

Sports Report w/c 3rd February 2025

Friday 31st January 2025
Under 11 Netball v Highfield
Won 2
Lost 3



Highfield were the opposition for all our girls across Upper 2 and Lower 3. 3 of our teams drove across on 2 lively minibus trips and brought the same passion and joie de vivre to their game play.

The A & B teams rotated against the top Highfield team.

The A team came out strong from the first whistle, moving the ball quickly and working brilliantly together. Sophia D was on fire with her shooting, and Sophia C made some excellent feeds into the circle. Talia worked tirelessly in the centre, keeping the game flowing, while our defence was outstanding, turning over countless balls. It was great to see the girl's footwork improving and their growing awareness of spacing and pulling away to create space and driving onto the ball when needed. Their hard work paid off with a 6-1 win a brilliant performance all round!

The B team took a little time to find their rhythm, especially with Highfield already warmed up from playing the A team. However, once they settled, the girls worked so well together. Hester was a standout in defence, constantly turning over the ball and putting Highfield under pressure. The team focused on moving the ball quickly and using the space effectively with brilliant footwork. Although the final score was 5-1 to Highfield, the girls showed incredible determination and never gave up. A huge well done to everyone who played – the hard work and teamwork were fantastic to watch!



Our 3rd Team in Harrogate played with a great sense of determination and surprised themselves in their quality of play and positional enjoyment. We started to see faster movement at the centre pass, tighter marking when on defence and more aggression in the 50-50 passes; all contributed to a strong performance.

The scoreline of a 2-4 loss didn't fully reflect our improvements or pace of play. Our girls had several examples of using five passes to move the ball from our defensive circle to create a shooting opportunity. With Mr Holmes deliberately switching girls into positions they were unfamiliar with, the learning curve became more of a vertical at times, yet the girls embraced the challenge and had a lot to be happy with at the final whistle. Avneet played with intelligence, Rachel tightened up her marking considerably, Sophia P was a real live-wire and Lottie earned Highfield's MVP. Our own award went to Bronte who really grew into her GD role with assertive play, speed of thought and good movement off the ball.



2 teams also remained at Gateways to play against Highfield. Both games were well contested with lots of enjoyment for the spectators and positives for the players to take from the game.

The purple team took a little while to get into the game which saw Highfield take an early lead in the first quarter. The girls didn't panic and at quarter time came off and knew they needed to have stronger passes and more movement onto the ball to have better success. This is exactly what they did in the second quarter which resulted in us having a number of opportunities at goal. Lara played fantastically at both ends of the court, regularly getting tips and intercepts in defence and scoring valuable goals in attack.

The white team blew me away from the start. The speed of play was exceptional, and we were really trying to put into practice the emphasis we have placed on passing and moving. As we came up against some extremely tall players, the girls were constantly having to think about getting in front and keeping the passes short and sharp. A big shout out to our international pupil, Grace, who took to the court at GK and kept the opposition from scoring a goal throughout the quarter.

A fantastic afternoon had by all with significant progress being shown from the start of the netball term. Keep it up!

Miss Jade Preston, Mrs Hannah Nichol and Mr Phil Holmes

Tuesday 4th February 2025 Under 9 Football v Bronte House

**A Team 3-5
B Team 12-2
C Team 3-5**



A trip across to Apperley Bridge allowed 3 of our teams to take on the challenge laid down by Bronte House. Played on huge pitches, this would be a test of our boys and their ability to exploit space when on attack and then closing it down on defence.

The A Team were well matched in many areas, Bronte having one standout player who controlled play for a large part of the match. Our boys have chance to reflect and learn from making repeat mistakes when trying to close their players down, whilst thinking about becoming more selfless with the ball, creating space with some majestic touches only to take the ball on too far and lose the impetus. We created several good chances when distributing the ball quickly and had players stretching their defenders by using the width but it seemed the size of the pitch, combined with not holding onto possession for long enough, eventually took its toll as we conceded goals late in the second half.

The B Team romped to another big win, their play being too fast for the home side. Swift movement of the ball together with some clinical finishing saw our boys dominate from the first whistle and they seem to enjoy the opportunity to really take a team to task. The energy amongst the group contributed to some flowing moves forward alongside some great tracking back and work as a team to quell any thoughts of attack from Bronte.



Our C Team enjoyed an end-to-end riot, flowing football seeing many chances created by both sides with a huge amount of running for the entirety of the game. Bronte just gained the upper hand with a couple of larger, faster runners who wore down our players but there were some excellent passages of play as the Gateways team switched the ball from one side to another in a bid to exploit space. The scoreline doesn't fully reflect the competitiveness of the encounter and there are many reasons to be cheerful for the players in this lineup.

Mr Charlie Grasby & Mr Phil Holmes

Tuesday 4th February 2025 Under 9 Football v Westville House



This week, our pupils had the opportunity to take part in a mixed game of football against visiting team Westville House. The match featured two exciting 6-a-side games, followed by a 10-a-side contest.

For many of our players, this was one of their first experiences of competitive football and they embraced the challenge with enthusiasm and determination. From the very first whistle, every player gave 100% effort, working together to improve ball movement and teamwork as the game progressed.

Although we didn't create as many goal-scoring opportunities as we would have liked, our team remained committed to attacking when possible and showed excellent resilience in defence. Their bravery and determination were evident throughout, making it a fantastic learning experience for all involved.

Well done to everyone who took part.

Mr Tom Davidson