

## Sports Report w/c 27<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November  
U11 Boys' Rugby Tournament  
'Contact' Team won 2/5  
'Tag' Team won 3/5



The traditional end-of-season festival at Knaresborough saw both our teams face strong opposition. All the hard work that has gone into the development of our boys came to the fore in the one festival where results are officially recorded and counted.

The contact team began in great form, a fast start against Moorlands allowing us to stretch clear early and then play some fluent rugby. As the boys gradually settled into the festival, we sadly became our worst enemy with a lack of support at the breakdown, slow defensive speed and then trying to chase the scoreline in short matches. It is a case of lessons learned though and the boys did bounce back to claim a final match win and end the day with a smile on their faces.

The tag team had a similar start although they remained more composed throughout the afternoon, winning games against Bradford, Moorfield and Ghyll Royd. We went into the final game playing, effectively, a decider against Froebelian. Against a strong field, our boys showed real character after falling four tries down and ended the afternoon by scoring the final three tries.

Mr Tom Davidson & Mr Phil Holmes

## Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November Under 9 Rugby v GSAL



A fantastic afternoon of rugby took place on this cold clear Tuesday afternoon. Our teams were divided into a tag team, the expected format at this age and a contact team as a means of allowing early exposure to the more traditional form of the game.

The tag team began and ended well, some key runs from Isaac as he scored two tries and supported by boys who were keen to run around to keep warm! We learned a lot about defensive shape and how all of us chasing the ball will leave space elsewhere. This has been addressed in games lessons but the importance of having some shape and trusting teammates was outlined under game conditions. The afternoon was good fun and certainly gives the year 3 players a decent stepping stone for the resumption of rugby next September.

The contact team were very impressive. GSAL had several players with more experience, and this showed as they made decisions a little faster and found space early in the game. Our boys were superb in their rate of learning and soon made inroads to the GSAL defence. Henry and Rory showed excellent footwork to create space, helped by the vision of Oliver D. Freddie highlighted his potential with a strong all-round performance, yet it was Spencer who made the best impression with some outstanding defence. A very good afternoon for these boys in a game that was very tight on the scoreboard.

Mr Charlie Grasby & Mr Phil Holmes

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November

## Under 9 Football Team 1 v Woodhouse



Gateways School's U9 girls football team 1 demonstrated remarkable growth in their recent clash against Woodhouse Grove. The match showcased an impressive defensive display, with Gateways holding Woodhouse Grove at bay for a significant period, eventually conceding. The girls displayed improved teamwork, solid defence, and quality ball control. The goalkeeper's standout performance, and the team's overall maturity, reflected the positive impact of focused training.

Gateways School's U9 girls football team 2 were so excited for the final football fixture of year. We saw a huge improvement in both the girls positional play and tactical awareness. Standout performances came from Isla and Vesper who were rocks in defence, always keen to get involved. Goals came from Isla, Poppy and Charlotte; the latter being awarded M. Player of the match. Well done to all the girls on a cold afternoon. Gateways School's U9 girls squad has certainly evolved, promising an exciting future.

Mr Mike Arnold & Mrs Hannah Nichol