



Bishop Wordsworth's School

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30 March 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians

I was looking back on my report from this time last year and rather pleasingly it reads very similarly. Once again we have had an outstanding term of sporting achievement, and more pleasing still is that it was not a fluke last year.

That said however, the sporting opportunities and successes do not happen without the staff volunteering their time, mostly PE, but also beyond. We have also had to call on the support of parents to step in when fixtures have become congested. Sport at BWS has grown into a huge beast which doesn't run without people's good will, so thank you all for chipping in.

As with a lot of things of late, it also comes at a cost to the school. We cannot select teams on those who have and who have not paid sporting subs, but we will struggle to provide the opportunity we do without more people contributing to the cause.

If your son or daughter has played sport this year, attended yoga and or used the gym, please use the link below to access our sports subs page and contribute. Sports subs do not pay for volunteer time, but cover the costs of travel, medical supplies, physio access, concussion support (Return 2 Play) and equipment. We think we do a pretty good job, as does the [School Sports Magazine](#) who ranked us 65th nationally for our sports provision, ranking us well within the top 3% of state or independent schools in the country. However, without the above items we will struggle to provide and compete at the level that we do.

<https://www.mychildatschool.com/MCAS/MCSParentLogin?schoolid=12848>

Further to the above we continue to work towards our Multi Use Games Area which will revolutionise sports provision for all, particularly given the increased use of the hall and unfavourable weather making the pitches unusable at times.

Caroline Popham has done a fantastic job so far and we are well on our way to our Plan B target of £96,000, and about a third of the way to the bigger target of £186,000. We have set a deadline of summer 2024 for the build to be used from Autumn 2024.

Please click for [fundraising and sponsor opportunities](#) or for [personal donation](#)

Badminton

Once again under the guidance of Simon Woodhouse both our KS3 and KS4 teams were crowned County winners. The KS4 side in particular experienced a tough competition and so credit to the boys for digging in to bring the trophy home. For the next academic year we have entered the School Sports Magazine National Cup at both U14 and U16.

Basketball

Another fantastic term with new competition leading to new successes. The U13 have been playing in the Junior NBA, something we have not entered before and are currently unbeaten and top seed for the regional play offs and two games away from the regional finals. The seniors had a tough National Cup draw, but made the finals at the annual Wellington College tournament whilst both the U14 and U16 sides navigated exceptionally tough groups to both make round 2 of the National Cup knock outs. Mr Duckett also hosted a local school's tournament for the U15s which was well attended and our boys won well, playing some excellent ball.

Cross Country

Once more Mr Griffey has produced a stellar class of runners who have represented brilliantly this year with 8 making National Finals, representing Wiltshire following Regionals and County selection. We have also competed in and mostly dominated at various age groups in relays at Bryanston, Clayesmore, Kings Bruton, Canford and Millfield. One of the most pleasing things this season has been our younger runners competing up an age group and still being competitive.

Football

The 1st XI are having their best season arguably since 2016, making the County Cup Final to be played in Chippenham against Lydiard Park Academy. This coupled with them sitting a top of the Poole 6th Form League and on an unbeaten run since the new year. The 2nd XI have also experienced success this term which bodes well for the future.

In the other years the U16 made round 4 of the county cup, while all years await their fate in the local school leagues, semi finals and finals we hope will be played post Easter. The U15s should be in buoyant mood after winning a local 5 aside tournament at Sarum Academy.

Despite the successes, it has been a frustrating term where we have tried to get fixtures in but the weather and staff changes at other schools have thwarted our efforts. However, one of the most pleasing results has been our B team boys being able to play fixtures, effectively doubling the number of boys playing football.

Netball

Netball has had another successful term with both the 1st and 2nd VII in action, with notable victories over SWGS, Embley, Sherborne and Godolphin. The girls also went toe to toe with Team Bath and Dauntsey's gaining invaluable experience for next year. We look forward to celebrating their successes with a netball dinner in April.

Rugby (XVs, Xs, VIIs)

The XVs season mostly finished before Christmas and again the weather hampered new year outings. However, we did manage a couple of friendlies against Trafalgar and the U17s took on Bath Academy school Beechen Cliff.

The senior boys then attended Seaford 10s, a fantastic tournament where they finished ahead of last year's side, coming 3rd in their group with a notable victory over previous Schools Cup winners Dulwich. The senior boys also made the South Coast Kings 7s Plate final, after overcoming Seaford in the group and then semi-final, before narrow defeat to Canford. The seniors along with the U16s also attended Rosslyn Park, coming close, but not quite exiting their groups.

Lower down the school we have had run outs at the Dorset School 7s and Port Regis 7s for both Y7 and Y8, and Y10 went to Orleans Park, Richmond, as well as all Y8-Y11 sides heading to Warwick for one of the biggest tournaments of the year, the U15 side making their Plate final.

The girls however had the best season with over 20 in regular attendance we took an A & B team to Millfield, losing in the U17/16 final before piecing together a string of outstanding results defeating Millfield along the way to win the inaugural girls West of England 7s. The girls then followed this up at Rosslyn defeating a stacked Llandoverly side to top their group and make day 2. An unbelievable achievement ranking them amongst the top rugby playing schools in the country. This was made all the more astounding when taking into consideration some have only played for 7 months.

Squash

The squash boys pushed new boundaries this year with the U18 losing in the National Plate to strong Symonds and Cheltenham sides, while the U14 boys made Round 2 of the National Cup beating Truro, but losing to an excellent Sevenoaks. With many of the boys again returning next year, the future is bright.

Table Tennis

Once again, we were crowned County Champions at U16. With the whole team being Y9 and below the future is incredibly bright in a sport that has exploded since the installation of the outdoor tables thanks to the parents' association.

Tennis

For the first time ever, we had both the boys U18 A & B sides make regional finals, finish 3rd and 4th. This was after navigating tough groups and then winning knockout matches against Clifton and Beechen Cliff.

The U18A boys have also qualified for the regional quarter finals of the National Competition, beating a stubborn Beechen Cliff 7-6 in a tie break shoot out. The girls also played in round one against Talbot Heath, but were unable to progress.

Beyond BWS & Beyond Easter

Once more Matt Stahl continues his fine fencing form qualifying for the British Youth Championship in April, having won bronze at the regional qualifier. Frankie Binns continued his squash form to be crowned Intercounty Champion as part of the Surrey U13 side whilst Jacob Earle placed 5th nationally in the English Indoor Combined Championships in Sheffield with PBs in three of five events.

As we look beyond the break our focus moves swiftly to our summer offering with a focus on athletics as Area Sports comes around quickly along with Sports Day. Both cricket and tennis will be offered in extracurricular time only until after the half term break when athletics will finish for all but the teams.

We also have the excitement of another rugby tour back to Canada and a Race Night to support this trip on 12 May with tickets available via MCAS. 10% of all proceeds going to the Wooden Spoon.

Please find the link to our [Sports Website/Kit](#) where all the latest information can be found, including a link to the teamwear shop which is due to open again shortly by popular demand. We will Teams message the students with further information when open.

Have a great Easter break.

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