



# Bishop Wordsworth's School

Exeter Street, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP1 2ED

Telephone: 01722 333851

Fax: 01722 325899

E-mail: [admin@bws.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@bws.wilts.sch.uk)

Website: [www.bws-school.org.uk](http://www.bws-school.org.uk)

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

16 December 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians

This could quite comfortably be our best term of sport ever which is pleasing considering School Sports Magazine have ranked us only 66<sup>th</sup> in the country for top sporting state schools. This term's results alone will surely aid us in our climb up the ladder.

Nothing in sport is guaranteed, but with increased resilience, work ethic and the right attitude you can start to make things happen. The boys have been fantastic in our longest and usually busiest term and have got our school year off to a great sporting start.

## **Badminton**

Both our KS3 and KS4 teams won the local round of School Games and progress to the county finals in January. Jack Outterside led the way for the older boys with an outstanding display, having missed much of last year with a knee injury; it was great to have him back on court.

## **Basketball**

Mr Duckett has taken the ballers to new heights this year with more basketball than ever before and as a result they are thriving. The U14s qualified for the county finals of the School Games and despite being in a tough group, hope to qualify for the next stage along with the U19s. The U16s and U17s unfortunately look like they won't be progressing further despite some encouraging displays.

## **Cross Country**

Guided by Mr Griffey's expertise, the boys won every age group at the local cross country league, including the seniors. This has led to a large contingent being selected for county champs in January with high hopes of a strong group of BWS athletes progressing to regionals and nationals. The junior boys carried their local good form onto a regional and then national level by finishing 8<sup>th</sup> in the country at the English Schools Champs in Formby. Rob Jones ran a great individual race to finish 10<sup>th</sup> overall, he then followed this up with a win at the tri-county finals with Lukas Bailey finishing 4<sup>th</sup>.

Track training on a Tuesday after school at SWGS continues for those boys competing in the cross country, but also for our athletes and other sportsmen.

## **Football**

Football has gone from strength to strength in recent years and the 16s in particular are having a fantastic season. They are in the last 16 and quarters of two national competitions and the quarters of their county cup, along with the U14s. The seniors despite competitive games have



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unfortunately been knocked out of their national cups, but continue after Christmas in their county group and FA regional league.

The most pleasing part of the season thus far is the number of younger boys stepping up to play for the older sides. The school has also recently signed up to the FA Respect Campaign, and so with the talent coming through and the right attitude, we hope to see the school achieving great things not only on a county level but consistently on a national level.

After Christmas all years will move onto football and so shin pads will be required for all boys.

## **Rugby**

In what is traditionally the rugby term, it is only right that rugby steals the limelight. The U12 boys have played plenty of matches this term and have shown their pedigree winning the local round of schools games 7s. They will progress to the finals in March. The younger years have had tough runs in our competitive fixture list, but none the less have stepped up. The 15s with a disjointed and broken team over the season, have improved immeasurably and although exited the Natwest Cup to Sherborne, put in a mature display.

Our 16s have had a highly pleasing season with huge wins against Clifton, Sherborne and Millfield. They still have the county cup final ahead of them after Christmas. With four of them playing up in the senior team the future looks bright.

The senior boys have come close to toppling the likes of Sherborne, Clifton and Hampton with a draw and narrow one and two point defeats, while victories over Marlborough, Bryanston and Millfield maintained a decent position in the Daily Mail table. The headline however has been their cup run which takes them into the quarter finals against The Judd School on January 18<sup>th</sup> in Tonbridge. Two games from Twickenham, a feat last achieved in 1991 with a certain Richard Hill.

If you are looking for something to do on Boxing Day be sure to head to Salisbury RFC for the annual Rory Walworth Memorial game which brings old boys from far and wide to play against each other. It is a fantastic family occasion with some excellent rugby; I might even try and sneak on for a little run around.

## **Tennis**

For the first time we had two year groups into the knock out rounds of the Aegon Team Tennis competition. Y10 unfortunately fell at the first hurdle, while Y8 went to Regional Finals and finished in the top 16 in the country, for the second year in a row. The seniors, in a bid not to be out done, have progressed two teams in their respective competition. With one team already in the last 16 and the other in the last 32 with a match to play, the chance of a team at National Finals in Bolton is high. The boy's hard work at all levels of the game including our Road to Wimbledon participants and curriculum tennis, has been recognised by the Wiltshire LTA with The Education award in the Aegon British Tennis awards. Thanks to Salisbury Tennis Club for their support.



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## **Tour '17 (Hong Kong & Australia)**

With fixtures confirmed against Hong Kong and Sedbergh in Hong Kong, The Cathedral School in Townsville, Ipswich Grammar in Brisbane and Kings in Sydney, the tour is shaping up to be hotly contested. I am pleased to also announce both The Cathedral School and Kings will be across in the autumn of 2017 and if you would like to host an Australian please keep an eye out, I know the families involved this year were very impressed with the boys who stayed.

The fund raising continues with a quiz night, race night and other events planned in the new year, please do keep your eyes peeled and support the boys and parents in their endeavours. A percentage of all money raised goes to Wings for Life who have supported old boy Jack Fishwick.

As always if you would like to get involved with any of the above or would like to support us in any way possible, please do not hesitate to get in touch. Without the fantastic support of our parents, taking teams on a Saturday, driving boys mid-week and helping in the kitchen, none of the above would be possible.

I hope you have a fantastic Christmas and New Year and I hope to see as many people as possible on Boxing Day as well as pitch side to show support for the boys in their various competitions in the New Year.

Best wishes

Richard Demain-Griffiths  
Director of Sport