



Bishop Wordsworth's School

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Dear Parents/Guardians

As I look back and reflect on this term, it has been one of our busiest yet and full of the highs and lows of sport.

As you read this I will hopefully be in Canada with 46 boys and 5 other staff on the senior rugby tour. An event which is a two year process, and one that has been supported brilliantly by our parents, raising significant funds for the trip and over £1000 for The Wooden Spoon Charity. Thank you to all who have contributed, please find the tour program via the link below:

<https://www.bishopwordsworths.org.uk/assets/Uploads/Tour-Program-Final.pdf>

Earlier this year we confirmed our first girls sports tour with 16 currently signed up for our rugby 7s and netball tour to Dubai in February 2024. If the number of girls attending our taster events is a gauge we can expect more to sign on come September.

Finally on 1 July we held our inaugural Big Bish Bash, a real festival of cricket. Attended by current students, recent leavers and the class of 1973. It was a great event, special thanks to our Head of Alumni Relations and Development, Caroline Popham for putting it together, the BWSPA for their support and Lily Harffey our sports assistant who has led cricket this year, and umpired the whole day.

The funds from the Big Bish Bash will go towards our Pitch In campaign which rolls on albeit with some changes in design as in consultation with Sport England, we move to stand alone cricket nets and a stand alone all weather training surface for all sports. However we are still some way from our target amounts and continue to seek assistance and support to install what would be a game changing facility for BWS sport.

For more information on how to [sponsor](#) or make a [personal donation](#) please follow the links. Please find the link to our [Sports Website/Kit](#) where all the latest information, including fixtures and social media links (@bwssport) can be found, as well as a link to the teamwear shop which is due to remain open until mid July, for September delivery.

Athletics

The athletics season kicked off with a fantastic senior event at Dauntsey's which we hope to be involved in again in future years. It was great to see so many of our netball and rugby players out in the track and field. The following week was Area Sports and Schools Cup. At Area our minor, junior, inter and senior boys won their respective competitions with some outstanding performances leading to over 20 athletes being selected for county trials and subsequent regional competition. Three boys were then selected to represent at the national finals, J Earle and J Duckett in javelin and W Ransome in triple jump.

In the same week was the first round of the Schools Cup where our Y8 and Y10 teams compete, both of whom topped their competition and qualified for regionals at Millfield. Unfortunately neither qualified for national finals, being pipped by just 3 points at Y10 and 12 in Y8, and Y10 scored more points than last years' teams. We cannot fault the boys for effort.

Due to school strikes our Quad Kids athletes couldn't defend their county title, despite a dominant display in the local round.

Sports Day was spread across three days as last year with different age groups competing and it was a brilliant three days with the sun shining and competition hot! Poore house took the spoils overall, but every one of the competitors should be proud of their efforts. Thanks to Mr Hole for organising and to all the staff and student volunteers who helped make it happen.

Basketball

The U13s wrapped up their Junior NBA campaign with a third place finish at the regional finals and D Fabi won the shooting contest.

For the first time we hosted girls basketball to gauge interest, needless to say there was some and Mr Duckett has enjoyed a couple of afternoons with current and hopeful joining students.

Cricket

Cricket has been in full swing this term with over 20 fixtures across the various year groups and a small, sided festival at Dauntsey's. The senior sides with many youngsters playing up experienced some tough fixtures against the best around, but were more than competitive and caused a few scares along the way. The highlights being 2nd and 3rd team victories over Bryanston and Winchester and both were as equally enthralling.

The U15 players probably had the best season in terms of results and numbers as many played up as a year group. They made the county cup semi final before losing to a well drilled Marlborough side.

The lower years had some good knocks as well, playing the local prep schools and competing in the Dauntsey's Super 7s competition. The challenge next year will be to maintain the positive growth and environment we have experienced this year.

To finish the year our 1st XI will host Garsfontein from South Africa on the final Tuesday of term in what is sure to be a tough final outing, but great to have the opportunity against another top side.

Football

Football experienced an outstanding all-round season with every age group through to area semis and subsequent finals. The U14s came away victorious, while the U12 and U16 year groups did not complete their season due to running out of time. As a result of this we have offered to take on the organisation of local football and restructure the format into leagues, with the overall winner taking the cup.

The seniors were in the county cup and dorset schools cup final, unfortunately coming second best in both, but the result takes nothing away from a brilliant season. Preparation

is already under way for next season with preseason all happening along with a trip to Arsenal's training ground at the end of August.

Rugby

While the senior boys have been preparing for tour over the last few weeks and other year groups for next season, we have been lucky enough to have Scottish Qualified and Ultimate Rugby 7s in to run sessions and broaden our players experiences and opportunities. Bath have also been in to work with the girls who have been to Millfield a couple of times this term to play England Touch.

Tennis

After a highly successful year for tennis, the summer effectively sees it start over again for the Y7-10 students. With A & B sides competing in Schools Competition, we have played 12 fixtures this summer against local opposition with three out of four sides qualifying top of their group and will play knock out tennis next term. As well as this we hosted our own local schools one day tournament to encourage participation and our Play Your Way to Wimbledon competition which was won by G Chowdhury in the singles, and G & H Chowdhury in the doubles. The senior boys made round 2 of the Glanville Cup and we played a fun friendly with boys and girls against SWGS which we came out on top.

Beyond BWS & The Future

The old boys 7s team participates at Fishwick 7s on 29 July, a great event in name of an OW at Wimbledon RFC and we will be keeping a keen eye on the England squad for the rugby World Cup as Cadan Murley continues to impress in camp. Also Vaughn Covil after a year out with injury looks to make his return with Hull City in the football Championship.

Thank you to everyone who has made this year possible, the students, staff and parents. In particular our three sports assistants who have been fantastic and set the bar exceptionally high. We wish Callum, Isaac and Lily all the best at university and beyond.

We look forward to getting into the new year with a full block list of [fixtures](#) and Cup draws across many sports already announced. As well as the arrival of our friends from Australia, Kings Parramatta in October and December to play rugby – the Autumn term is already shaping up to be a great one.

With best wishes for a restful summer and positive exam results for Y11 and Y13.

Yours sincerely



Mr R Demain-Griffiths
Director of Sport