



23 February 2026

Dear Parents/Guardians

Personal Note

After ten years at the helm, it feels the right moment for a reshuffle and for me to return to my roots solely as a teacher of PE. Of my nineteen years in teaching, only two have been spent focused purely on classroom practice, something I now look forward to with genuine enthusiasm. I look forward to continuing to work in an excellent department, led by Mr Morton as Head of Sport and Physical Wellbeing, and by Mr Oldham as Head of PE and Outdoor Education.

It has been the greatest privilege to lead sport at Bishop Wordsworth's for the past decade and to work alongside such a committed, inspiring and talented team. In the spirit of our school motto, none of what we achieve would be possible without the generosity of people's charity through the time, energy and expertise shown by so many.

I would like to thank the department personally for their unwavering commitment. The hours given beyond the normal school week, whether supporting participation sport or accompanying teams to national finals, ensure that hundreds of students each year can represent the school with pride.

Our work is also sustained by colleagues across the school, as well as parent and alumni volunteers. Over the last decade, scores of individuals have given their time freely to expand opportunities for our students. I remain deeply grateful for that support.

We have also been fortunate to receive financial backing from several individuals and companies, both for core provision and for our tours. I would like to especially thank Fawcetts and Blue Frontier for their ongoing and significant support over the last ten years and more recently Soper & Co. My thanks also go to everyone who has contributed to the Pitch In campaign, which we hope to see come to fruition soon.

Above all, thank you to the students, past and present, who make this role so rewarding. Whether our current Year 7 cohort or the now thirty-somethings I first taught, you have represented the school with determination, humility and always a smile on your face. It has been an honour to adapt and evolve each year to create an environment where all can grow and succeed in their own way.

When John Wordsworth founded this school, he intended it to stand equal to the greatest and best. That ambition has guided my leadership: to ensure that, within the state sector, we

can compete regionally and nationally for both participation and performance. Collectively, I believe we have moved significantly towards that aim, whilst always remembering that sport's true purpose is to help shape better people, ready to make a positive difference in the world.

Thank you all.

Basketball

The Junior NBA and national competitions continue in earnest against tough opposition for those in the middle and lower school, while the seniors earned a well-constructed victory over Canford.

Cross Country

Over twenty boys were invited to county cross-country trials, with several progressing to regional finals. Three were selected to represent Wiltshire at the National Finals — congratulations to D Robertson, E Berry and J Weston on a fine reward for a season's hard work.

This half term, attention turns to athletics season, with our middle-distance runners aiming to contribute strongly at Area Sports and in the Schools Cup.

Football

Despite challenging weather, our U16 and senior sides remain in contention for county cup honours, including excellent performances against Stonehenge School and Dauntsey's School. We look forward to improved conditions this half term to allow our younger teams to complete their fixtures.

Netball

Our 1st and 2nd VII continue to perform strongly. A particularly well-executed victory over Godolphin School before half term will provide confidence heading into the final fixtures of the season.

Racket Sports

The squash team reached the regional knockouts for the third consecutive year, narrowly missing progression against strong opposition. They now look forward to competing in the inaugural Wessex Cup.

Tennis was similarly edged out at the regional knockout stage, but with the main summer season ahead and significant strength in the lower school, prospects remain positive.

In table tennis, both KS3 and KS4 teams progressed through a competitive local round to reach the county finals later this term. Badminton secured their county title and advance to the regional finals in Bath in March, their first appearance at this stage for several years.

Rugby / Rugby 7s

Preparation for 7s has been challenging due to the weather, but valuable fixtures at King Edward VI School Southampton and Millfield School have provided important game time for U16 and senior squads, boys and girls alike. The main season begins shortly with appearances at Gordon's 7s, Warwick 7s, All England 7s and Trailfinders 7s, the latter two marking first invitations for the school.

In the 15-a-side format, our U17s produced a remarkable comeback victory against Reading Blue Coat School, overturning a 17–0 half-time deficit, a performance defined by resilience and collective belief.

50 senior students also travelled to Dubai over half term competing against strong international opposition, an exceptional experience and valuable preparation for the final six weeks of the season.

Beyond BWS

Former student Fin Lloyd-Gilmour made his long-awaited debut on the World Rugby Sevens Series in Singapore, later scoring a hat-trick against New Zealand in Perth. In the 15s game, Cadan Murley continues to feature in England's wider plans, scoring for England A against Ireland. Sophie Cowey made her long-awaited return from injury to make her Army Rugby debut. All outstanding role models for our current students to look up to who aspire to follow a similar path.

Among current students, S Charan has enjoyed notable success representing Badminton England, securing multiple medals at international events in France and the Netherlands. A Webb placed 17th nationally in the 10m Championships for shooting, both excellent achievements.

Finally, it was a pleasure to play a small part in the annual Rory Walworth Boxing Day match, participated in by nearly 40 alumni and attended by 100s of current and former students and their families. Boxing Day is one of two rugby alumni events with the Jack Fishwick 7s taking place in July, the largest charity rugby tournament in the country. The boys return having won the event last year and for the first time we have an OW girls team entered – it is sure to be a great day of 7s.

As ever, thank you for your continued support of sport at Bishop Wordsworth's.

Yours sincerely



Mr R Demain-Griffiths

PE Department