



Welcome to the Autumn sports newsletter 2019. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff, students, parents and volunteers for their hard work, commitment and dedication to sport at WCGS. In this newsletter we are proud to showcase the commitment the students at WCGS have to sport at the school. During this term we have seen 300+ students across all age groups representing the school in 8 different sports. This level of participation is fantastic and can only be achieved with the hard work of everybody involved. So Thank you.
Mr D Johnson (Director of Sport).



WCGS Rugby



The U12's have had a strong season. Many of our new intake will not have played the game of rugby before, and the opportunity to do so is always very new and exciting. The students created and nurtured a great internal coaching and learning environment, and this has played a huge role both in their personal and rugby development throughout the autumn term. Participation levels were exceptional,

with boys desperate to represent their new school, meaning that we have regularly been able to field teams at A, B, C & D team level. Special praise and congratulations must be reserved for the A & B teams, where students have freely interchanged between squads, so fierce has the competition for places been. All boys have been under pressure to perform to keep their place, or have been rewarded for their development with promotion. The A team achieved a memorable wins against Glyn, St Dunstan's and Claremont Fan Court. The B team were also victorious against St Dunstan's College, Royal Alexandra & Albert and Glyn. With over half the year group having represented the school so far, there is no doubt that the future is bright for the current year 7, and we look forward to seeing even more players improve their skills and embrace the game next year.



The under 13's have had an up and down season but their enthusiasm for and interest in rugby has made coaching them a pleasure. Watching them personally support and encourage one another to improve shows the level of commitment they have to the sport and each other. The vast improvement all the boys in both the A & B squads have shown this season compared to last is a huge credit to them for their commitment and effort in training, this has also caused some good selection headaches for the coaches. The A-

team started the season strongly with two hard fought victories against St Olaves and Tiffin. They had some more wins but two other stand out performances included a 15-15 draw against a quality Halliford team and a loss to Wimbledon College where the Year 8 boys showed what WCGS rugby means to them having the determination to fight back from being down by 30 points at half time to finishing the game losing by only 10 points 35-25, if the game had been 5 minutes longer WCGS may have pinched it. The B-team have had a very good season winning nearly 60% of their matches, which is a massive achievement considering they only won 30% of their matches in Year 7. Despite some big victories the two best games of the season came against Langley Park and Wimbledon College where the B-Team showed great character to scrape out two close victories 15-10 and 40-35 respectively.



This has been a truly magnificent season for the U14 A squad. The statistics speak for themselves: played 12; won 10; drawn 1; lost 1; point's difference +168; 83.3% win rate. The raw talent of this age group is a great asset but the real key to their success is their teamwork and attitude to training. The high proportion of wins really do show that commitment to training and hard work pays off. Highlights of the season include reversals of defeats last season

against Tiffin and Wimbledon College and probably the best performance was a dominant display in all areas of the game against Halliford. However, from a coach's perspective the most pleasing thing was the way the squad bounced back from a poor performance and loss against John Fisher to go on and produce their best performances towards the end of the season. The two hard fought victories against Wimbledon College and Ravens Wood demonstrate how hard these students are willing to work for each other and the Wallington Badge. With a couple of winnable games cancelled by the opposition it is a shame that the U14B's didn't get to play every weekend. However, the commitment from the boys is fantastic and with 35 boys representing the B-Team this season it really shows the strength and depth of the age group. Highlights were great wins over Wilson's A-Team and Claremont Fan Court's A-Team, a hard fought victory against Royal Alexandra & Albert School and a dominant victory over Halliford. With a number of B-Team players knocking on the door of the A-Team it only looks positive for the age groups future rugby development.



The U14's season was capped off with a two night rugby tour to Northampton Saints RFC. The boys enjoyed being coached by the Saints coaching staff, a Q&A with senior players, a strength and conditioning session, stadium tour and the team bonding through ten pin bowling etc. The tour match was unfortunately cancelled due to water-logged pitches but the Northampton Saints rugby coaches said this was one of the best groups of school students they had met. The boys were exceptional and were a true credit to the school throughout the tour. I was very proud to be in charge of this fine group of young gentlemen.

COMPLETED HOUSE RESULTS

X-Country

Year 7 - Mandeville

Year 8 - Carew

Junior Winners - Bridges



Year 9 - Bridges

Year 10 - Bridges

Inter. Winners - Bridge

Year 11 - Ruskin

6th Form - Mandeville

Senior Winners - Ruskin

Football

Year 7 - TBP

Year 8 - Ruskin

Junior Winners - TBC

Year 9 - Ruskin

Year 10 - Radcliffe

Inter. Winners - Ruskin

Senior Winners - Bridges

WCGS Year 7

Assault Course



- 6th - Woodcote (2033 pts)
- 5th - Radcliffe (1832 pts)
- 4th - Carew (1595 pts)
- 3rd - Bridges (1491 pts)
- 2nd - Ruskin (1832 pts)
- 1st - Mandeville (1185 pts)**



Current Cock House Cup

Standings

- 6th Place - Radcliffe (26)
- 5th Place - Woodcote (35)
- 4th Place - Carew (37)
- 3rd Place - Mandeville (39)
- 2nd Place - Bridges (47)
- 1st place = Ruskin (49)**





South Africa Rugby Tour 2019



This year saw students embark on the biennial Senior Rugby tour, and for the first time, South Africa was the chosen destination. A truly memorable time was had by both players and staff alike, as they visited the Southern Cape. The experience gained on the pitch was hugely beneficial, and the squad took a lot from playing and defeating formidable Southern Hemisphere opposition. All games were followed by social occasions, with the chance to mix with our hosts. However, tour is about far more than just the games played. Aside from this, notable highlights included walking up Table Mountain to see the stunning views across Cape Town, petting cheetahs, and undertaking a safari drive. Tourists were also able to demonstrate the school value of compassion, and were able to give something back to the South African community with time spent at the Goedgeacht Trust. The tour was an absolute pleasure for all involved and we are hoping we can return again in 2021 when the British and Irish Lions will also be touring the country.



Representative Rugby Players

Congratulations to Daniel Watkins who this term has been selected for the Under-16 Harlequins developing player programme and the Surrey Under-16's. Well done also goes to Terrence Dzanta and Adam Dean who made it into the Under-14 Harlequins developing player programme.



Rugby Continued



This has been a year of development for the U15A squad. Numbers at training have been good and the boy's eagerness to learn and improve has been commendable. The performances from half term onwards have certainly shown how well the boys have progressed. The Year 10's have brought good aggression to matches which means the historical slow start we have shown seems to be becoming a thing of the past and Schools who have beaten us by far bigger scores in previous years have been made to fight hard for close fought victories against us this year. In particular the games against Glyn, Ravenswood and John Fisher were stand out team performances. However it seems strange to say that probably the best performance was against the very strong Wimbledon College. The score line belies the effort the boys put in and for a slightly better rub of the green the score would have been so much closer. It has been a hugely successful season for the U15B team, who won over half of their 11 games. 395 points scored and a points difference of plus 155, illustrates just how much the side dominated their opponents in the games which they won. With 34 different players selected, 4 school rugby debutants and 19 different try scorers, it's clear that the real strength of the team is the passion that so many have for the game, and the depth of quality within the squad. Whilst some schools struggle to get a B team together, we have been able to select B and C teams for some fixtures, and have performed admirably at both levels. This bodes well as they boys progress to Under 16 level next year.



The U16A team have gone from strength to strength this year, producing some outstanding performances. The early season, eye catching 29-10 win over St Olaves was followed by a 49-0 thumping of Tiffin. However, far more impressive were the hard fought 22-19 victory over Reigate Grammar and a 24-12 win against a talented Wimbledon College side. Other fixtures against Royal Alexandra and Albert, Riddlesdown and Halliford have also brought dominant wins for the boys. Led by the incredibly talented Daniel Watkins, who has rightfully earned Harlequins and Surrey representation, the boys have developed greatly as individuals and as a team. Sven Andersson and Joe McCart have improved to become stellar rugby players, whilst Harry Sanders and Bhavya Ghandi have grown greatly in stature and confidence, providing great go forward. Additionally, Finlay Rowe has made the transition from wing to scrum-half with aplomb, whilst Andy Muirhead, Anthony French, Yanni Kostasentinou and Juan Cabeza-Sisa have continued to perform brilliantly as senior players in the side. I must add that, as the boys approach the end of their time together before they join the 1st and 2nd XV's, it has been an absolute privilege and honour to coach them over the past 3 years. Their commitment to improving and to one another has been tremendous and has resulted in them becoming not just better players, but a formidable team, all of whom I will miss coaching greatly; I am greatly proud of each and every one of them as both rugby players and young men.

The 2nd XV have had an enjoyable year and we have seen many positives along the way. The season started brightly with a 24-7 win over Tiffin and an emphatic 50-0 victory over Reigate Grammar. Dartford Grammar and Langley Park were both losses but lots of lessons were learned against two very strong sides. Claremont Fan Court 1st XV also ended in a loss but this didn't deter the boys as they finished the half term superbly with a 29-7 win over Ewell. Recent results against John Fisher, Wimbledon College and Ravenswood have all ended in defeat but WCGS showed true heart and commitment and never gave up until the final whistle. There has been a record number of students turning up to the 2nd XV training and this has really helped with the fantastic spirit created amongst the boys and with the majority being current L6th, next year the 2nd XV will hold a huge amount of experience which is always vital at Senior level.



The 1st XV have had a tough season, and only managed to win five out of sixteen fixtures. Following the very successful tour to South Africa we had high hopes for this cohort, but injuries and varying levels of commitment to rugby meant it was difficult to get a good run going and a few narrow defeats at the start of the season soon dented the confidence of the team. Losing in the first round of the Natwest Vase meant that the team moved down to the Bowl competition, and it was during this run that the 1st XV played their best rugby of the season. Some stellar performances meant that they reached the 4th round, where they then narrowly lost to Worthing College out on the school field. This was a disappointing outcome, given that all players gave maximum effort throughout the game, but unfortunately the side could not gain any momentum in the second half. This coupled with a few missed opportunities on the break prevented them from reaching the quarter finals of the competition. It has been somewhat unfortunate that the quality of opposition has been particularly strong this year, which has meant we were physically outmatched in a few games. A special mention should go to the leaders of the 1st XV, in Michael-Daniel Acquah, Chidi Ofili and Kajubi Kalanzi, alongside sincere thanks for their hard work over the season and efforts to galvanise their teammates during testing times. Whilst we are sad to see our Upper Sixth leave at the end of the year, we are grateful for all they have given to WCGS rugby. We wish them a long, continued and successful playing career in the game, wherever they go next.



Handball

In November the WCGS Year 10 GCSE students played their first competitive Handball fixtures in the Sutton Borough tournament. They played two matches in a round robin competition against Carshalton Boys and Glenthorne. The games were close and very competitive but unfortunately WCGS narrowly lost both games. However, it was a pleasure to watch the WCGS students improve their tactical knowledge and grow in confidence throughout the tournament.



Students success outside of school sport

Sajjan Selvakumar

This term Sajjan became U14 Shotokan Karate European Champion by winning the European tournament in Denmark.



Ben James

After only taking up rowing a year and a half ago, Ben has displayed great talent for the sport. He has won the coxless 4's B-Final at the British Championships and competed in the International Henley Royal Regatta qualifiers. Ben has also broke the Junior lightweight British records in indoor rowing for 2000m & 100m.



Noah Findell

In November Noah competed in the British Biathlon Championships, he went into the competition ranked just inside the top 20 but with a personal best performance on both the run and the swim Noah managed to finish in 3rd place securing the bronze medal. Well done Noah

Cross Country



This term the WCGS cross country teams have yet again demonstrated the commitment and courage that flows through our students. In the Borough Championships our Year 7 team came 8th in the Borough, the Year 10/11 team came 3rd and our 6th form team also came 3rd. The Year 8/9 team did fantastically well to win their age group race through great performances by Joe Gambie, Noah Findell, Ben Owusu, William Frost and James Higham. The combined results meant that WCGS finished fourth overall. In the English Schools championship our junior team made up of Year 7&8 students finished 10th overall with Noah Findell our highest finisher. The Year 9/10 team did fantastically well coming third overall, Dan Levine had a fantastic race finishing 2nd individually with our other three runners, Joe Gambie, Robert Farquhar and Louis Rodriguez all finishing in the top 20. This meant that WCGS qualified for the Regional finals which is a great achievement. In the Regional finals the boys again demonstrated their talent for running finishing in a very respectable 8th place.



Netball



The numbers at Netball training on Wednesday afternoons this term have been fantastic. The coaches are very proud of how the girls are working together, encouraging each other as well as providing positive constructive criticism. This has meant that both the A and B-Teams have shown improvements with every match. To date the A-Team have beaten Wallington Girls and Greenshaw, with the B-Team beating Wallington Girls and Trinity. Special mention should go to Rahmat Ottun who is the most improved player to date, Miriam Okunola who has been the player of the term and Jade McFarlane who has captained the squad superbly giving great support to Miss Gayle and Ms Herbal. The highlight of the term was a fantastic team performance against a strong Greenshaw team, winning 15 – 5.

Basketball

This term WCGS entered the Surrey Cup Basketball tournaments at U16 and U19 levels for the first time in a number of years. Both age groups put up a great fight and demonstrated some individual brilliance but ultimately the team organisation and playing experience of our opposition told and the teams were beaten by Glyn and Carshalton Boys respectively. The U16's also played in the Sutton Borough tournament WCGS unfortunately lost their first two matches in the tournament but improved throughout both games and showed their true potential in their final match against Overton where some great defensive play followed by some slick passing led to a 12 – 2 victory to WCGS and third place in the Borough. The U14 team had their first experience of competitive basketball in the Borough Tournament and surprised even themselves with how well they played in all their matches. They had a fantastic 12-4 win over Oaks Park and nearly caused an upset against a very good Greenshaw team.



Table Tennis



The WCGS table tennis teams have made a solid start to their South London League campaign with our Under 13 A&B-Teams lying second in their respective leagues and

our Under 16 and Under 19 teams currently sitting in first place in their league tables. WCGS Under13 and Under16 teams also played brilliantly in their Sutton Borough tournaments, winning every match to take both titles.



In the South London Jack Petchey Team competition our Under13's played some great table tennis but fell just short at the final hurdle finishing in

2nd place to a very strong Whitgift team. Our young Under16 Team (made up of Year 9 students) again demonstrated their skill and competitiveness winning the tournament without dropping a set. The U19 Team also did brilliantly securing a strong second place and doing enough to reach the London finals in January.



For the first time ever WCGS had a girls U19 Team entered into the South London Jack Petchey tournament (Mary-Kate Flynn and Hana Ferguson). Both Girls played excellently considering it was their first competitive tournament coming second overall to Coloma. But because of their skills and determination the organisers have invited Mary-Kate and Hana to compete in the South London Zone Finals. So we are looking forward next term to more good news from all the teams competing in the Jack Petchey Zone Finals.



Sportshall Athletics



On the 2nd of December our Year 7 and 8 Sportshall athletics teams competed in the Borough Championships against Sutton Grammar, Stanley Park and Greenshaw. The competition quickly became a two horse race between WCGS and Sutton Grammar. Our top performers on the track were Timofe Ogunleye, Tom Kofie and Oscar Stephenson winning their races and in the field Chinedum Achu and Ryan Yap who won their field events. Unfortunately Sutton Grammar, managed to just get the better of us in both age groups but all the WCGS students should be commended for the huge amount of effort they put in.