

Sports Report December 2019

Three County Finals (U16 Rugby, KS3 & KS4 badminton), two Regional Finals (Y8 Tennis and Junior Cross Country), one National Semi Final (1st XV Rugby) and one National Final (Inter Cross Country). Not a bad haul from a long term that has been filled with some unbelievably tough opponents. Our boys are not only talented and bright, but they have huge character and resilience that I have no doubt serves them well not only on the sports field, but the classroom and later in life. To experience the success we have across the breadth of sports is outstanding and just reward for the hard work put in by the boys and staff. With many of the above to be concluded in 2020 and more to come, TEAM BWS Sport is as healthy and vibrant as ever.

Badminton

Badminton has grown in recent years with large numbers playing in and out of school. The KS3 and KS4 boys became Salisbury Area winners earlier this term and progress to the England Badminton County Finals in January with a real shot at regionals.

Basketball

The basketball season has started with the U13 and U15 sides playing up a year group and the U15s getting a result against St John Marlborough. The U14 won their School Games Local Round in the final week of term and will play in the county finals in the new year. The U17 have travelled to an excellent Holy Trinity and the U19 have defeated Winchester in their respective pools.

Our link with Salisbury Sparks continues to grow as many of our boys play for the club outside school and the senior boys' side now plays in the National League. They, like the school, are always on the lookout for referees and if you are able to or know anyone who would be interested please do get in touch.

Cross Country

The boys continued their form in the local league races dominating all age groups. There were four top ten runners in the minors with Toby Taverner placing second overall, 8 top 10 in the juniors, really showing their strength in depth with Will Taverner winning overall and Otto Jenner placing third. Five top ten finishers in the inters with Rob Jones, Lukas Bailey and Jake Dinkele taking the top three spots. Finally in the seniors as the only runners we dominated with Dan Poynting leading the field, followed by Bertie Petit, Toby Brawn and Henry Dix. This all means that over twenty BWS runners will be represented at the Wiltshire Champs in January.

The English Schools Cross Country Cup teams have once again also been in fine form with the Junior and Inter teams making the regionals finals, and the Inters making it to the National Final for the sixth year running. An amazing achievement and testament to the hard yards the boys put in through the year and the efforts of Mr Griffey; they finished as the top placed school in the South West and 12th nationally.



Football

For the second year running we welcomed a touring side, Ignatius Park College, Townsville, Australia. The match was fantastic and went to the wire, being decided on by penalties which BWS took. The 1st XI carried this form into their Wiltshire Schools FA league, beating Commonweal, but unfortunately exited the County Cup losing to Andover. We have again entered a 2nd XI and to have over 30 boys playing football at senior level is great, with more matches to come into the new year.

Special mention to alumni Vaughn Covil who is now playing for Forest Green Rovers and doing unbelievably well, a very humble well rounded young man living his dream as a young professional.



Individual Highlights

Congratulations to Harry Wainwright in Y11 who has been called up to the American Football U17 GB Junior Lions Development Squad and also Matthew Stahl and Alec Dakin who came first and second in their age group at the County Youth Fencing Championships.



Rugby

A really tough first half of the rugby season saw us take on some of the inform sides in the country. Whitgift are a goliath of the school game and Cranleigh too who play some great stuff and finished top of the Daily Mail league table this year. These sides were in addition to Sherborne and Canford who were also all guns blazing making the early fixtures across the school tough. That said our boys are hugely resilient and we have had some outstanding performances. Most notably from the U16 and U15 groups who both took Whitgift right to the line. No surprise then that the U16 made their County Final against Canford and came away victorious after a game that was seesawing with BWS not leading until the final 10 minutes. A great achievement and reward for the hard work of the boys and Mr Oldham. While the U15 play in the last 32 of the National Vase against Lord Williams on December 11th, again fine reward for a transformed side this year under the guidance of Mr Hole.



The U14 group have had a tough time this season with multiple injuries and seemingly their opposition growing at a quicker rate than them. That said they made their County Quarter Final where they put in one of their best displays against a determined Marlborough side. This was then followed up by two outstanding efforts from the As and Bs against Kingswood, narrowing the gap on previous years. This year has a lot of talent and heart, their collective size has been their biggest enemy, but I have no doubt the camaraderie and 'never say never' spirit will see them kick on as they move up through the school, especially given the depth of players, with over 50 boys representing across three sides this year.

Lower down the school we have been able to run at times four sides at U12 level which has been great with over 50 boys representing the school. They too have played some of the best around including Millfield Prep and Whitgift as well as playing at the St Edwards Oxford U12 Festival, the first time we have entered. Our focus across all sides has been on their performance and goals within this and the boys have responded well and really kicked on.



The U13 group is strong and again we have managed to run three sides at times this year, while also playing the big independents and they have had the opportunity to play our more local preps in Chafyn and Salisbury Cathedral School which are always great occasions. I look forward to seeing these boys make the step up to U14 rugby and taking on the big independents.

The senior sides like the others have had a tough outing in particular at the start of the year. The 3rd XV despite victory have enjoyed some cracking matches, while the 2nds nicked wins against both Dauntsey's and Downside.



The 1st XV hosted our friends Townsville, Australia at the start of the season, nicking a victory that is no mean feat, while also going toe to toe with a special Sherborne side. To say it hasn't been easy would be an understatement and we have taken time to gel and establish our brand and values, but through the adversity of the first half of term we secured an important victory over Portsmouth Grammar School, who beat us last year. This set us on our way to a National Plate Semi Final with excellent victories over Reading Blue Coats and Reeds and the final match at home for the senior players. These performances were awesome and epitomised the grit and determination our boys ooze. The ability to dig deep and the attitude to not just give up is massive and isn't something that is easily taught, but our boys have it in abundance and it gets them ahead of other individuals and teams that don't. Their Bishops-ness (I don't know what else to call it) has taken them to a third National Quarter in four years and the second National Semi-Final. This 'ness is honed in the lower years when we're not as big and don't have much time to practice as opponents, but still step on the park heads held high with our mates. It's a special thing to be a part of a team, even more so when you're in it with your mates and know that no one is going to take a backward step.



It has been great to have both Josh Green and Rob Keith, both ex 1st XV players involved with the team this year bringing their invaluable experience and sharpening things up in our set piece and attack play. As well as Angus Hogg writing our S&C program and Mr Griffey leading fitness sessions. To be able to call upon people with such experience and for them to give their time freely is huge and testament to the type of boys we develop and the fantastic culture we have here at BWS.

The addition of Alex Beck our physio this year has been a resounding success. Regularly piecing boys back together for us and also providing greater clarity in managing concussion.

Thank you as always to everyone who makes it happen, without the support of people volunteering their time none of it would be possible. To finish the season with nearly 200 boys out on a Saturday across the whole school is awesome.



Tennis

Year 8 tennis team competed in the Regional Finals of the Schools Tennis competition playing Millfield in the first round who went on to win. The boys then played Richard Lander School from Truro and had a great fixture. In particular the youngest member of the team Hari Chowdhury took his opponent all the way to the line eventually losing 5-7, with the team just being pipped in the doubles to miss out on a championship tie break. To finish top 16 nationally is a great achievement and I look forward to this coming season.



The Future – Rugby 7s, 2020 & 2021

I am excited to announce that Ultimate Rugby 7s will be hosting a talent ID day on Feb 9th for our U14 and U15 rugby 7s players with local independents also invited along with a state school barbarians side. This is a great opportunity for our boys to be exposed to professional 7s players and coaches with two of our senior boys Chris Chaddock and Harvey Boardman already involved in their U18 academy. Chris is also the first of our boys to have a tilt at Lambs (<https://www.lambsrugby.com/>) rugby, which I wish him all the best for. As well as Mike Bradwell who is currently with the Philippines U19 side in China at Asia Rugby U19 Champs. They beat Thailand and are due to play Sri Lanka in the final on Saturday.



I have also included our 2020 fixture card for both 15s and 7s. All dates and opponents as they are confirmed will be added to the Sports Fixtures calendar:

<https://www.bishopwordsworths.org.uk/main-school/activities/sport/fixtures/>

A formal results page will be added to the new website in the New Year to complement our already existing Twitter and Instagram (bwssport) feeds. Should you have any pictures from fixtures, please select a couple of your favourites and send them in.

Finally as I wrote earlier in the term our tour to South Africa in 2021 is gathering momentum and I hope to officially launch in the new year to the current Y10 and Y11 rugby players. With the Lions dates now announced we hope to firm up our itinerary shortly.

Match Number	Opponent	Date	Venue	Location
1	DHL STORMERS	SATURDAY 3 JULY	CAPE TOWN STADIUM	CAPE TOWN
2	SOUTH AFRICA INVITATIONAL	WEDNESDAY 7 JULY	NMB STADIUM	PORT ELIZABETH
3	CELL C SHARKS	SATURDAY 10 JULY	JONSSON KINGS PARK	DURBAN
4	SOUTH AFRICA 'A'	WEDNESDAY 14 JULY	MBOMBELA STADIUM	NELSPRUIT
5	VODACOM BULLS	SATURDAY 17 JULY	LOFTUS VERSFELD	PRETORIA
6	SPRINGBOKS	SATURDAY 24 JULY	FNB NATIONAL STADIUM	JOHANNESBURG
7	SPRINGBOKS	SATURDAY 31 JULY	CAPE TOWN STADIUM	CAPE TOWN
8	SPRINGBOKS	SATURDAY 7 AUGUST	EMIRATES AIRLINE PARK	JOHANNESBURG

It's been a fantastic first term and a fitting way to finish 2019 and the decade. 10 years ago I started my work at BWS and it's nice to know ten years down the line that firstly I am still here, but that the boys (and soon to be girls) are still the same and still more than punching above their weight across a variety of activities.

It's a special place to be and I wouldn't have it any other way. I look forward to a decent break, but also the prospect of what next term, 2020 and the new decade holds in store for us.

Have a great Christmas.



Richard Demain-Griffiths
Director of Sport

Rugby Fixtures 2020

Rugby XV & VIs January – March 2020

Date	Team	Competition
15-Jan	U15	R5 Vase
26-Jan	1st VII	Seaford 7s
02-Feb	1st VII	PGS 7s
09-Feb	U14 & U15 VII	BWS UR7s
12-Feb	1st/2 nd 3 rd XV	Mad Dog Barbarians
04-Mar	U15 & 1st XV	Vase/Plate Semi Finals
07-Mar	U12-U16	Warwick 7s
08-Mar	1st VII	South West 7s
09-13-Mar	U12-U15	Wiltshire Schools 7s
17-Mar	U15 & 1st XV	Vase/Plate Finals
20-Mar	U12	School Games 7s Final
24-25-Mar	1st VII	Rosslyn Park
25-26-Mar	U16	Rosslyn Park

Rugby XV September – December 2020

Date	Team	Opposition
5-Sept	Pre Season	Pre Season
12-Sept	Rest	N/A
19-Sept	U14-1 st XV	Cranleigh
26-Sept	U14-1 st XV	Seaford
3-Oct	U12-1 st XV	Oratory
10-Oct	U14-1 st XV	Canford
17-Oct	U12-1 st XV	Whitgift
7-Nov	TBC	Dauntseys
14-Nov	U14-1 st XV	Downside
21-Nov	U14-1 st XV	Marlborough (TBC)
28-Nov	Rest	N/A
5-Dec	U12-1 st XV	Kingswood