

## Sports Report w/c 13<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November

### U11 Boys' Rugby Triangular

A Team lost to Bronte House & Bradford

B Team lost to Bronte & Bradford



The resumption of the rugby season saw us taking on two traditional heavyweights with a triangular event against Bronte House and Bradford Grammar.

Our A team were superb and matched both opponents in terms of intensity and energy. Once again, fielding boys from two age groups against teams who are all year 6 meant we gave away some game experience, and size, both areas ultimately proving the difference with regards to the results.

We still had so much to celebrate though - we rucked with better technique and looked to move the ball to the space on the pitch. Muhammed showed his prowess with some quality running and scored one outstanding long range try. Our tackling improved as the afternoon went on, allowing us to be more competitive at the breakdown and make life tough for our opposition.

The B team pattern was a similar affair, perhaps with taking slightly longer to get our defensive shape correct. We ran the ball well and began to support each other with greater understanding and speed. The rucks became a more even affair as we grew in confidence and remembered the areas we had worked on prior to the two-week break. Tiago began to move the ball into better areas and his teammates responded, Oliver B reaping the benefits as he scored a hat-trick against Bronte. It was a slightly tougher challenge for the opening half

against Bradford as the Bradford side included some of their A team boys, but further proof of how our boys are growing in knowledge and character.

Mr Tom Davidson & Mr Phil Holmes

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November**  
**U9 Tag Rugby Festival at Knaresborough RUFC**  
**A Team (Year 4) - 4 wins and 1 loss**



A return to action showed the progress we are making is beginning to be retained and allow us to play with greater team awareness and fluency. The boys in the A team really worked well together and started as they meant to go on. We dominated the play in our early games, passed the ball well to find space and defended with intensity to ensure the opposing teams either ran out of tackles or lost control of the ball due to our pressure.

There were many very strong performers which allowed Henry to find gaps which he exploited to score several tries across the afternoon. This was backed up by Rory, his excellent footwork bamboozling many defenders on the day and helping our cause.

Mr Tom Davidson

## B Team (Year 3) - 2 wins and 3 losses



The B team were just as impressive. Starting the day it was clear to see the effect that a gap of almost a month with no game had taken on our players. We had players running across the pitch to try find space, rather than pass to their mates. In defence we chased the ball, as a pack, rather than trust each other and stay in a line. These shortcomings were exploited by our opposing teams as we made life a little trickier than need be.

We must remember that all season, these players have faced largely year 4 players; in the case of Read School, largely is the appropriate term as some of their players would overshadow some of our year 7s! This is where we were so very good. The boys listened to instructions, began to keep their shape, looked to move the ball two or three passes wide. Sammy helped us with this by standing in space and giving us options. Jesse led the way in distributing the ball and began to time the pass so that defenders became obsolete. The boys were a joy to watch.

Mr Phil Holmes

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November

## U11 Girls Vs St Peters Mixed Friendly



In a surprising turn of events, St. Peters and Gateways united on the football pitch for some impromptu mixed-friendly matches that left spectators on the edge of their seats. The unexpected clash between the teams added an extra layer of excitement to the sunny afternoon at Gateways.

As the games progressed, it became evident that these mixed friendlies were more than just a spontaneous gathering – it was a genuine contest where each team sought to outshine the other. The goalkeepers were tested with powerful shots, and defenders exhibited resilience in thwarting potential attacks.

The camaraderie and sportsmanship displayed by the players further enhanced the enjoyment of the match, creating an atmosphere of friendly competition.

In the end, the final whistle blew, concluding a remarkable afternoon of football. This mixed-friendly between St. Peters and Gateways not only provided an entertaining spectacle but also highlighted the joy of the game and the shared passion for football that unites players and fans alike.

Mr Mike Arnold and Mrs Hannah Nichol