



Welcome to the WCGS Sports Newsletter. This term the wonderful WCGS students have competed in a huge number of fixtures across a great range of sports. I would like to thank all involved, especially the coaches who give up so much of their time and energy to allow our students these great experiences. I also want to say a huge well done to all the students who have demonstrated fantastic commitment and dedication to WCGS Sport. Mr D Johnson (Director of Sport)



### Rugby VII's



**Senior VII's.** The seniors kicked off their sevens season with limited training and playing opportunities, entering the U18 Surrey Sevens tournament with cautious optimism. Despite an excellent start against Hinchley Wood, who managed to equalize in the last play, and a tough match against Hampton where a few missed passes could have changed the outcome, they regrouped for their final group game against St John's School Leatherhead. Taking advantage of their opponent's fatigue, they rotated the squad effectively, securing a second-place finish and advancing to the plate knockout stage.

In the quarter-finals against Tiffin, strategic decisions by Matt Hodgson set up crucial tries, leading to a hard-fought victory and a semi-final clash with RGS Guildford. Despite trailing by two tries initially, the team rallied with remarkable determination, clinching a 35-14 victory. The final against Halliford was equally intense, with both teams scoring and Wallington leading 14-12 at halftime. The second half saw relentless effort and missed chances on both sides, but a crucial try-saving tackle by Tom Kofie in the dying moments secured a WCGS victory and a new trophy for the cabinet. Moving on to the Rosslyn Park tournament, spirits were high after an emphatic win over Embley. The pivotal match against Ashford saw early setbacks but a strong second-half comeback just fell short due to a quick Ashford response. The last game provided a chance for the seniors to showcase pride and talent, culminating in a successful season that brought home silverware for the first time in years at this level.



**U16 VII's.** The U16s turned up to Old Reigatians RFC for the Surrey 7s knowing it was going to be a tough battle with a group containing RGS Guildford, Gordon's and Richard Challoner but with a full squad confidence was high and all were up for the battle ahead. The first match was RGS Guildford and WCGS started well but RGS grew with confidence and scored late on to take the spoils 17-24. Gordon's was up next and with the first game taking a few casualties, WCGS continued to battle but Gordon's won 7-33. The last group game was Richard Challoner. WCGS started well but due to tired legs and injuries, let an



early lead slip with Richard Challoner winning 19-38. This meant WCGS were in the Bowl Quarter Final against St James Senior Boys. Another fast start, WCGS took an early lead but numbers were really dwindling now and St James scored two late tries to win 12-22. Sadly the U16s were on the Reserve list for the National 7s at Roslyn Park but with several members also involved in the U18 squad, this will only help with valuable experience for when they will be part of the Senior 7s Squad next year.



**U15 VII's.** This season, the U15 7s squad travelled to Old Caterhamians RFC to partake in the annual Surrey 7s tournament. It was somewhat unfortunate timing, with a number of students absent on the Year 10 Barcelona trip, however we were still able to field a talented squad of 12. In a challenging pool, the boys made a fantastic start, beating Reed's, a very strong rugby school, 19-17 in their first match. The boys continued to play some high quality rugby in their second match, beating Downsends School 26-12. However, we were beaten by a strong Tiffin side in our third match, before losing to an outstanding KCS Wimbledon team, and throwing away a lead against arch rivals Reigate

Grammar School. This led to a quarter final against Gordon's School - a name which perhaps struck some fear into the boys due to their well-known links to Harlequins Rugby. Unfortunately, this was a bridge too far, losing by 5 points. It was an enjoyable day out, that started with so much promise - absolutely an improvement on our 7s outings last season. Picking a player of the tournament was a tough decision, which I could not split between Joel Kolanchery and Hugo Rogers - well done all.

### COMPLETED HOUSE RESULTS

#### Rugby Junior

Year 7- Ruskin

Year 8 - Radcliffe

**Overall - Radcliffe**

#### Intermediate

Year 9—Mandeville

Year 10 —Carew

**Overall - Bridges**

#### Senior

**Overall - Woodcote**



#### Table Tennis

##### Junior

Year 7 - Radcliffe

Year 8 - Carew

**Overall - Woodcote**

##### Intermediate

Year 9 - Woodcote

Year 10 - Bridges

**Overall - Woodcote**



#### Senior Football

**Overall—Radcliffe**



#### Senior Basketball

**Overall - Radcliffe**

### CURRENT STANDINGS

6th Place - Ruskin (57)

5th Place - Mandeville (71)

4th Place - Woodcote (80)

3rd Place - Carew (86)

2nd Place - Bridges (88)

**1st place - Radcliffe (92)**





### Representative Rugby

Congratulations to Joel Kolanchery 10CA, and AJ Asamoah Djan 10CA for their continued involvement with the Harlequins developing player programme.



### Washer Cup

This year's Washer Cup was a great celebration of WCGS Rugby. It was great to see so many Old Boys of the School come out to play and support. The atmosphere throughout the day was fantastic. The rugby also didn't disappoint as the 1st XV and Old Boys teams both demonstrated some fantastic attacking rugby, which was great to watch. The 1st XV won the game 50 points to 29.



### Old Walcountians RFC

It's been great to see a large number of Old Boys who have been pleased to once again see some WCGS students make the step up from schoolboy rugby into men's rugby. A special mention must go to Luke Bignell, who has represented Old Walcountians 1XV with aplomb this season - well done Luke. For those looking to represent the club next season, please speak to Mr Henderson.

### Ladies Rugby

It has been a pleasure to watch our core group of ladies rugby players improving their knowledge and skills during this term. Numbers will hopefully grow next year with the hope of playing some competitive fixtures.



### U14 VII's



The U14 squad has displayed some great skill and determination in both the Surrey tournament and the prestigious Rosslyn Park sevens. In the Surrey tournament group stages they had some close games that could have gone either way, losing by one score against Richard Challoner and drawing 12 all with Ibstock Place. The highlight of the morning was a fantastic game against Esher High where the boys showcased impressive attacking play and solid defensive efforts, the lead kept changing hands but unfortunately a late comeback was not quite enough and the game was lost 28 – 26. This meant we were in the Bowl semi-final against Emanuel School, this was again another close game but again unfortunately the team was on the wrong side of the scoreboard. At the Rosslyn Park Sevens, the squad rose to the occasion, competing against some of the best school teams in the country. Despite the high level of competition, they played with passion and resilience, never backing down from a challenge. Their commitment to every game was evident, and they produced moments of brilliant rugby that highlighted their potential. Throughout both tournaments, the players gave everything on the pitch, showing fantastic sportsmanship and team spirit. Their dedication and effort were truly commendable.



### U13 VII's



As the sun came out this sevens season, the boys took on the task of adapting their skills from the regular season into playing 7s. The turnout for training was brilliant, with one of the largest groups of players keen to play out of any age group. The team worked incredibly hard developing their skill set and understanding of the game. We attended a development tournament at Surrey 7's where the boys were able to test their metal against a selection of very strong sides including Emmanuel and Trinity. The boys showed great courage standing up to these strong teams showing some great sevens rugby whilst on the ball. The standout player from the tournament must go to Dominic Legere, who returned from injury through the regular season and cemented himself as a regular in the team. Next season and the step up to U14 level is incredibly exciting, and I am sure the team will continue to grow and improve.

### U12 VII's



This year, the U12 sevens squad has shown remarkable commitment to their training, which has significantly improved their rugby skills. Representing our school, they took part in two tournaments: The John Fisher 9s and the Surrey Sevens. At the John Fisher 9s, the team played some excellent rugby, facing strong opposition in the group stage. While they narrowly lost all their group games, the margins were very tight, matches against John Fisher and Dulwich could easily have ended in a draw with just a bit more time. In the afternoon, the squad went on to play against Grey Court, a fourth-placed team from the other group. Here, they displayed some brilliant rugby and secured a convincing win. The U12 Surrey Sevens tournament was a standout success. The team showcased advanced sevens techniques and delivered a series of outstanding performances. Despite being placed in a tough group, they managed to win three games, draw one, and lose two, finishing second in their group. This marks one of the best performances by our school at U12 level in recent years. The afternoon fixtures brought more challenging games against other second-placed group teams. The boys showed incredible resilience and gave it their all, but after a long day of rugby, they understandably began to run out of steam. I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the entire U12 squad for their hard work and dedication to training since Christmas. You have all contributed to an impressive and memorable debut sevens season. Well done!



### Junior Rugby Awards Dinners

The junior rugby awards dinner was a great night that saw the school hall full of parents and students from years 7–10. It really was a great celebration of the WCGS rugby family. Congratulations to all the award winners, the main award winners are;

#### Nigel Hook Memorial Trophy

Joel Kolanchery 10CA



#### Millwood Trophy

Christopher Kone 7RU





### Table Tennis

On 3<sup>rd</sup> January the WCGS U19 team (Angus Yuen, Vihan Nirmal, Hugo Rogers and Sanjay Sathish) travelled to Redbridge Sports centre to compete in the London Zone Finals. They had some close games and were pushed all the way by their opposition but with great skill and composure the boys managed to win all of their group games beating London Academy, City of London, Harris Chobham, Kings College and King Edward VI to reach the final. The final was a very tense affair but again the WCGS students overcame the challenge posed by St Dominic's winning the title of Champions of London in style. This victory earned them a place in the National Semi-finals in Birmingham. The standard of table tennis at this event was very high with a lot of the best U19 table tennis players in the country showing off their skills. During the competition the WCGS team won against Blue Coat School but unfortunately lost narrowly to Ackworth and Warwick Table Tennis Academies. This meant they came 3<sup>rd</sup> overall which places them as 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> in the country, a great achievement. Well done boys. We have also had success in other competitions with Hugo Rogers winning the bronze medal in the U16 South London Individual Jack Petchey competition and Rudranand Marar also winning bronze in the same competition in the U19 age group. WCGS currently sit at the top of the U19 South London Table Tennis league. Our U13's are also doing well currently sitting in 3<sup>rd</sup> place in their league. With the talent coming through from the current year 7, the future of WCGS table tennis looks very bright.



### Cyrus Azariah - Nottinghamshire Cricket Coach Visit



We had the pleasure of welcoming Wallington County Grammar School alumnus Cyrus Azariah back to WCGS to deliver a training session to the senior cricket squad this term. Almost 15 years ago, Cyrus and Mr Henderson represented the school 1XI together - now, Cyrus is a professional cricket coach at Nottingham County Cricket Club! It was a hugely valuable session for our young cricketers, allowing them to form a deeper understanding of the strength and conditioning routines and requirements of professional cricketers, whilst also having the opportunity for some one-to-one guidance and feedback. Equally, working with Cyrus was a great opportunity for coaches to recognise and plan implementation of professional standard language and coaching.



### Surrey Cricket Coaching CPD

WCGS games staff had the brilliant opportunity this term to develop their cricket coaching skills, when Gary Tibbs and Sarah Rawoo visited from Surrey County Cricket Club to deliver a tailor-made CPD. It was a hugely beneficial session, exploring a number of key coaching areas such as:

- Bowling; particularly on drills for improving seam bowling action (using front arm, driving through with back leg).
- Fielding games / drills appropriate to be done in an indoor space.
- Creating a wicket keeper from scratch.
- Improving running between the wickets (both tactically and physically).
- Batting drills that cater for a larger number / indoor space.



What was particularly pleasing was that we had two current players from the school 1XI in attendance (Divij Dhingra & Liam Reginald), with a view to engaging in some coaching of our younger age groups later in this season - it's great to see that our students not only have a passion for playing cricket, but also a keen interest in developing others.

### Football



The Year 9s had an opportunity to play Oaks Park, with many of the team using it as part of their GCSE Practical. Oaks Park took an early lead, but with some heroic saves in Goal from Prakhar Mishra, WCGS remained in the game. Freddie Lightfoot tried some long range shots but sadly his accuracy was slightly off and Seb Nyarko worked hard in midfield. With the result not the focus but an opportunity to play in a competitive environment, changes to positions and personnel meant all boys came away happy. Seb Nyarko scored WCGS's only goal from long range and claimed Man of the Match. We hope to do similar type of matches in the future. The Year 8s also played Oaks Park and after a strong start to the match, with goals from Ayaan Bhasin, Michael Keaveney & Kritartha Kunwar, experience as a team shone through from Oaks Park. WCGS were in the game right up until the end but 3 late goals from Oaks Park with the boys tiring, resulted in Oaks Park winning 7-3. A valiant effort with more games planned for next year.

### London Youth Games Sportshall Athletics



As a result of winning the Sutton Indoor athletics championship last term, our Year 7 team represented Sutton in the London Youth Games semi-finals. The competition was fierce but with some fantastic performances in the field events WCGS managed a 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish and did enough to qualify for the LYG Finals. In the finals at Redbridge Sports Centre, again the students rose to the challenge and competed brilliantly with some of the best school boy athletes in London. It was a great experience, well done boys.



### Cricket Training After Easter

Our cricket fixture calendar for the 2025 season is now fully booked - all fixtures can be found on SOCS. After Easter, we will begin our outdoor training sessions, with all students welcome. Training nights are as below:

- Monday - Year 7
- Tuesday - Year 9
- Wednesday - Year 10
- Thursday - Year 8
- Friday - Senior

Training sessions will run from 3:15 - 5pm, please do remember appropriate footwear to be used in nets.



### Students Success Outside of School

#### Sebastian Sanchez 12RU

This term Seb competed in the National Judo Championships at U18 level. He did fantastically well during a gruelling competition and managed to win the Bronze medal, 3rd in the country. Well done Seb!!!

