



Bishop Wordsworth's School

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Dear Parents/Guardians

National Champions! For the first time in the school's history (we're fairly certain) we have been crowned the best in the country. Our squash U14 boys without access to squash courts at school, went through multiple rounds against the country's best schools to win overall. Their success is testament to their hard work and commitment on top of their in-school activities and academics. I consider us very lucky to have such a talented and committed young group, supported by their parents who organised logistics for the finals and preceding rounds.

Our squash wasn't the only racket sport success this term with both our senior tennis boys and girls (for the first time) making regionals finals. To be nationally last 16 consistently is again remarkable for a school without its own courts. Again showing the dedication of our students who not only play their own club tennis, but committed to early morning practices at Salisbury Tennis Club with myself and Rory Smith an OW and the head coach. As we enter the main tennis season we look forward to our Play Your Way To Wimbledon competition on the first Friday back for Y7-9 and much later in the term we welcome our friends King's Parramatta, Australia on a tennis tour which is sure to be a fun experience.

Table tennis also experienced success this term retaining the county champs trophy with a young squad that will all return next year. I have hopes next year of running a proper house table tennis competition in the knowledge of how popular the sport is thanks to our external tables purchased largely by the BWSPA.

While I largely talk about results and performances as they're easy to measure, some of the biggest wins and best moments have actually been off the field of play as our young athletes have grown as young people, enjoying themselves, being in the heat of battle and meeting other like-minded boys and girls on the opposition. It is fantastic to watch the memories and friendships being forged as well as a lifelong appreciation for physical activity through competitive sport, but without losing sight of why we're really here, which is to have fun and enjoy ourselves. Without this I doubt the performances would be so high or memorable.

One of my highlights was meeting parents and players from Dubai at Rosslyn Park who we had rubbed shoulders with on our inaugural girls' sports tour in February. Whilst the tour was a huge success, one of the biggest wins was our opponents and ourselves having a mutual appreciation for each other. Epitomised by their travelling support this last week staying pitch side and cheering on our boys despite not knowing them, a connection had been made with the school and our students.

Dubai Tour Programme: [Dubai Tour Programme.pdf](#)

Athletics/Cross Country

Once again Mr Griffey's cross country teams excelled this side of Christmas bringing home the Ken Bailey relays and 5 of our runners went on to represent Wiltshire at Nationals with

Tom Wood placing in the top 100 senior boys. At the time of writing following cancellation of a few events, we have one final outing at Millfield Prep for the Edgarley Relays before Easter.

We have started our athletics preparations this term with after school use of the Salisbury running track on Mondays and Thursdays, ready for Schools Cup competition and Area Sports, as well as our own sports days all before half term.

Basketball

Our junior sides have stolen the limelight this term, the U14s had an excellent national cup run before losing to some giant 14 year olds from Ormiston Park Academy in the last 32. Our U13 side are top seeds in their Junior NBA competition and play Castle View Academy, Portsmouth after Easter. Once again it is fantastic to see our teams taking their talent across the region and competing.

Cricket

With one eye on next term and the cricket season, Mr Morton has been running nets with a host of other staff as we prepare for post Easter with a glut of fixtures across the age groups. He also took the U13 boys to the county indoor finals where they came away champions for the first time and at the time of writing is away with the U15 in the same competition, hopefully to return with more good news.

Football

It wasn't just the girls who had their first tour, football had its first stand-alone tour to Holland and PSV which was a huge success and a great moment for football in the school. Following it there are plans to do similar for preseason to kick start the year. Frustratingly for the seniors the weather then conspired and curtailed what had promised to be an excellent season, having reached the last 32 of the national competition with the 1st XI and last 64 with the 2nd XI. Needless to say the foundations are once again laid for next year's group to push on.

Throughout the school it has been frenetic with nearly 30 fixtures played this term alone as we competed in the local leagues which we took over the running of this year. As we enter the final week there are a few matches to wrap up, but it looks like both the U13 and U15 sides have won their area leagues with some great new blocks, particularly against Stonehenge. As well as our A teams playing we have also managed to secure some B team fixtures against LHS as we continue to seek opportunities to grow our participation levels.

Netball

The season ended rather frustratingly with a cancelled tournament but the girls continue to grow in the way they're trying to play with 7 competitive fixtures this term against the likes of Dauntsey's, Sherborne and St Mary's. They managed to pick up convincing victories against Embley and S6C.

With a young squad and no doubt more talented girls set to join us we look forward to the next season and progressing further again.

Rugby

Arguably our most successful 7s season since we have grown the sport through the age groups. The U12s went unbeaten at their Dorset School 7s event, U13s came runners up at Embley and the U14s won the Warwick Plate at one of the biggest tournaments in the country. Whilst the U15 struggled with injury throughout, the U16 with some of them in situ

had some good runs, none more so than finalists at Gordons early in the season. They were also lucky enough to experience Rosslyn Park, the biggest school tournament in the world, and meet our former captain Cadan Murley of Harlequins and recently England A.

The senior girls retained their West of England crown, no mean feat against the best sports school in the country, Millfield. However they were unable to take this success to Rosslyn with a tough group and they couldn't match last year's run, but that is sport sometimes. A team who did have success however was our senior boys who through a whole squad effort and huge growth over the season had their best run at nationals in nearly a decade, losing in the semifinals of the plate to just miss out on a final appearance. Across two gruelling days the boys won 7 of 9 fixtures, and were lucky enough to play on the main show pitches 4 times. A brilliant experience for all our players to be exposed to and go up against the countries best.

Other and Beyond BWS

This term we fielded our first mixed hockey team who had a great day out at Beechen Cliff and we hope for more opportunities in the future. Tristan Prinsloo and Oscar Barnes toured with Wiltshire cricket to Sri Lanka on what looked like an amazing trip.

Matt Stahl continues his fine form in fencing winning his most recent competition in the Southern BYC qualifying competition which means he will compete in Sheffield in May.

Samuel Stanford-Jason competed at the Welsh nationals in swimming and amongst several personal bests and making various finals, he won the 200m breaststroke to become the Welsh U13 National Champion.

Bertie Stone continues to compete in equestrian under the school name, qualifying in the Eventer Challenge to ride at Hickstead in May. Whilst he and Arthur Webb both qualified for the National Triathlon championships held this week in Grantham.

Many congratulations also to former 1st XV captain Cadan Murley who played for England A this Spring, after being in the mix for the world cup. It is great to see him back in the international fold.

Staying with rugby we had our biggest ever Rory Walworth Boxing Day match with nearly 60 players involved it was a special occasion to get so many OWs and their families together. We should have an exciting OW Fishwick 7s team in July, another event set up in the name of an ex student.

As we look toward our final term of this year and the next academic year we're excited to announce our BWS Business Partnership Scheme Partners; Wilsons Solicitors LLP, Soper & Co Mortgage Advisors and Rathbones Investment Management as well as existing supporters Fawcetts and Blue Frontier.

Please find the school sports calendar link below for all our summer activities and clubs, which are being updated. Also next seasons rugby fixtures are already in the diary. Also the whole school calendar and our Instagram page.

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

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

BWS Sport Instagram: [Official BWS Sport Page \(@bwssport\) • Instagram photos and videos](#)

After Easter we look forward to the athletic, tennis and cricket seasons proper. We as a school host Area Sports this year which will be a huge undertaking and led in part by our Sports Leaders, whilst before half term we will host our own sports days.

We wish everyone a restful Easter and best wishes to those entering exam season.

Yours sincerely

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

Mr R Demain-Griffiths
Director of Sport