



Bishop Wordsworth's School

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Dear Parents/Guardians

From September to December we have had 10 sports in action, nearly 40 teams and over 100 fixtures. This includes our debut in the National Squash Championship, a BWS golf team, polo and more rugby players than we have had in the last 10-15 years. To say we have bounced back following a tough 2020/2021 would be an understatement.

One of our key messages is for our students to take the opportunities afforded them and so I am particularly proud to have so many involved in what we are able to offer. Roughly 350 students represented the school in rugby alone this term, with the number of sports people totalling over 450 and this is easily over 1/3 of the school or 40%+ of each year group.

With football to come after Christmas, along with lacrosse and hockey in the Sixth Form, I have no doubt these numbers will grow some more, before we get into our summer provision of cricket, athletics and tennis.

To see a round up of all our sporting action please head across to our socials and check the school calendar for upcoming fixtures and training:

Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/bwssport/?hl=en>

Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/bwsrugby>

<https://twitter.com/bwssports>

Calendar/Sports Website:

<https://www.bishopwordsworths.org.uk/main-school/about-bishops/school-calendar/>

<https://sports.bws-school.org.uk/?id=482>

Cross Country

Mr Griffey's hard work with the runners paid off in a disrupted local league season with the boys dominating most age groups as individuals and as a team. With counties in the new year we expect a decent group to be a part of the Wiltshire team going forward.

The boys also secured places in the Cross Country Cup National Final down in Newquay where we placed 25th in the inters and 18th in the seniors. We have had representation at the finals for a long time and with the talent coming through we look forward to bettering these results next year.

Basketball

The leagues have been postponed due to Covid, but this hasn't stopped Mr Duckett getting the boys ready with the seniors two from two and the U14s winning the local round of the National Competition, they progress to the county round in the new year.

Football

Our main season kicks off after Christmas, but the 1st XI with Mr Roca had a decent National Cup run to the 3rd round before defeat against an excellent Commonweal, while the U16s continue post-Christmas with their County Cup campaign.

Golf

The golf team led by Mr Vaughan took on Eton at Swinley Forest in a friendly outing that against tough opposition, resulted in an honourable draw. With half the team here next year and Eton keen to play again in the new year we look to have a strong foundation. I also hope to enter us into the ISGA tournaments.

Netball

The netball team continues to go from strength to strength with Mr Hole at the helm. The girls are playing a particular brand which is now starting to come together with noticeable victories over local opponents SWGS and Godolphin, while we continue to press on in order to challenge the likes of Marlborough, Canford and Dauntsey's.

Polo

The polo team took on a strong Marlborough at Druids Lodge, while we also ran another excellent taster session in the snow attended by a number of our Sixth Form students and we hope to do similar again in the new year.

Racket Sports

Tennis has been strong at BWS for some time now with the Y10 team making regional finals and placing 2nd to Millfield earlier this term, our best ever result. The senior boys teams played Clifton College and Colstons with the As winning both their matches and receiving a walk over from their final opponent meaning they progress in their National Competition. The girls were beaten by a strong Symonds team and are yet to play St Swithuns in their group.

The badminton teams recorded strong victories in the local round of their national competition and we look forward to their county round in the new year.

One area where we have always had strong numbers but not competed nationally is in squash, however with our grad assistant Mr Williams being a keen squash man, we saw an opportunity with two sides heading to Epsom and Charter House for their cluster group matches. We were unable to progress from the group, but performed well and with two young sides the future looks very bright for BWS squash.

Rugby

Despite losing a month to Covid we have had a highly successful rugby season with 17 sides in action over the course of the term with 45-60 boys from each year representing the school.

At U12 and U13 level we have had brilliant triangulars down at Millfield Prep, as well as hosting Salisbury Cathedral, Peirins and Poole mid week on top of the weekend blocks. My intention was to play every boy in these years who wanted to have the opportunity to represent the school.

The U14s had a brilliant cup run to the semi finals as well as a 3rd round appearance in the school sports magazine national competition against Bloxham. They, like the U15 and U16 sides, have had tough seasons against the independents but have equipped themselves admirably and had some brilliant encounters.

The U15s played in round 4 of the Schools Cup, an excellent run with some really competitive rugby and a team that kept scoring despite results maybe not going their way during our blocks. A similar tale for the U16s who had a disjointed season, but when all fit and willing put some really nice rugby together.

Two highlights for the U16s would be playing a Salisbury School Barbarians side at Salisbury RFC earlier in the season and as an U17 side with the lower sixth, one of our favourite games of the season was against Whitgift. We look forward to reforming this side again after Christmas against Beechen, as well as more fixtures with local or combined state school opposition to help grow the game more in the local area and give as many boys the opportunity to play.

The Sixth Form suffered some tough defeats early on after missing a month of competition, followed by some fine victories in the second half of term before an Eton match which provided an excellent show piece to finish the term on. The seniors have come a huge way in a short space of time and should be proud of their achievements as they have really driven their own processes and culture to become a fine set of young men on and off the park. Something commented on by our opposition who noted the positive and humble manner in which our boys operated.

It was the Eton weekend though that made the term for me with 200 boys out across 11 sides. It was a special day for our school and quite brilliant to see so many involved and great to see a friend and OW N Flanagan doing so well as Director of Sport at such a school.

Beyond BWS we have various boys and girls involved in their respective County teams, Ultimate Rugby 7s Academy, Lambs U18 invitational side and boys involved with Bath Academy, including O Branagan who is a part of the U18 Academy squad playing over this festive period.

We look forward to the various 15s, 10s and 7s fixtures we have lined up as well as the tour which has now moved to Canada for 2022, with another tour again to Canada now in the pipeline for 2023.

Watch this space for an Auction of Promises, March 18th to raise money for the tour kit on the Canada 2022 tour as well as a charity as yet to be decided by the tourists

Beyond BWS

Matthew Stahl continued his fine form in fencing despite the long lay off, winning the Hampshire U14 champs and Hari Putt came 5th with Hampshire in the inter-counties water polo champs.

Support Sponsors Sports Projects

Quilter Cheviot: www.quiltercheviot.com

Fawcetts: <https://www.fawcetts.co.uk>

Blue Frontier: <https://www.bluefrontier.co.uk>

Girls Love Fit: <https://girlslovefit.co.uk>

Thanks as always to our sponsors and also the volunteers who make all that we do possible. The PGS weekend in particular springs to mind where we had some very cold boys and our parents and volunteer staff were brilliant in looking after not only our boys, but the opposition, including help coach one of their sides.

We have also settled on the plan for our Sports Project, which I am pleased to say will see a Multi Use Games Area installed in the bottom corner of Britford Lane, with the same footprint as the sports hall. This will allow for 5 bays of cricket nets, a netball and tennis court and the ability for our sports teams to train on the surface all year round.

With so many sports now for boys and girls it is imperative that we add another venue to be able to facilitate the opportunity of sport for all, but also that our sports teams can continue to train throughout the year.


This is an ambitious project, but one we hope to bring to fruition by Autumn 2022. We are finalising the literature with our Alumni and Development Officer Mrs Popham, but in order to complete the project we will be looking for external funds beyond the school and have some excellent sponsorship packages available for persons or companies who may be able to support us.

The project will benefit every student in the school from the lower years curriculum cricket to the senior netball, football and rugby having a winter training surface. It is an exciting time and I hope as many as possible will support us. I certainly wish we had something like this available to us when I was at BWS. An event will be held in the new year to launch the project with parents and potential sponsors.

The above project, like a lot of things at BWS, require people giving of themselves. Without our school community doing so we cannot exist, provide and compete on the regional and national level that we do.

Thank you to all those who have contributed to Team BWS this term. It has been brilliant to have so many of our students back involved in sport and I personally really look forward to the new term, but for now am particularly excited about school Christmas lunch and all that follows! Have a well-earned break and enjoy the festive season.

Yours sincerely



Mr R Demain-Griffiths
Director of Sport