



Bishop Wordsworth's School

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Dear Parents/Guardians

Finally we have had a term with some sense of normality from a sporting point of view! Thank you all for holding on in there with us and to the students who have continued to work so hard when there didn't seem to be much light at the end of the tunnel.

Unsurprisingly the term has been busy. All our summer sports have been in action as well as some rugby as a hangover from the RFU extending the season, a sprinkling of squash and some polo for good measure.

I am pleased to announce our major new sponsor Quilter Cheviot who will feature on team training wear and will also be involved with some of the HE delivery to the Sixth Form with regard to finances.

Before reviewing what we have been up to, I would like to look ahead to the future in terms of sports kit, fixtures, clubs and how we fund it all. For all related information please head across to the website for all relevant links including the fixtures and clubs for the Autumn term as well as the Teamwear shops which are now open until 25 July for September delivery. You will also find a link to summer training ideas for all running distances, body weight circuits and yoga.

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

For coverage of our sports please follow our Instagram and twitter feeds:

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

<https://twitter.com/BWSSports>

Athletics has been a mainstay of BWS Sport for as long as most can remember, including Mr Griffey, so a long time! Unfortunately, most cross country other than virtual events were lost to the pandemic, but this did not stop our middle-distance boys continuing their training and since Easter the rest of the athletes also got back in the groove, with sessions led by Mr Hole and Mr Duckett.

With Y10 we knew we had a team capable of achieving national success, while Y8 were an unknown quantity having missed all of their Y7 season. Neither disappointed, winning their respective age groups at Abingdon School in the ESAA Track & Field Cup. Y8 won their competition, while Y10 won theirs and placed 4th as the best county winner and 11th nationally in terms of overall scores.

Y10 also went to Marlborough for a meeting earlier in June and again ran out winners against the likes of the hosts, St Edwards Oxford and St Pauls, Barnes. After nearly two years without any track and field it was great to finally see the boys out there again.

Congratulations must go to Theo Cochrane who came 8th nationally representing Wiltshire at the ESAA National Champs. Theo's representation comes after breaking the school high jump record with an indoors jump of 1.93m during Sports Day which this year took place over a week in order to keep bubbles separate. The week was a huge success with some outstanding performances across the board, the most enthralling competition came unsurprisingly between the Y10 group with 0.4s separating the winner and second place in the 300m. Thanks to Mr Hole for organising and all the staff and students who helped and all those who competed to make Sports Day such a great event.

Cricket has come to life this term after a winter in the nets. We have had 12 weeks of curriculum cricket through PE and Games as well as extra-curricular cricket and multiple matches across year groups. It has been great to finally see the cricket at BWS in full swing again after many years.

Mr Roca has been busy along with Mr Oldham and other members of staff to ensure all year groups have had competitive fixtures in friendlies as well as cup competition. The U14s played in the county final against Marlborough, while the U13 and U15 sides ran out state school county champions - the former with a commanding victory with a strong squad showing huge strength throughout.

I have no doubt along with the girls sport, that cricket can compete on a level with the best and although we had some tough losses against some of the heavy weights in the region, the boys have also grown and certainly come on. If they can improve so much in one season the future is certainly bright.

Girls have also got involved this term through lunchtime sessions and we hope with more coming in the new year we can field a senior girl's team in time. This also forms part of our strategy with cricket as a whole and our aim is to develop an all-weather surface at Britford Lane suitable for external cricket nets, but also netball and training for our other sports when the ground would otherwise be unplayable. A really exciting project that I hope with the help of the BWS Foundation, alumni and local business we can see come to fruition by the middle to end of 2022.

Netball finally got some fixtures in after a frustrating first year. However the girls never stopped working and training and were rewarded for their efforts with a fine win over Godolphin before a tougher fixture against Dauntsey's. With more girls due in September Mr Hole is looking forward to seeing what heights he can take them to with multiple fixtures in for the new year as well as national competition. No doubt they will be a success, particularly with newly appointed 1st VII Captain Imi McMahon at the helm with Martha Royle as her vice.

Rugby also continued into the Summer term to allow the seniors a couple of final run outs before departing. The senior players had trained all year without knowing if they would play or not, testament to their dedication and commitment, and in the end it all paid off.

We were able to host a Stayers v Leavers match which was a great occasion, narrowly won by the leavers, but fiercely contested by the stayers and with some U16s also playing, the future looks strong for senior rugby. This form was taken into the two fixtures against old foes Bryanston and Marlborough. The matches were played 3 days apart which added to the occasion with rehab and review a key part of the process. Led by Tom Edmunds and Charles Kantolinna, the 1st XV were victorious over both opponents, with a nil score line against Bryanston particularly pleasing and a physically dominant match against Marlborough with multiple boys on debut again emphasising the strength coming through.

The U17 squad also recorded a fine win against Bryanston, but most pleasing of all was to have nearly 40 boys out of the regular season putting their bodies on the line for each other and buying into our processes after such a long period of uncertainty.

We look forward to this coming Autumn as we prepare for our delayed tour to South Africa which will now take place in July 2022. Congratulations to Jack Pawson who will Captain the 1st XV with Ollie Bate as his vice.

Tennis has seen more players than ever on court with regular attendance at morning sessions over 40 which facilitated the ability to play multiple teams at age group and also seek further opportunity. To have 24 students on court one day against Marlborough and Bryanston was brilliant. To have so many keen to play and be able to offer the opportunity is something I doubt many other state schools would be able to do.

In terms of competition, the Y8 and Y10 A teams both progressed to the regional knock outs of their Division 1 competition. Y10 won their Division 2 league and Y8 came second in theirs. Both the sixth form teams took on tough opposition in their national competitions with the girls losing to Talbot Heath and the boys to Millfield, however the manner in which all played was encouraging and showed the spirit and passion of our students. Much like the rugby it was great to see them in action against some of the nations best at their age group. With so much strength and depth coming up through and that mental resilience, I hope we can continue in the same vein with knock out tennis for all years in the Autumn.

Congratulations to H Choudhury who won the county final of the road to Wimbledon competition and is off to Wimbledon this summer for the National finals.

As well as our more traditional offering, squash have taken on Bryanston this term, again with boys representing the school who had not previously done so. The polo boys also played Bryanston before a charity match against Druids Lodge as part of a charity day in aid of the Stars Appeal.

Beyond BWS, Cadan Murley won the Premiership with Harlequins after a tumultuous year as a club and personally with injuries, a fine result and sporting story. Xav Hastings played for England U20 and has made the move to Hartpury for his rugby next year, where he'll be playing his trade against Jared Cardew who has signed for Richmond. While Mike Bradwell Y13 continues to represent the Philippines this time in rugby 7s.

With A level PE returning in September we have also taken time to look at what some of our academic students are now doing by way of sign posting potential pathways to university and careers beyond.

<https://www.bishopwordsworths.org.uk/main-school/activities/sport/beyond-bws-and-a-level-pe/>

Thanks to everyone who has made the term possible, including our two sports grads, Dizz and Ellie who have been of great assistance and headed up most of our social media as well as reconnecting with alumni in such projects as the one above. We wish them all the best as they venture off to pastures new.

The year as a whole has been an odd one, but to finish with a term so full of sporting endeavour fills me personally with great pride and joy for all that we are able to do and have achieved in the last 18 months as well as this term. I relish the prospect of September and the opportunities it brings for our young men and women to press on and hone their craft to

become not just better sports people, but better people as a whole. Following Cadan's success with Harlequins, he made reference in an interview to the brilliant rugby players he has the pleasure to work with, but in reality they are better blokes – nice to see the messages in the professional game from our former 1st XV captain are in line with the messages we strive for with our current students, focusing on not just the sport, but the person.

Have a great break and see you in September.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Demain-Griffiths', written in a cursive style.

Richard Demain-Griffiths
Director of Sport