kantolinna have been selected for the South West U13 squad, Matthieu Rident has a place in the Reading Men's Squad and the rise of the local Salisbury Sparks has had a noticeable impact on the quality of our boys' play throughout the school. For a sport seemingly lacking support and funding in the UK, basketball is very much thriving in Salisbury and at BWS.

## **Football**

The local league has been very frustrating as a result of postponements due to the weather, but even so teams in all age groups have unfinished cup campaigns to look forward to. The 1<sup>st</sup> XI meanwhile have had a great term with a 17-1 goal difference in their favour from two games and look to progress in both their cup and league competitions. They also played in the annual Warminster 6-aside, but this year were unable to progress beyond the quarter finals. House football this term has been a huge success; almost all boys have taken part, with A, B and C teams on show in most year groups. With a regular futsal club and established training days for most years, football is on the up in the school. We have made good links with both Southampton and Bournemouth Football Clubs and hope to have the opportunity to welcome their coaches in at some point next year following discussions this term.

## **Rugby 7s**

Without doubt some of the greatest success this term has come on the rugby pitch in the shorter format of the game as our 7s teams have brought home silverware at Canford (U16s Cup), Sexey's (U13 and U15 Cup and U15 Plate) and a Rosslyn Park semi-final for the 1<sup>st</sup> VII. Unfortunately the weather played its part disrupting the season with numerous tournaments cancelled, but again was a hugely positive experience for all boys involved developing their skill sets in preparation for next Autumn. With 7s set to make its Olympics debut this summer and the growth of the international competition, the game's shortened format is only set to grow and as a consequence I am sure this will become of greater focus for our rugby teams over the next few years.

This term has already seen games against the Dorset 7 Wilts Squad and also KES Stratford as we celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the first Daily Mail Cup Final. Both matches were a huge success and thank you to Mr Gilmour for organising.

## **Rugby Tour**

I should take a moment to highlight the work of the boys going to Hong Kong and Australia in 2017 who began their fund raising efforts with a bag pack at Tesco Amesbury raising over £700. With a target of £10,000 we have some way to go to ensure we meet our chosen charity mark of £1000 for Wings for Life, but a brilliant start boys, well done.

With one term left as we look towards the Cricket, Athletics and Tennis Season to come, I can begin to take stock of what we have achieved so far across all of our sports this year, with my ultimate aim to be the best state school for sport in the South West. Our boys and the staff have



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had a great year so far with many highlights across a whole spectrum of sports and I hope people are starting to see that we are not 'just a Rugby school' but that we actually offer a huge amount of variety to our boys for those in teams and recreationally. Great credit must go to the PE Staff and helpers, who do so much to support our boys across the full range of sports, deliver success and develop character through physical activities across the board.

I personally relished last term with so much going on and look forward to the next as the weather hopefully brightens and our attentions can turn to another roster of opportunities for our boys to shine.

Kind regards

R Demain-Griffiths  
Director of Sport