

ST KATHERINE'S SCHOOL PE & SPORT NEWSLETTER

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9 BOYS FOOTBALL V SIDCOT

Boys concede twice in as many minutes which results in unfortunate defeat

On Tuesday 20 February a team of year 8 and 9 boys hosted Sidcot School for a friendly football fixture. For the first time in weeks the rain has abated for long enough for the pitches to dry out. The sun was shining, albeit challenging low in the sky and conditions were set fair for this footballing contest. Year 9 captain Louie Dun was off playing cricket with the U15 boys and so team mate George Turner stepped into his shoes looking to fill the vacancy Louie had left in midfield but also in terms of his leadership. One of the highlights of the afternoon was seeing George go on to enjoy a man of the match performance in midfield and lead by example.

Isaac ADEBO, Max ANDREWS, Ben BOHIN, Tyrese BRACEY, Seb DE MONTFORT, Brandon GEATER, Nana GYIMAH-SARPONG, Finley KING, Leeban MAHAMUD, Charlie MEDDER, Hanad MOHAMED, Jazper PEACEY, George TURNER

To make matters a little more challenging, first choice goalkeeper Toby Rice was unavailable and so Jazper Peacey volunteered his skills as gloveman between the posts. Jazper started really strongly in goal and commanded his area with real authority which gave Brandon and Nana in front of him great confidence. Jazper used his outfield skills smartly and swept behind his defence superbly clearing up any over hit passes.

The game started with St Katherine's enjoying the larger share of possession and looking to create goal scoring opportunities. There wasn't a single player out on the pitch who wasn't aware of the firepower the team possesses with Max and Tyrese up front. Max brings all of his athleticism and physicality from rugby while Tyrese has lightning speed and a good final touch if he gets the opportunity. SK wasted no time in trying to get the ball forward where they felt they could hurt the opposition the most. Inside the first 10 minutes Max was already showing himself to be quite a handful and on more than one occasion got outside the full back and looked to cut in towards the goal. Sidcot had both speed and strength in the middle of their defense and so when Max did cut back inside he was met with some strong resistance. On 9 minutes Max went on a barrelling run down right hand touchline and absolutely drilled the ball low and hard across the face of goal. He couldn't have hit a more inviting pass for his team mates but they all declined the invitation and in truth, nobody was close enough to even challenge for the ball.

SK continued to dominate possession but were just lacking the final ball and the clinical touch that they needed to go ahead in the game. Sidcot defended well and really frustrated the home side during the first half. Not only did they defend well they also demonstrated that they had a few weapons of their own in attack. On a couple of occasions they released the ball for a winger who looked to have real pace and this drew the very best from covering centre back Nana Gyimah-Sarpong. Just before half time St Katherine's had yet more chances with Bracey who was unable to find the target after an unlucky bounce and then captain George Turner who just couldn't get the ball out from underneath his feet to get the shot away. The SK pressure was testing the Sidcot defenders who were forced to turn the ball behind for corner kicks on multiple occasions. George took responsibility for the set piece and put some exceptionally good balls into the box but again they went unchallenged. At half time the score was poised at 0-0 and although both teams looked to have the firepower to win the game, SK felt they had been dominant and should go on to win.

7 minutes into the second half came St Katherine's best chance to go ahead in the game. Turner clipped a lovely ball through for Bracey who found himself 1 on 1 with the Sidcot goalkeeper. Up until this point their goalkeeper had looked very assured and was arguably the best player on their team. Tyrese drew an excellent save from the goalkeeper who could only slow the ball on its way to the goal as it deflected off of his. Unfortunately for Tyrese and for SK the Sidcot centre back slid in to hook the ball off of the line superbly and keep the scores level. SK couldn't believe that they still weren't on the scoresheet!

The next two minutes of the game were disastrous for the home side as they conceded two almost identical goals in as many minutes. Indecision in letting the ball bounce proved costly for the reds on both occasions as the Sidcot striker capitalised on the defensive mistakes with two clinical finishes into the corner of the net leaving Jazper with no chance in goal. They couldn't believe it – not only were they behind but they had a two goal deficit to overturn! All of the boys set about clawing their way back in to the game. Nana moved into the midfield and made a real impact with his quality and creativity. Isaac was excellent at full back and linked up superbly with Ben Bohin who was showing some lovely touches down the right hand side of the pitch. Finley King was showing just as much quality down the left and went on a couple of excellent mazy runs with an array of step overs. With three left at the back Brandon was supported brilliantly by Isaac and Seb – both of whom grew in confidence as the game wore on.

SK were unable to get back into the contest but did score a special goal midway through the second half. The ball was played through by Turner to Bracey who flicked it with the back of his heel into the path of Bohin who played a superb square pass to Nana who was loitering with intent on the edge of the penalty area. Nana picked out Andrews at the back post who smacked the ball home to keep things interesting for the rest of the game. Special thanks to Senior Sports Captain Mason Smart for giving up his time to support the boys.

Well done everyone.

Mr Cook

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7 BOYS FOOTBALL V PCSA

Under 12s come up against very impressive outfit from Priory School

On Wednesday 21 February the year 7 boys had their second friendly game of the season and this time their opposition came in the form of Priory School from Weston-Super-Mare. Having started so well in their first game, SK were looking to keep their momentum going in this contest. This time captaincy fell to midfield dynamo Josh Moore who's leadership skills have really stood out this year in PE lessons.



Gabriel ANTOLIC-FURLONG, Ryan BUNDY, Euan CAUL-PATERSON, Kanye CHRISTIE, Seth COOK, Jake DRYSDALE, Charlie EVANS, William KING, Mac MARSHALL, Adil MOHAMOOD, Josh MOORE, Rufus SHEPPARD, George SKEATES, Taygan SMITH, Charley SONGER, Will STRATTON

SK were uncharacteristically slow out of the blocks in the first few minutes of the game and there was almost complete panic on the ball as Priory came out strongly and immediately put the home side under some serious pressure. Fortunately for the boys goalkeeper Gabe AF wasn't caught out during the early part of the game and must have made at least 3 vital saves in the opening minutes to keep his team in the game! As well as demonstrating some excellent shot stopping, Gabe was also quick off his line to sweep behind as his defenders found themselves a little too far up the pitch on more than one occasion! Without a doubt had Gabe not been in goal for the first 5 minutes, his team would have been out of the game such was the sluggish nature of their start!

As good as Gabe was for the first 5 minutes there was an absolute barrage coming his way and it was inevitably going to end up in goals. With just 10 minutes of the game played, SK found themselves 3 goals down and although the Priory boys took their chances well, you couldn't help but feel that SK hadn't exactly made things difficult for them. 2 of the goals were made far easier for Priory boys as they found themselves closer to the goal than their marker and then the boys failed to clear the ball more than once which resulted in the third goal. It doesn't really matter what standard of football you are playing at – you can't afford to concede goals in quick succession and so early on in the game!

SK were well and truly on the back foot and Priory were looking extremely strong. They were dominant in the midfield and had some real quality in the final third of the pitch but despite their dominance still looked challenged at the back when the reds went forward. JJ was leading the fight back and 5 minutes before half time struck two venomous balls from outside the area which forced good parries from the PCSA goal keeper. SK followed the ball up on both occasions but couldn't convert – the signs were looking more positive for them at the end of the half. SK started to find their feet in the game as the half drew to a close and just a minute before the whistle Charley Songer got himself on the scoresheet. Ryan Bundy, who was now occupying the middle of midfield, flicked the ball into the path of George Skeates who knocked the ball over the top to find Josh who had made a great run from midfield. Josh hit a perfectly weighted pass for Charley to run onto and as he arrived before the keeper Charley adjusted himself brilliantly to slide the ball into the net. Scoring just before half time gave the boys hope of getting back into the contest and during the break they acknowledged their improvement and set about getting back into the game.

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The boys looked great going forwards and were really threatening the Priory goal but they still looked really vulnerable defensively and there was still a lot of panic amongst some really competent footballers. When I say that boys looked vulnerable defensively I'm not just referring to defenders because it was a combination of factors that were causing them problems. Priory played some really sharp football and really flooded their midfield when they went forward. Our attacking players were a little slow to put pressure on Priory when they tried to play out and then our defensive line was too high which just gave them too much space in behind to use. In particular the boys were struggling from set pieces and the second half was just as much of a battle as the first.

Priory scored 2 more goals during the second half but there were a large number of positives to come from the game from a red perspective. Kanye, Jake and Will made some excellent interventions at the back but they were just called into emergency action on too many occasions! Charley Songer looked a constant threat up front with his pace and could have grabbed himself a hatrick but was unlucky with a couple of his final touches. George, Ryan and JJ linked up really well and some of their football was just as good as that which came from their opponents. Ryan was unlucky not to earn more of a reward at the end of the second half when his shot from range was saved superbly and parried away for a throw in.

In short, Priory played some really sharp football which was great to watch and it was clear that they were a team of boys who regularly play together. They were the better side on the day but SK rightly felt that although the score line was a fair reflection of the two teams on the day, it wasn't a reflection of the difference between the two sets of players. When you take students from such a wide geographical area you are always playing catch up with schools who all take from a local catchment as their students often play together on weekends and have done for a number of years. This group of boys will take a while to gel together and defensively, this is all that is missing.

I am really looking forward to seeing how much progress they make over the remainder of this season as there is a HUGE amount of potential with this group!

Well done gentlemen – a tough and frustrating match but don't dwell on it for too long – matches are coming thick and fast this time of the year!

Mr Cook

8 & 10 GIRLS FIXTURES V NAILSEA

Mixed results for the St Kath's sides

Year 8: St Kath's 4 - 2 Clevedon

Having drawn their most recent game the year 8 side were confident going into the Nailsea fixture. With both sides physically able to field 8-a-side it was a good opportunity for the girls to perfect their training drills on the pitch.

Isobel Taylor managed the middle of the pitch well, linking well with Izzy Prime and Sophie Weaden outside of her. In fact it was her ball into the circle that was deflected in by a Nailsea defender to take the lead. St Kath's remained in control throughout the half, but Nailsea has all eight of their players behind the ball, making it almost impossible for the St Kath's side to score. Chloe Weaden and Molly Green were solid in defence in front of Hetty Cleaver, but were powerless when the rest of the St Kath's side had been caught up in another attack and Nailsea broke away in themselves. Despite an excellent save by Hetty, the ball rebounded to a Nailsea stick to level the score.

In the second half the St Kath's positioning on the pitch was much better, spreading the Nailsea defence and creating gaps. Maya Matthews found plenty of space and linked well with Jolie Breakwell. The second half again was dominated by St Kath's who this time managed to create more shooting opportunities. Maya, Jolie and Izzy Prime all benefited from these scoring goals to make this a convincing victory for the year 8 side. Player of the match was voted as Isobel Taylor.

Year 10: St Kath's 5 - 9 Nailsea

The year 10 team are without a victory so far this season and they were keen to get their first win against the Nailsea side. Playing out of position Ruby Webber was excellent as centre covering a lot of the court and making some crucial interceptions. She was joined in the centre court by Wren Talbot Ponsonby and Lucie Robertshaw who supported her well in bringing the ball up the court.

Priscilla Lumoso and Lois Scanlan were the shooting pair in the first quarter and managed to score a goal each, whilst Nailsea tested the defence of St Kath's. The possession was dominated by Nailsea and this put pressure on Grace Brown and Izzy Fielden, despite some excellent interceptions the Nailsea side managed 4 goals to the St Kath's 2. After half time Grace Molton replaced Lois as GS and made an immediate impact by scoring a long range shot. However the Nailsea side continued their pressure and continued to score themselves. The game was fast paced and end to end, causing both teams to make errors. The final score was 9 - 5 to Nailsea.

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BRISTOL FLYERS BASKETBALL TRIP

Students get opportunity to watch Flyers take on Scorchers at WISE Arena

On Friday 23 February a group of students who have all committed themselves to basketball historically at St Katherine's had the opportunity to experience a British Basketball League match between the Bristol Flyers and Surrey Scorchers at the SGS Filton WISE Arena. Some of the students who were part of last year's Sky Sports Project remembered the Surrey Scorchers from their visit to the Careers in Sport Event at Surrey Sports Park and quickly recognised some of the faces from the coaching staff team.

After school the students headed straight for the canteen to get some hot food ahead of the game, the students then made their way to CR4 before departing to watch a Flyers game on YouTube in order to wet their appetites for the pending live match. The Flyers have undergone quite a few changes in personnel over recent years and for some of the students this was the third time they have travelled with the school to watch a game. This year though, for the first time, the students would have the chance to meet some of the players prior to the match.

On our arrival to the venue we were guided to the changing rooms pre-match in order to meet all of the players. It was really interesting to get the inside track into some of the preparation that goes into the matches at this level of competition. The students found themselves talking to players who were receiving some physical treatment ahead of the warm up, other players who were studying the detailed scouting information that had been provided for them on the opposition and other players who were just getting themselves into the right state of mind for the match. It was really impressive to see the thorough nature of the preparation that goes into sport at this level and I for one was struck by the detail of the information that the Flyers players had access to about their opposition! We are really grateful to all of the players for giving up a small but vital amount of their time during their pre-match preparations – it was really interesting to meet all of the players and have quick conversations with them about the game.



After meeting the players, we made our way up on to the balcony to take our spots for the game. The students had a fantastic view of what was a really thorough warm up and enjoyed watching the players being put through their paces ahead of tip-off. With the warm up complete it was time to enjoy the game!

Basketball has grown in popularity in recent years at school and when we went to watch our first match the students didn't have a huge idea what was going on during the game! Now the complete opposite is true and the students were really critical of the players and officials mistakes and were all highlighting the Flyers woes as they struggled against their



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opposition for the whole game! The Flyers were up by 2 at quarter time but that was the only occasion they were up at the end of a period and towards the end of the match were really forced to chase the game!

It looked at one point as though the Flyers were going to get back into the game but unfortunately the Scorchers just had too much of a margin for the final period. It was interesting to talk to our students at the end of the game and they all said that it was the defence that let them down. When I read coach Andreas Kapoulas' comments after the game I thought to myself how much more our students know about the game now compared with three years ago!

"We did not play with any sense of urgency throughout the whole game," Kapoulas said. "They wanted to play an up-tempo game and we didn't defend well. We allowed them to score 24 or more points in each quarter and they scored 100 points on our home court. When you score 90 points and you commit 20 turnovers, that kind of says the whole thing really. We were never able to get stops, offence was never the problem, there was just no commitment to defence."

It was another really great evening of live sport and I hope the students enjoyed the opportunity!

Special thanks to Mr Brace and Mr Thomas for giving up their Friday evenings!



Isaac ADEBO, Danny CONWAY, Matthew CRUTCHLEY, Seb DE MONTFORT, Tom EVANS, Ashya GRAY, Tom GREEN, Nana GYIMAH-SARPONG, Tara HARVEY, Bo MARSHALL, Dexter MOTT, Reece PALMER, Matthew PARSONS, Caolán PEARCE, Charlie RICE, Toby RICE, Ariel RUGMAN, Louis STRATTON, Tony TANNER, Kai WEST, Joseph WILLIAMS, Maxwell WILLIAMS, Muhammed ZAEEM

Mr Cook

SPRING HOUSE SPORT

Final year students compete in inaugural table tennis competition

In recent weeks the year 11 students have been busy participating in the second of our new house competitions for this academic year. As previously mentioned, year 11 have traditionally missed out on the house sport competition calendar but such is the sporting appetite in this year group that we decided to trial a series of 3 competitions.

The second of these competitions was in table tennis and teams of 4 players (2 boys and 2 girls) took to the court in matches against the other houses. Each house match consisted of all female competitors playing against each other and then all male competitors playing against each other. Once again players went head to head in timed matches in a twist to our traditional house competition format. At the end of the time players points were all added together and the house that won the most points overall would win the title. This competition format meant that there was no winning score and houses always had something to play for.

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Dexter Mott, Matteo Prime, Caolán Pearce, George Harris, Lauren Dun, Emma Gedge, Louis Stratton, Chris Drohan, Amy Stephens, Zhang Zhihao, Matty Crutchley, Elise Wear

Jupiter had to settle for fourth place in this competition but weren't helped by the fact that they couldn't field a girls team which didn't help their cause. For that reason Dexter and Matteo had their work cut out from the start but that didn't deter them from some excellent performances! Dexter enjoyed close matches against Matty from Saturn, Caolán from Mars and Chris from Mercury which is no mean feat and he was backed up well by Matteo who missed out by 3 points against Caolán and just 2 agonising points against Matty. Although both boys would have liked to have won it didn't matter as the competition format is all about scoring points! Ultimately Jupiter had to settle for fourth.



Finishing consistently in third place in both girls and boys competitions Mercury house took the bronze medal spot overall. Amy Stephens earned the green house an invaluable 53 points over the course of her matches and without those points her house would have really struggled. Amy lifted a lot of the pressure off of Louis and Chris and this allowed both boys to play with a little more freedom. Chris proved a tricky left handed opponent for many of his competitors but Louis was most valuable player for his house finishing with a contribution of 145 points as the third highest scorer of the whole competition.



This time Saturn had to settle for second spot despite winning the boys competition. Elise contributed a massive 95 points towards the yellow house total. Saturn were missing a girl which piled the pressure on Elise even more so and made her matches all the more important. Matty contributed just as well as Elise but the real success story in the yellow house and the main reason for their finishing position were the points of Zhang Zhihao. A total of 171 points from his matches not only earned him the title of top points scorer overall but also the knowledge that he was the driving force behind the yellow race to the silver medal.

It was little surprise that the only house to turn out a full complement of competitors was the winning house overall but that shouldn't detract from the achievements of their competitors. Caolán and George were third and second highest



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points scorers overall with 145 and 146 points respectively. However it was Lauren and Emma who both remained unbeaten for the entire competition that cemented their place at the top of the finishing table. All together Mars amassed a massive 511 points from their 24 matches which was 101 points clear of Saturn who finished in second place! Congratulations to the quartet from the red house for their maximum point scoring performances!

It was lovely to see the students out competing hard in a slightly different sport and there were so many close matches that went right to the wire. I really enjoyed watching the agony and sheer delight on competitors faces when the claxon went to end some of the closest games! Chris Drohan and Matty enjoyed an encounter which Matty won by just 2 points, Matteo lost out to Matty in another 2 point contest, Caolán lost to Hao Hao by the slimmest of 1 point margins to his dismay but to Zhang's delight and in customary fashion Matty beat George by just a single point in their contest.

House	Competitors	PLD	POINTS	RANK
Jupiter	BOYS	12	202	4
Mars	BOYS	12	291	2
Mercury	BOYS	12	288	3
Saturn	BOYS	12	315	1
Jupiter	GIRLS	12	0	4
Mars	GIRLS	12	220	1
Mercury	GIRLS	12	57	3
Saturn	GIRLS	12	95	2

It was great to see the Mars girls taking the competition by storm and their performance combined with that of their male counterparts was enough to secure top spot overall for the red house! Saturn and Mars both have a victory in the badminton and table tennis respectively and so Jupiter and Mercury will be looking for blue and green dominance when basketball competitions begin later this term.

The PE Faculty

SENIOR BOYS BASKETBALL V NS STARS

SK come out on right side of 1 point game as contest goes to the wire

On Sunday 25 February the senior boys were back out on the basketball court again to face another NS Stars team. Rumours were that the Stars were going to field a strong team and so the SK boys were expecting another tough workout on court. In recent weeks this group of boys have trained really hard and put the hours in on court well after the end of the normal school day. It's great to work with a group of such committed young players and equally as pleasing to see the improvements they have made on court. That said, the Stars have enjoyed victory in the last 3 meetings and it is as far back as October since the SK boys have found themselves ahead at the buzzer.



Danny CONWAY, Matthew CRUTCHLEY, Samatar ELM, Ashya GRAY, Zakaria MOHAMOOD, Dexter MOTT, Reece PALMER, Nabil WARSAME, Hao Hao ZHANG

Quarter 1 | SK 12 v 5 NS

Before the game started we spoke about how much work the boys had put in and how they should all be looking to showcase as much of that hard work on court as they possibly could. We also spoke about how defensively they have been below par in the last few games and so should be looking to really let the visitors know who the home team was. Nobody could quite have predicted the dominant start that the SK boys would enjoy and it started right from the word go as Ashya lined up against the Stars tallest and perhaps most physical player for the

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tip-off. Ashya rose above his opponent and knocked the ball into red hands to kick start the game. Soon after securing possession the boys headed up the court and set up their offence. Immediately you could see the fluidity in the offensive movement and early opportunities presented themselves for Matty and Reece to get the scoreboard rolling. In this first period SK showed some great defensive hustle and worked hard for a hugely impressive 9 steals early on. Boys weren't overplaying their men on defence and the cover was superb – a lot of the steals came from intercepted passes and the rest came from some ruthless stripping. The Stars boys had no time to settle and were uncharacteristically hurried in their offense; SK were just enjoying their dominance and ran out a 10 point lead quickly on. The Stars got going towards the end of the first period and clawed the lead back to 7 at quarter time. Matty and Ashya were dominant under the hoop at both ends at the start of the game clocking up 6 rebounds between them.

Quarter 2 | SK 20 v 15 NS (SK 8 v 10 NS)

The boys are now in a position where they have a lot of strength in depth and the boys rolling on and off from the side make a real impact in the game. Nabil, Dexter, Zhang and Zak all came on either late in the first quarter or in the second period and all made an impact. Zhang worked hard setting screens despite not feeling 100%, Dexter's movement off of the ball was clever while Zak was really showing off his handling abilities and Nabil was playing a really tight game defensively and managing himself in the restricted area really well. The boys continued to exert their offensive dominance but were starting to show signs of dropping intensity. As the period wore on the fluidity of the movement decreased and their motion offense became more and more static! Towards the end of the period the ball handler found himself trapped on more than one occasion as his team mates stood and watch him pick up and come under heavy pressure. Nonetheless the boys still had a 5 point lead at half time.

Quarter 3 | SK 28 v 26 NS (SK 8 v 11 NS)

The third period was really the Matty and Ashya show as between them these boys notched up all 8 points, 4 more rebounds and 3 humungous blocks. Ashya was the rebounding machine but Matty was absolutely destructive under his own basket. In a tight game having someone who is capable of a big denial makes such a psychological difference. A couple of the Stars boys had the door shut firmly in their face by Matty who was a huge presence under the hoop. These blocks weren't all sheer physicality and athleticism because Matty wasn't giving away any fouls – they were physicality and athleticism but also a lot of skill and accuracy as he had to make sure he was cleanly on the ball. Samatar and Danny were really enjoying the ball that Matty was earning them and feeding Ashya who was making it his mission to cause havoc under the hoop. I recall one pass that was pumped high into the air which Ashya had absolutely no right to claim. He managed to launch himself in to the air and whilst airborne arch his back over his opponent without fouling to grab the pass in. To make things even more impressive he landed only to push up again and finish an unbelievable 2.

Quarter 4 | SK 36 v 35 NS (SK 8 v 9 NS)

Despite Matty and Ashya keeping things close it was fair to say that the Stars boys had really come back into the game and had well and truly found their feet. Coupled with a definite dip in intensity from the SK boys the game was now really finely balanced and the SK boys had to dig deep for the last period. It would have been ridiculous to take Matty or Ashya off when they were having such an impact on the game but unfortunately for the SK boys both Matty and Samatar were forced to leave the court after a nasty clash of heads. This gave others the opportunity to step into the fray and show what they are made of. Ashya and Reece took on the point scoring duty in the final period with Ashya notching up 6 and Reece a vital 2 however it was Zhang and Nabil who really produced the goods for the team. The boys filled the huge holes vacated by Matty and Samatar and really worked their socks off to keep their team in the game. Nabil gave everything for the mid to late part of the period and Zhang picked up where he left off to close the game out. It was great to see Nabil then giving advice and encouragement to his team mates and yelling at them to run the clock down with only a minute left to play and a 1 point lead! SK used almost all of their 24 seconds before shooting the ball initially only to watch the rebound drop into Stars hands with just over 30 seconds to play. The game was tight and the pressure told as the Stars boys gave possessed straight back to Ashya trying to force a fast break which allowed the reds to run the clock down legally and seal their victory by the smallest of margins.

MVP: It was a tough call to split Matty and Ashya as both boys had such great games but the award went to Matty for getting marks in every single stats column! Matty's points were vital but his defence under the red basket was something special and brilliant to watch – what a blocking machine, what an athlete and what a sportsman!

There is nothing better to see than hard work paying off – the boys played some sublime basketball in that first period and were clinical in their offence and defence! The middle two periods weren't quite at the same level and the last period was sheer guts and determination but that first period just shows how much progress this group of boys have made. I am enjoying every minute of working with this group of young men and watching them go from strength to strength on the basketball court.

Well done gentlemen – thoroughly deserved.

Mr Cook

Player	Points	Assists	Steals	Rebounds	Blocks
Matty Crutchley	11	2	3	7	4
Samatar Elmi	4	3	3	4	2
Zhang Zhihao	0	0	1	1	0
Zak Mohamood	2	2	0	1	0
Reece Palmer	4	0	2	2	0
Ashya Gray	15	0	1	7	2
Dexter Mott	0	0	0	2	0
Danny Conway	0	4	1	2	0
Nabil Warsame	0	1	1	0	1

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8 GIRLS BASKETBALL V BACKWELL

Convincing victory for the unbeaten side 48 points to 6

Having already had two successful basketball fixtures the year 8 basketball team travelled to Backwell School to play their three key stage 3 teams.

The 10 strong squad travelled to Backwell, and despite being inside were in freezing conditions. The 10 players were split into two teams to face the three teams of Backwell in the 6 game format. The fixture was scored as a whole game however.

Yusra Hassan worked well clearing defensive lines and carried the ball well, creating some attacking opportunities for herself. Chloe Weaden was formidable on the court, strong in defence and accurate in her shooting opportunities. Working well in the middle was Leah Porter who covered huge amounts of the court and worked the ball around the court, linking up with the team well and scoring some great shots on goal. Playing alongside them in the first team was Niamh Gaynor who was energetic in attack and put pressure on the Backwell players when in possession of the ball and Jolie Breakwell who had a number of successful carries and attempts on goal.

The second team saw Isra Sandhool and Daisy Money work well defensively, with Isra carrying the ball through the court well and Daisy positioning herself well to provide support and options for her team. Sophie Weaden played in the pivot position and created plenty of opportunities both for herself and her side. Najwa Ahmed and Katie Hill played as point guards and pressured the Backwell side into plenty of mistakes to regain possession.

An all-round team effort in this convincing victory with Sophie Weaden voted as played of the match.

U15 BOYS BASKETBALL V NAILSEA

SK notch up a clumsy and hard fought 41 against new opponents

On Monday 5 March SK were delighted to have a basketball fixture against new opposition in the form of Nailsea School. For many of the Nailsea boys, this was their first experience of a competitive basketball fixture so our boys weren't all too sure what to expect. Nailsea had a team consisting of mainly year 10 boys and so we fielded a year 9 and 10 combined team with boys of varying levels of experience. It was great for this group to be able to test their skills and knowledge against a different team.



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Kyle BARRETT, Hamza BULALEH, Tom EVANS, Bailee FARLEY, Ashya GRAY, Sharmarka MATTAN, Charlton MILLIGAN, Zakaria MOHAMOOD, Reece PALMER, Caolán PEARCE, Louis STRATTON

Nailsea started the better of the two teams and were the first to work an opening to drive to the basket. In doing so Nailsea collected the foul and their tall and powerful forward went to the free throw line. When you play against new opposition the technique and outcome from the free throw line can give you a good indication of the strength of the team you are up against. If this was to be the barometer for the Nailsea team then we were in trouble as their player hit both of his free shots with pinpoint accuracy to take an early lead. SK quickly kicked into gear and tried to build an offensive opening of their own but just lacked some fluidity around the perimeter. They couldn't get their motion offense going and resorted to forcing a pass or dribbling into heavy traffic which just resulted in turnovers. Each time Nailsea had possession they execute a simple but effective game plan by getting the ball into their left handed ball handler who would look to drop it in to their forward or go on the drive himself. On the outside Nailsea had some other good smaller handlers who were able to work defenders around the court. SK really struggled to get to grips with the Nailsea offensive plans and were forced to watch them execute a number of identical plays that resulted in points for the away team.

With the lead mounting SK really needed to kick in to gear and it was Reece Palmer who eventually managed to get things going. On a couple of occasions SK worked clear openings to the basket but uncharacteristically were missing the easy and unopposed lay-ups that followed – some of the shooting was really inaccurate but fortunately the boys rebounded well and were able to finish, typically after 2 or 3 attempts. SK were growing into the contest but it was a slow moving machine, trudging up a very steep hill in really icy weather conditions! Once SK had started to put some points on the board their confidence grew and this gave the perfect opportunity for some of the younger boys to get themselves into the game. Kyle, Tom and Charlton were all thrown on in the deep again for the second time but on this occasion were far more confident. All of the boys were familiar with the very basic principles of the motion offence and were able to get up the court and occupy the necessary spots. Whenever the level of challenge goes up it is always difficult to adjust your game – especially at the speed needed in basketball. Tom is a mean rebounder and has a bullet of a chest pass while Kyle is an excellent ball handler and mazy dribbler yet neither boy did enough of what they do best during their opening minutes on court. Perhaps more fortunately for Charlton, an opportunity presented itself for an unopposed left handed lay-up which are something of a speciality for Charlton – he nailed his first basket attempt and this gave him real confidence for the game. Tom and Kyle both grew into the game and as the contest wore on Tom soon found himself under the hoop rebounding the ball and Kyle found himself with the ball in his hands.

Nailsea were making life tricky for some of the SK players with their size and physicality. A couple of our slighter ball handling players were finding it difficult to affect the game as much as they would have liked and so relied a little more on Ashya and Reece than normal. Ashya didn't seem to mind too much and was responsible for the turning point in the game at the start of the third period. Ashya picked the ball up on the outside and had seemingly already made his mind up to go to the basket. The traffic in front didn't seem to both him at all and he legally ploughed his way over and through the Nailsea defence to almost dunk the ball but dropped it in rather than slamming it down. This completely changed the dynamic of the game and where boys were missing shots before they started to drop and SK built up a lead. In fairness to the Nailsea boys, fatigue must have been setting in for them as they only had one substitute.

SK really started to run away with the contest in the final period and built up a sizable lead playing much better basketball and enjoying being a whole lot more accurate. I must thank Louis Stratton and Caolán Pearce both of whom volunteered their time to help with the table having been told that they wouldn't play at all. It seemed a little unfair to completely deprive both boys so they had around 3 minutes at the end of the game to get involved as much as they could. I am really grateful to them for giving up their time.

MVP was a tricky one as I think all boys would agree that they didn't play their best basketball for the large part of the match. Reece might have been off his range a little under the hoop but still managed an impressive 12 points and match his points with his rebounding stats to make him the first boy to notch up a double double from this team!

A good number of these boys have all been attending late practices regularly after school and I would really encourage those boys who don't attend to come along. It is a great opportunity to play together more frequently and also learn a little bit more about this complex game!

Well done gentlemen.

Mr Cook

Player	Points	Assists	Steals	Rebounds	Blocks
Ashya Gray	12	0	3	7	1
Shamarka Mattan	4	0	2	3	0
Zak Mohamood	2	0	2	3	0
Bailee Farley	3	0	1	0	0
Reece Palmer	12	0	4	12	0
Hamza Bullaleh	0	0	1	4	0
Charlton Milligan	6	0	1	2	2
Kyle Barrett	0	0	2	2	0
Tom Evans	0	0	0	2	0
Caolán Pearce	2	0	2	1	0
Louis Stratton	0	0	1	0	0

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U13 GIRLS INDOOR CRICKET

Girls lose out on finals day place by just 3 runs

Winning the toss, captain Chloe Weaden decided to field first so they could chase down the Gordano total in the last innings. They got off to a really positive start with Sophie Weaden taking 2 wickets in consecutive balls in the first over. Isobel Taylor was next up, who didn't manage a wicket but bowled really tightly and kept the Gordano score to a minimum. Chloe Weaden bowled the third over and just when it looked like Gordano were starting to rack up some vital runs, she took a third wicket in her final ball. Leah Porter was next up and after bowling her initial ball wide, cleanly bowled the Gordano batter to take the fourth wicket. Kaiya Greenwood playing for the first time within the St Kath's team then followed with a really solid 6 balls to keep the Gordano score within the sights of the St Kath's side. Maya Matthews then was the final bowler who also managed a wicket off a great catch behind by Ella Leakey. Leah and Sophie delivered the final two overs and Gordano finished their innings with a total of 108 runs for 6 wickets.

Daisy Money and Isobel Taylor opened the batting for the St Kath's side and got off to a reasonable start of the first 5 balls with 13 runs, but both Daisy and Isobel were dismissed in the final ball of the over to bring Jamie Leigh Bell and Leah Porter to the crease. Jamie Leigh and Leah settled themselves and began to build up a good total to challenge the Gordano score. Unfortunately Jamie Leigh was dismissed in the third over which brought Chloe Weaden to partner Leah. Chloe made an immediate impact hitting her first delivery for 6, both she and Leah worked together well and both made it past the 15 runs total to be retired. Sophie, Kaiya and Ella all batted for short periods, adding runs and taking their chances well, however it was becoming clear that the game would go down to the last over. St Kath's required a huge 25 runs to win, but they were painfully close by scoring 22, 3 short of the Gordano 108 total.



Gordano U13 108 - 6 (Gordano win by 3 runs)	
St Kath's U13 105 - 5	
Batting	
Chloe Weaden	21
Leah Porter	15
Bowling	
Sophie Weaden	23 - 2
Leah Porter	30 - 2



Miss Ball

7 BOYS FOOTBALL V NAILSEA

16 boys play on immaculate 4G pitch in friendly fixture against Nailsea School

On Tuesday 6 March it was brilliant to be able to take 16 boys over to Nailsea School for two 7-a-side friendly fixtures. This group of year 7 boys are showing a lot of promise on the football pitch and are starting to become more and more familiar with each other. It has been great to have so many interested in playing and even better to be able to take most of them on an away fixture. To top it off we played on the impressive 4G pitch at Nailsea and although it is a different surface – they don't come much flatter which is certainly different to our playing fields!

The boys were split into two squads of 8 which was tricky in itself because we had to balance positions between the two teams rather than just personnel. I made it pretty clear to the boys at the start that I wasn't interested in scorelines or anything else for that matter – this was all about getting out there and enjoying playing as much as possible!

In one of the games it took the boys no more than one minute to get on the scoresheet! Almost immediately from kick off Saul WB and George Skeates linked up well with some excellent interplay which resulted in George being put through on goal. George has an impressive goal scoring record for the school already and putting his team ahead early on certainly lifted their spirits. George and Saul continued to work together superbly in attack and it was almost as if the two boys played together regularly outside of school although this is not the case!

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Gabriel ANTOLIC-FURLONG, Ryan BUNDY, Euan CAUL-PATERSON, Kanye CHRISTIE, Seth COOK, Jake DRYSDALE, Charlie EVANS, William KING, Mac MARSHALL, Josh MOORE, Rufus SHEPPARD, George SKEATES, Taygan SMITH, Charley SONGER, Will STRATTON, Saul WRIGHT-BRENNAN

Unfortunately for the SK boys in this team it didn't take Nailsea too much longer to level things up and they quite quickly showed that they were an impressive attacking outfit. The fact that we weren't playing offside in these smaller sided games really threw a lot of our boys as our attackers were holding their runs to stay level and our defenders merrily letting opposition players loiter in behind which was their undoing all too frequently. Taygan Smith had a superb performance in goal and pulled off some unbelievable saves when Nailsea players had been left unmarked in behind – without a doubt Taygan kept the boys in the fight during the first period of the game; not only that but he also defended excellently when he came out of goal during the second half. Will Stratton used all of his pace and strength in defence and made the vital intervention on more than one occasion playing alongside Charlie Evans who was just as resolute in his defensive duties. Seth, Rufus and Euan occupied the midfield well for long periods of the game and all boys enjoyed some moments of magic. Seth almost found himself on the scoresheet after getting into the opposition penalty area and unleashing a strike. Unfortunately a ricochet denied him a goal but a great effort nonetheless. Rufus demonstrated vastly improved control and passing in the midfield while Euan looked really skilful on the ball and demonstrated some excellent trickery bringing Saul and George into the game well.



In the other match the scoreline was teetering on a knife edge as neither side were unable to break the deadlock for the first 17 minutes despite both enjoying excellent chances. The game was frantic and neither side were able to keep possession of the ball for any extended period of time or find that final clinical touch. It was Josh Moore who eventually put SK ahead although he did enjoy some good fortune with a deflection that took the ball further away from the goalkeeper but SK didn't feel too bad about it because they had enjoyed some brilliant opportunities so it wasn't as though they didn't deserve a goal. Gabe played brilliantly in goal making some excellent saves especially during the last few minutes of the match that were the most tense. His best save of the game came just moments before Nailsea netted their match winning goal. Gabe saved the first effort brilliantly but unfortunately his recovering defenders weren't able to beat their opposition to the follow up. In attack Charley Songer, Ryan Bundy and Mac Marshall all looked really

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threatening but all of the boys were frustrated that they couldn't find that last magic touch. Will King worked his socks off to get the ball to these boys as often as he could but again Nailsea were able to nip in at the last and snuff out the attack.

Defensively Jake and Kanye were superb in this match and adjusted really well to not playing offside. Jake quickly changed his positioning and was a constant organisational force for his team calling midfielders back in and keeping Nailsea quite in attack. For me, the best player out on the pitch from either team was Kanye Christie who had a monumental performance in defensive for the reds. He has added so much to his game in recent weeks and despite not playing football regularly outside of school just seems to soak up advice like a sponge. Kanye was positioned superbly, strong on the ball and his decision making for when to close and when to back off was exceptional! Both boys defended admirably but were just overrun in the final stages of the game and desperately unlucky to lose.



A thoroughly enjoyable afternoon of football with a great group of young men who are improving all the time on the football pitch! For so many of our teams, their biggest battle is getting used to playing together as we take from such a wide range of areas – I have little doubt that this bunch will go from strength to strength as time goes by!

Well done everyone.

Mr Cook

U13 BOYS INDOOR CRICKET

Boys second best in Finals Day of the Somerset County Indoor Cricket Competition

On Thursday 22 February St Katherine's hosted the North Schools Play-Off with 4 different schools competing for just two spaces in this year's County Finals! As runners-up from the previous round, SK were drawn against Beechen Cliff for their semi-final while Gordano took on Ashton Park in their semi-final.

SK managed to chase down the 63 total set by Beechen Cliff off of their 6 overs. Some sharp bowling from ultimate competitor Toby Rice saw him take 2-1 from his over. Ollie Stratton top scored with the bat to guide his team to victory as they hit the winning runs off the last ball making the most of a fielding error brought about by the pressure. Knowing they had already qualified the boys faced Gordano who set an impressive 79 as their target batting first. All of the boys found the going tough with the bat as Gordano marched away in their 6 overs but captain Toby Rice came back strongly with the bat retiring on 15 but being forced to watch the boys make just 62 in reply. Nonetheless the boys had qualified for the County Finals and could not wait for their day out!

Finals Day arrived on Wednesday 7 March and 9 eager boys made their way to the County Ground in Taunton to face opposition from Castle School, Maidens Beech and Gordano. The boys drew Castle School in their semi final and in a high drama, high stakes game managed to pull off an amazing run chase to see them through to the final. In the other match Gordano were comfortable victors against their opposition and so the two schools from the most northerly corners of the county set about doing battle once again.

The boys gave a better showing of themselves than they did in the earlier round of the competition alas Gordano were too strong and were deserving winners at the end of the afternoon. Naturally disappointed, it didn't take the SK boys long to pick themselves up as on their way out of the complex there was no shortage of well known's from the cricketing world, some of whom helped with presentations and all of whom kindly gave up their time for some memorable photographs.

The photos here just sum up the quality of the afternoon put on for the boys - thanks to the SCB for organising!

Reggie-Lee HAYWARD, Benjamin LUMOSO, Mac MARSHALL, Toby RICE, Ariel RUGMAN, Harry SLAPE, Ollie STRATTON, Jack THOBURN, Joseph WILLIAMS

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U13 BOYS BASKETBALL V GORDANO

Youngest boys notch up highest points total & best performance to date!

On Thursday 8 March our youngest crop of basketball players travelled over to Gordano School to contest a friendly basketball fixture. Some upward movement has meant that the year 9 boys are now playing more regularly with the older boys which means that the year 8 boys can shoulder more of the responsibility on court. The spaces left behind are also giving some of our youngest basketball players the opportunity for competitive experience and boy is there some basketball talent in year 7! The first ever game this group of boys played they managed a total of 18 points so before stepping out onto court they were set a target – notch up more than 18 points!



Gabriel ANTOLIC-FURLONG, Shadrach BUNKETE, Kanye CHRISTIE, Ian ISAAC, Benjamin LUMOSO, Jonathan PUATI-KAMBU, Toby RICE, Ariel RUGMAN, Joseph WILLIAMS

Quarter 1 | SK 5 v 4 Gordano

As the year 8 boys were shouldering the majority of the responsibility a trio of the more experienced players in Toby, Joe and Ben took to the court alongside Kanye and Gabe. It took both sides a while to get going as each team had unsuccessful visits to the basket during the opening minutes of the match. It was Gordano who broke the deadlock first but the SK reply was perhaps the most impressive action of the first quarter. Joe Williams found himself unmarked outside the 3 point line and set up to release his shot on receiving the pass. 3 point shots are something of a rarity in schoolboy basketball, especially at the U13 age but Joe finished his shot with fine form and watched his effort drop into the hoop to put his team in the lead. His team mate and captain Toby Rice was next in on the action as he added two points to give his team a 5-4 lead heading in to quarter time.

Quarter 2 | SK 12 v 16 Gordano (SK 7 v 12 Gordano)

In the second period the Gordano team came out strongly and really started to give our defense a work out. The boys had to work hard to keep out their opposite number and despite Toby scoring the first basket of the period; Gordano went on to notch up the next six 2-point efforts consecutively which put the boys in red 9 point adrift of their opponents in a very short space of time. Gordano were looking strong and thoroughly deserved their lead as they moved the ball around

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the court with ease. Ben Lumoso did score two points of his own towards the end of the period but the boys were still flailing behind and in need of a spark – up stepped Joe Williams again; surely he couldn't sink another 3 point effort? Joe had other ideas and sank his second 3 with consummate ease and although the boys were still 4 points from their opponents they had wrestled back the momentum.



Quarter 3 | SK 17 v 20 Gordano (SK 5 v 4 Gordano)

The third period of the game saw certain players really grow in confidence and performance as the boys strived for their 18-point target. Half way through the game they had managed a total of 12 points so we revised our points target to more than 20. Gordano sunk the first 4 points of the period but Shadrach Bunkete was first to answer with a two point effort of his own. This gave him huge confidence and he was looking really threatening on the perimeter demonstrating his ability to drive to the basket on multiple occasions. Toby led from the front and drew a contact foul on his way in making the first of his two free throws. Shadrach was next but wasn't able to convert from the line – the points didn't matter at this stage of the game, it was simply the intent to get back into the contest that was important. Captain Rice was really starting to hit his straps and scored another 2 point effort just before the buzzer sounded for the end of the period to give his team mates a chance at a 3 point game to start the final period. Although Toby was taking on the bulk of the scoring duties there were a number of other players who were giving him the space and the service to do so. Gabe AF is really clever at moving his marker around to create space for his team mates and Kanye was learning fast yet again to cut into and out of the restricted area making himself a threat to the basket too.

Quarter 4 | SK 23 v 28 Gordano (SK 6 v 8 Gordano)

The final period of the game was a race to get to 18 points and then on to more than 20. I am delighted to say that the boys managed to meet both of those targets but for the first couple of minutes of the final period it looked as though they might get stuck on 17! Some of the boys were starting to really struggle with fatigue during the final period of the match and it was fitting that captain and talisman for this match Toby Rice would be the boy to score the points that saw his team hit both targets. Toby scored all 6 points and was just on fire in the last period of the game when others around him looked like they had given all they had. For a minute I wondered whether the boys might be able to chase the game down alas it wasn't meant to be and they were forced to settle for a 5 point deficit at the final buzzer.

MVP: It is not often that you can score two 3-point efforts in 1 match and not claim the award for MVP so Joe Williams can consider himself desperately unlucky not to take the title; not least because he had an excellent game alongside his mighty 6 point contribution. It just isn't possible to give the MVP award to anyone other than Toby Rice for scoring an unbelievable 14 points; more than half of the total points. What a great week for this young man on the cricket pitch and now on the basketball court – one of our brightest and best young sportsmen!

Congratulations gentlemen – without a doubt your best basketball performance so far!

Mr Cook

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8 GIRLS NS HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

Tough pool group sees girls finish in 3rd place

Having had a very reasonable season, the year 8 hockey team were hopeful for a positive result at the North Somerset County tournament. However, this was going to prove to be a difficult task being drawn in a very tough pool alongside Gordano, Clevedon, Priory and Nailsea.

In the first game they faced Priory, who were quick off the mark and scored almost immediately with the St Kath's players slightly off the pace from the whistle. The players quickly re-organised themselves and began to produce better hockey creating chances down the left side with Maya Matthews finding Izzy Prime in the circle. Jolie Breakwell battled hard in the middle and provided some good balls to the width of the pitch however Priory continued to put pressure on the St Kath's defence and despite some excellent saves by Hetty Cleaver, Priory won the game three goals to nil. Player of the match was voted as Chloe Weaden.



The second game was against Nailsea and the girls were hopeful of a good result having recently beaten them in a fixture, unfortunately despite most of the possession and a number of penalty corners awarded against Nailsea, the St Kath's side were unable to score past the Nailsea keeper. The defence of Chloe Weaden and Molly Green had little to do but were strong in their tackles to halt any attempts by Nailsea. Millie McLoughlin added pace to the attack and held her position well in the circle but on the final whistle the girls were held to a frustrating draw 0-0, with Isobel Taylor voted as player of the match.

Gordano were next up and having seen them already score 9 goals in their opening games the girls knew they'd be in for a tough game. They again were caught napping at the start of the game and Gordano scored an early goal. Having identified their danger player Maya Matthews stuck close to her and disrupted her play well; Molly Green made some great tackles in front of goal and linked well with Ella Leakey and Isobel Taylor in the middle. Gordano has the majority of the possession which ultimately turned into goals, despite Hetty Cleaver's best efforts, winning by four. Chloe received player of the match for a 2nd game.

Finally the girls faced Clevedon, from the start it was clear that the St Kath's side were going to dominate the play and they did, using the whole team to switch the ball around successfully. Unfortunately this caused the entire Clevedon side to camp out behind the ball and it was really difficult to get a shot away on goal. Sophie Weaden put in some excellent crosses in front of goal and Izzy Prime and Jolie Breakwell both came close but couldn't get it passed their keeper and frustratingly again the game finished goalless.



Miss Ball

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TAUNTON RUGBY CLUB TRIP

Lucky group of students treated to match day at Taunton RFC

On Saturday 10 March a lucky group of students from years 11 and 12 were treated to a match day experience at Taunton RFC courtesy of school governor Mike Amos. Mike is a fantastic supporter of PE and sport at school and helping to encourage youngsters as well as being heavily involved at Taunton RFC. Mike kindly arranged a match day experience for some students who are studying sport to give them a real insight into the preparation and organisation that goes into a match as well enjoying all of the high quality hospitality that the club has to offer. The forecast wasn't great but we were fortunate enough to be bathed in sunshine down at Hyde Park and had a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon.



On our arrival we were met by Mike and headed straight for the changing rooms where we met Head Coach Tony Yapp who has scored more than 3000 points in Premiership, National League and Cup rugby for Bedford, Exeter, Launceston and Taunton RFC. We also met forwards coach Chris Brown who gave us a superb behind the scenes tour on a busy match day. We had a brief history of the club, went into the changing rooms to look at the tactics board and then headed for the physio room where we looked at the physical preparations the players go through as well as the statistics that are available on each player. We were extremely grateful to Tony and Chris for giving up so much of their valuable time on match day to give us such a great insight into the way that Taunton prepare their players for their National South 2 matches.

After meeting Tony, Chris and some of the players we headed up to the hospitality suite for a first class pre-match carvery meal including sweet! Safe to say that the boys piled their plates high and made the most of the very generous hospitality that they were offered. While having lunch we listened to speeches from Chris who introduced the opposition as well as members of the committee at Taunton. It was a brilliant experience for the boys who thoroughly enjoyed themselves as well as their pudding!



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Laden with food the boys made their way outside to catch some of the rugby as the last treat of the day. They were spoilt for choice as the 2nds were already underway on their pitch while the Colts were busy looking to secure a final place in the cup on the motorway pitch. Shortly the first team made their way out onto the main pitch to begin what turned out to be an extremely close contest against London Irish Wild Geese. The Titans ran out to an early lead by half time 27-5 but the Wild Geese came back valiantly in the second period only to lose narrowly 31-24 at the final whistle. The boys had front row seats for a real hotly fought match that contained a good number of tries as well as a red and yellow card – you can't ask for more than that.



Danny CONWAY, Matthew CRUTCHLEY, Tom GREEN, Dexter MOTT, Lowell MOTT, Caolán PEARCE, Charlie RICE, Louis STRATTON

It was lovely to be able to treat a group of brilliant young men who have really committed themselves to school rugby over the years and worked tirelessly to support the sport during their time at St Katherine's!

I hope you all enjoyed yourselves!

Mr Cook

SKY SPORTS EPP PROJECT

Sky Sports group make an impressive escape at City Mazes!

On Friday 16 March the Sky Sports EPP group had their first opportunity to venture out for a trip. Their destination was City Mazes, a local escape game complex where they were set to be locked in a room together for 60 minutes trying to find a very illusive 4-digit code to escape! On the minibus down the group decided that they wanted to split into their respective year groups. Year 8 took on Bunker Blowout while Year 9 found themselves handcuffed together in Hostage Hostel!

BUNKER BLOWOUT Skill Rating: ★★☆☆

HOSTAGE HOSTEL Skill Rating: ★★☆☆

A few weeks ago all contact was lost with Bunker 9. There was a message left calling for help, but by the time we received the message it was too late and so you must blow open the door yourself ...

You come across an old, creepy looking hostel and decide to enter. What a mistake that was – you've now been taken hostage! You now find yourself locked in, and have 60 minutes to escape.

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Max ANDREWS, Freya BARNETT, Louie DUN, Beth EDWARDS, Benjamin LUMOSO, Maya MATTHEWS, Leah MILKINS, Jazper PEACEY, Caolán PEARCE, Leah PORTER, Toby RICE, Lara ROPER, Louis STRATTON, Chloe WEADEN, Sophie WEADEN

On arrival the students were given a quick safety briefing and all of the essential information they needed before they could be locked in their rooms. Students were directed to the first step on the trail in both of the rooms before being equipped with some torches and a radio. When the doors closed their timers started at the 60 minute countdown started – if they became stuck, students could ask for an unlimited number of clues but each clue warranted 3 minutes being added to their final time! With all of the students set and ready they were locked in and the competition began!



I was fortunate enough to be able to flit between both of the rooms and it was fascinating to see how the two groups set about making their escape! Instantly both groups gelled together as they set about working their way through the clues that had been left for them but it didn't take long before both rooms ground to a halt and became stuck! I was a captivated spectator as I watched our brightest and best students really pushed and tested to their limits. Some gave in quickly and started to call for clues while others gritted their teeth and refused to pick the easy option.

There were 15 students that came on the trip and there were 15 leaders in the rooms where I was expecting there to be a huge clash of personalities. Instead the students allocated each other really clear areas of responsibility; one took overall charge, others set about tackling the clues while some kept an eye on the time. Students had to balance the time it was taking them to work through the clues with the 3 minutes that they would be penalised if they asked for help. You could feel the energy and the atmosphere in the room – it was brilliant to be able to watch this lot so closely!

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The Hostel group gathering to listen to Louie reading the opening clue



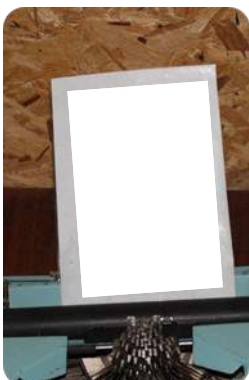
Maya and Sophie taking charge of one of the locks while the others worked on clues



Louis, Toby and Caolán racking their brains after getting stuck in the Bunker

As both rooms neared the 60 minute mark the pressure was really on and the students' ability to think clearly under pressure and work as a team was tested to the limit! I was lucky enough to be in both rooms at the moment they made their final breakthroughs – the tension was palpable as the seconds ticked away and the elation was clear for everyone to hear and see when both groups got over that final hurdle and escaped with their final 4-digit code!

Amazingly both groups managed to escape their rooms and impress the staff at City Mazes. Bunker Blowout claims to have only a 50% success rate while Hostage Hostel just 25%! When you consider that adults and children have all been locked in, that makes their achievements even more impressive! It was little surprise to me that both groups made it out in the time, albeit only just! To watch this group of our brightest and best students in full flow was a real privilege and one that I hope they all enjoyed. At the end of their hour the two teams were only interested in their competition with the other team – they knew that only 39 seconds separated the teams escape times but what they didn't know was how many clues the other team had asked for!



The first clue left for one of the groups



Team Bunker working their way through the clues on their table trying to piece together the puzzle



The Hostel room making their first major breakthrough into another room!

Bunker Blowout – Year 8

Escape Time: 58 minutes and 23 seconds

Clues: 3

Total Time: 67 minutes and 23 seconds

Hostage Hostel – Year 9

Escape Time: 57 minutes and 44 seconds

Clues: 2

Total Time: 63 minutes and 44 seconds



Well done everyone!

Mr Cook



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7 BOYS FOOTBALL V CLEVEDON

Boys finish season with fine 5 goal victory against Clevedon School

On Tuesday 20 March the year 7 boys took to the football field for the final time in the season to contest one last friendly fixture against Clevedon School. The boys have enjoyed mixed results in their first season and this year for the boys it has been all about getting used to playing alongside your team mates and getting competitive experience. Despite me telling the boys that it will take a while for them to learn to play together and not to expect things to click instantly they still want to win – of course they do and this group of youngsters deserved a win for their recent efforts!

Gabriel ANTOLIC-FURLONG, Ryan BUNDY, Kanye CHRISTIE, Jake DRYSDALE, William KING, Mac MARSHALL, Josh MOORE, George SKEATES, Charley SONGER, Will STRATTON, Saul WRIGHT-BRENNAN, Najib YUSUF

The home side started strongly in their final match and really started to exert some pressure on the Clevedon boys. Najib and George were looking a threatening combination up front and this soon told with SK working a great opportunity which forced a last gasp tackle from a covering Clevedon defender. Mac Marshall stood over the set piece with real intent and stepped up to whip the ball in. Only Mac will be able to tell you whether or not he meant it to go straight in – if his celebration was anything to go by then it was a deliberate effort and knowing Mac, I wouldn't put it passed him!

SK were as comfortable as a 1 goal lead allows you to be but always conscious that the bounce of a ball could be all that Clevedon needed to get back into the game. Jake Drysdale and Kanye were resolute at the back, both determined to ensure that this didn't happen. Despite SK's defensive strengths, Clevedon did have chances, several of them drawing excellent saves from goalkeeper Gabe AF. For a large part of the first half SK enjoyed dominance in the form of possession and territory which lead to more goal scoring opportunities. Their dominance meant that they were a little too over enthusiastic to get the ball forward and relied all too often on the straight pass which the Clevedon defence dealt with too easily. On occasions where they got it right they caused Clevedon a real headache; one such occasion coming after 19 minutes when Josh Moore latches on to a through ball finishing clinically. No sooner had they got a 2 goal lead did they squander it as a result of some sloppy defensive work. SK had were dominant but Clevedon were 100% in the game at half time.

Half time presented the perfect opportunity to talk to the boys about trying to avoid playing the ball forward too quickly. Some positional changes pushed Josh Moore a little further forward which paid dividends as after just a minute into the second half he had his second goal. Josh went on to score 4 exceptionally good goals and earn himself the man of the match performance. One of Josh's goals was an absolute screamer driven from the right hand side across the goalkeeper and into the side netting. Even the Clevedon boys were looking around mesmerised by how Josh had managed to find that angle from that position. Josh is a great lad who works really hard on the pitch and has shown some serious footballing talent in his first year at secondary school. We are delighted to have him and his 4 goal match winning performance in this game was evidence of his talent if you needed it!



Well done gentlemen – a perfect ending to an excellent first football season. There is a huge amount of promise in this group of boys and I am really looking forward to seeing how they knit together in the coming years. On paper there is some serious footballing talent in year 7 – only time will tell whether they can gel and play the football that they are capable of!

Congratulations to everyone who had represented the school on the football pitch this year!

Mr Cook

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10 V 11 BOYS FOOTBALL

The oldest of schoolboy footballing rivalries returns for a third instalment

After one failed attempt at getting the game on, Wednesday 21 March was finally confirmed as game day where the current year 10 cohort would take on the current year 11 cohort. Respective team captains had selected their teams in advance and were ready to do battle on the football pitch. For the last two years the title has perhaps unsurprisingly gone to year 11; 5 goals to 2 and 8 goals to 1 chronologically. This year's year 10 cohort were looking for an upset while year 11 were looking to make it 3 from 3 for the boys with the experience.



Hamza BULALEH, Will CONROY, Matthew CRUTCHLEY, Shaigh GAYNOR, Ashya GRAY, George HARDWELL, Bailee HARRISON, Charlie HAYWARD, George HAYWARD, Kaie LAWRENCE, Jacob LEBO, Felix MCGOVERN, Zakaria MOHAMOOD, Dexter MOTT, Matthew PARSONS, Caolan PEARCE, Edward POWELL, Matteo PRIME, Alfie RENDELL, Paul RICKARDS, Samuel SANDERS, Eli SMITH, Joshua SONGER, Louis STRATTON, Mickey TRENEAR-CHITTEM, Kai WEST, Logan WEST, Alexander WILSON, Hao Hao ZHANG

It won't be much of a surprise to discover that the game started at a high tempo with neither side being able to settle on the ball for any great period of time as year 11 looked to stamp their authority on the game while year 10 looked to find their feet in the contest. As the opening minutes wore on it was year 11 who grew dominant and started to work some good opportunities. Bailee Harrison picked up on the ball a lot in the midfield and when he let his pass go was picking out team mates who had made good runs. Paul Rickards, Kai West, Mickey Chittem and Louis Stratton were all showing positive intent going forwards and offering great options for whoever had the ball at their feet. In typical fashion Matty Crutchley was smothering the boys in the year 10 midfield and probably had more touches inside the first 10 minutes that everyone else on the pitch put together – that boys seems to have a knack of being right in the thick of the action all the time!

Year 10 were on the back foot and under heavy pressure but were defending well and all the time the older boys were unable to find that clinical final touch, they remained in the game. Felix McGovern and Ashya Gray were proving to be a formidable partnership in the centre of defence while Logan and Charlie were doing their level best to keep things quiet out wide. The year 10 boys were given little choice but to defend from the front but it was actually their last line of defence, Josh Songer who was keeping them in the game. In the first 12 minutes of the game Josh made some brilliant saves including a really brave 1 v 1 which he deflected out for a corner.

Year 10 held out firm for a whole 13 minutes before the deadlock was broken and nobody could argue that year 11 hadn't been knocking at the door for a while. It was Kai West who made the initial breakthrough after firing an impressive effort from range narrowly over the bar just minutes earlier. This time Kai picked the ball up with his back to goal again before turning and working an opportunity to let fly a second time – this one found the back of the net. The year 10 defence had



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been breached once but then just a minute later the year 11 boys put themselves two to the good when Sam Sanders netted. Sam seems to have a knack of arriving in the right place at the right time and knowing where the back of net is – two qualities that are pretty important for any striker!

Year 10 were disheartened but not out of the game and after conceding two in quick succession doubled their defensive efforts and really worked hard to get a foothold in the game. Captain and central midfielder Eli Smith picked up the ball a lot from his defense in the first half but early on had very few passing options. As the half wore on his team mates grew in confidence and wanted the ball more which allowed Eli to use his passing range to better effect. Eli linked up well with Kaie Lawrence and George Hardwell, both of whom showed some clever touches to create more of an attacking threat. As year 10 found their feet in the game they started to pose more of a threat and when they worked the ball into a good attacking position they called Caolán and Matteo into action a number of times. On one occasion before half time a loose ball was collected on the half way line by a year 10 player who had drawn Matteo out of position and beat him to the ball. Matteo resorted to pulling the players shirt committing a clear professional foul and earned himself a caution for his troubles. This was the first time that the younger boys really strung anything meaningful together going forward but soon after the whistle went for half time.



In the early part of the second period the game really stuttered and both teams lost their quality on the ball. Possession changed hands a number of times but it was only year 11 who looked to be causing any problems with the ball in attack. Yet again Josh Songer was the only thing between year 11 and a three goal lead as he pulled off a couple of excellent reactionary saves. As the game entered the latter stages year 11 looked to be the only team threatening the goal and it was then little surprise when Mickey Chitem and then Louis Stratton doubled the senior boys lead on 41 and 43 minutes respectively. Year 10 found it difficult to put together any real goal scoring opportunities and for some periods of the game it was backs to the wall stuff – this is so often the case for the younger year as year 11 will testify to bearing in mind their result last year! Year 11 were dominant but lacked a lot of quality in front of goal so had to settle for a 4-0 victory where they could have had quite a few more!

Well done to all of the boys involved – a great way to end a season disrupted by some unseasonably bad weather and a great way for year 11 to sign off!



Special thanks to all of the boys in year 11 who have represented the school during their 5 years – lots of memorable moments with a great bunch of young men.

Mr Cook

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7 HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

Girls show huge improvement and great teamwork in end of year tournament

The year 7 girls travelled to Worle for their first hockey tournament, competing against several other schools in North Somerset. Their first game against Priory began quite evenly with playing moving back and forwards between the two sides. Priory were first to score but St Kath's quickly followed with an excellent goal from Renae Rush straight after. Although with some great through balls and runs up the wing from Daisy Wilkinson, Priory took charge of the game. They successfully managed to get another 2 goals and won with a final score of 3-1. Megan Hart-Jones was voted player of the match.



The next game saw some tough competition from the home team Worle. St Kath's started strong driving the ball forward giving Daisy Medder several scoring opportunities but unfortunately with little success. Lillie-Mai Hawker worked tirelessly in midfield, using the space of the pitch very well but Worle managed to get 2 goals past our defence finishing the game 2-0. Renae Rush was voted player of the match.

The third game proved to be St Kath's best performance with fantastic passing and movement off the ball from all players. Churchill managed to score first and Charlie then came very close to equalling the score but couldn't quite beat the goalkeeper. Excellent defensive play from Jemima German and Helana Mills meant no more goals were conceded and the game finished 1-0. Player of the match was voted Poppy Baldwin-Brooks.



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Game four against Backwell was very even contest. The girls began to close the ball down more and used the width of the pitch well when they had possession. Layla Clarke and Bella Wake made some great defensive clears but unfortunately Backwell found an opportunity and successfully scored giving them a 1-0 win. Helana Mills was voted player of the match.

In the final game St Kath's faced Nailsea who were very attacking from the first whistle. Poppy and Renae worked extremely hard to work the ball up the pitch but unable to find success. St Kath's continued to push themselves throughout the game but Nailsea took every chance to score and the game finished 5-0 to Nailsea. Player of the match voted Charlie Mobbs.

Fantastic team work was shown throughout the tournament and although the final scores don't show St Kath's as the winning team the girls have improved dramatically this season and their effort cannot be faulted.

Miss Crack

U16 BOYS FOOTBALL V PCSA

Combined team lose 1 nil in unbelievable game full of goal scoring chances

On Thursday 22 March a group of year 10 and 11 boys travelled to Priory for a friendly fixture against Priory year 10s. We agreed before the game that we could play year 11 boys in this game as there hasn't been a huge amount of football for them this year due to the short length of the two terms and the bad weather! For year 10 this was their last game of the season but for the boys in year 11 this was going to be their last school game full stop!

Priory started strongly and quickly showed signs that they had a number of attacking threats which were well dealt with by centre back pairing Caolán and Matteo. The Priory central midfield had real pace and really good feet and it was his good work that resulted in the first chance of the game going to Priory. The SK boys thought they had conceded and all stopped playing bar Matteo Prime who managed to get himself back on the line to clear the ball brilliantly. After an initial scare SK quickly found their feet and went on a few attacking forays of their own to give their opponents some defending to do. It wasn't a surprise to anyone that Matty Crutchley saw a lot of the ball in the first 15 minutes and won possession for his team countless times. Matty had Logan, Louis, Kai and Felix by way of attacking options to choose but there was a disconnect between the boys that made it really difficult for them to find any attacking fluency.



Matthew CRUTCHLEY, George HAYWARD, Kaie LAWRENCE, Felix MCGOVERN, Dexter MOTT, Caolán PEARCE, Edward POWELL, Matteo PRIME, Eli SMITH, Louis STRATTON, Kai WEST, Logan WEST, Hao Hao ZHANG

9 minutes into the match things got worse for SK as they got drawn out of a position at the back for a Priory throw in. With one defender being pulled right to the touchline, the rest of the defenders came across to cover which presented Priory

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with a big space to exploit wide on the left. Credit to the opposition as they moved the ball to the space they had created quickly and exploited it to go ahead in the game. SK were disappointed that they had conceded but were still quite confident that they could get back into the game based on the amount of possession and territory they had enjoyed during the opening minutes of the game.



Their first real goal scoring opportunity fell to Kai West after 12 minutes of the game when Matty Crutchley whipped a ball across which fell perfectly on to his left foot. Kai adjusted his body brilliantly but just couldn't direct the ball goal ward. A few minutes later Matty turned provider once more this time finding midfield counterpart Eli Smith unmarked on the edge of the penalty area; Eli's first touch was excellent and allowed him to get his shot away but unfortunately he dragged it just wide of the goal. SK continued to plough on in attack and weren't short of half chances for the remainder of the first half, the best of which fell to Kai West who worked an opportunity for a snapshot which again went wide. At half time the boys acknowledged their dominance and also acknowledged that Priory had several threats which needed to be nullified so some tactical changes were in order. Matteo Prime came out of the back 4 to play a holding role in midfield leaving 3 at the back. The boys in the centre of midfield were encouraged to play wider and the two wide players given more licence to go forward and less restriction on coming back.



The changes made an instant difference in the second half and SK found themselves on top for long periods with Priory on the defensive right up until the last 5 minutes of the match. The number of chances that fell to boys in red during the second half was incredible – so many that I couldn't jot them all down, let alone write about them all in the newsletter; there are a good number of boys who wouldn't want me to either!

It is pretty difficult to give any account of the second half without talking about missed chances because they constituted almost all of the pivotal moments for St Kath's. In the second half alone I counted at least 10 clear cut goal scoring opportunities yet still the boys were unable to find the back of the net. As the game wore on frustrations grew and although the number of chances increased, the likelihood of any of them crossing the whitewash between the posts was fading faster than the time! It wasn't all disappointment in the second half as the boys had really quickly and accurately implemented the tactical changes we discussed at half time. Matteo was having an exceptionally good game in the middle of midfield and really broke up any play that Priory looked to put together. So many of SK's passing moves started with Matteo as it wasn't just his ball winning qualities that his team mates were benefiting from, it was his distribution too.

With just minutes to spare SK were still frantically trying to get the ball into the back of the net and were anything but starved of chances, in fact they were drowning in them! It was just one of those games where the longer it went on, the less likely we were to score. In fact I'm pretty certain that we could have played for a week and still lost 1-0. At the final whistle the boys were deflated but they needn't have been – they did everything except score and came as close as you possibly can without managing to.

Well done to all of the boys – hard luck gents!

Mr Cook

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SPRING HOUSE SPORT

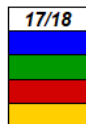
Even snowfall can't stop Saturn storming Spring House Sport

If you had told us at the start of the year that the first day of our Spring House Sport competition would be disrupted by snow then none of us would have believed you! However after the first heavy fall of snow then nobody doubted the second forecast and we arrived at school on the last Monday of term to find a complete white out! Rather than preparing pitches, gripping hockey sticks and pumping up footballs we spent the first few hours of the week clearing snow! Unfortunately the year 10s suffered the only disruption to normal service which was a real shame as it was their last spring competition. Amazingly in the space of 24 hours all of the snow disappeared and competitions could resume as usual. With the lower school lasting meeting to compete back in December there was a sense of anticipation for the spring meet and students didn't let the unseasonal weather deter them from competing hard.



Year 7

Hockey



- 1 – Jupiter – 6 points (+3)
- 2 – Mercury – 6 points (+2)
- 3 – Mars – 6 points (+1)
- 4 – Saturn – 0 points

Saturn v Mars 2 – 3: A very close opening game with both sides creating plenty of scoring opportunities.

Mercury v Jupiter 3 – 0: Despite the best efforts of the Mercury side, in particular the defence of Zara Mace, the Jupiter side found themselves to have the better of the play. Daisy Wilkinson made some excellent attacking drives which resulted in two goals, whilst Daisy Medder also added to the goals with a shot near the end of the game.

Mars v Jupiter 1 – 4: Now finding their feet, the Jupiter side began to play with much more confidence. Rayan Ahmed was unstoppable in attack and scored all of her sides four goals within the game. Her persistence upfront resulted in more possession and they truly benefited from her efforts. Molly Dashfield did find the goal for the Mars side but the damage had already been done by Jupiter.

Mercury v Saturn 3 – 1: Mercury were the stronger side within the game, but Saturn weren't without their chances. Amritveer Gill opened the scoring, and was quickly followed by Ellie-Mai Hulin. Lili Mai Hawker persisted for the Saturn side and was rewarded with a goal for her side. Near the end of the game, when Saturn looked like they were creating changes, an unfortunate own goal by Saturn secured the Mercury win.

Jupiter v Saturn 3 – 0: In unstoppable form, the Jupiter side buoyed by their win in the previous round found themselves playing with much more confidence. Rayan Ahmed proved to be a goal machine and added a further two goals, whilst Charlie Mobbs added a third for another convincing win.

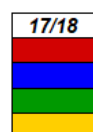
Mars v Mercury 4 – 1: Despite an early goal by Daisy Wilkinson for Mercury, it was Mars that took control of this final round match. With some great team play and movement of the ball, chances began to open up and Renae Rush scored their first goal to level the score. Mars did not look back from this point and Isabella Wake added a further 3 goals to secure the win.

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Football



- 1 – Mars – 9 points
- 2 – Jupiter – 7 points
- 3 – Mercury – 5 points
- 4 – Saturn – 3 points

There were 60 boys kitted up and willing their first House football competition to take place outside. Amazingly the pitches were in good condition just a day after the snow and so the year 7 competition could take place outside. The standard of football across the board was excellent with a whole range of boys taking part – it was great to watch!

Saturn got off to a tough start against Mercury house going down 3 nil which was surprising given the final standards. Saturn were perhaps a little slow to start but it was their goalkeeper Gabe Antolic-Furlong who scored their first goal – not from between the sticks I might add! Despite getting their first goal Saturn still couldn't manage anything other than another loss. They weren't short of boys working hard as Seth, Euan, Charlie, Daud, Theo and Najib were all running themselves into the ground. Their best performance came in their final match against Jupiter where an inspired performance from captain Remi Smith bought them agonisingly close to a draw – even two goals from the skipper weren't enough as Jupiter managed to net 3 of their own.

Mercury got off to a barn storming start against Saturn with an emphatic three nil victory – all three goals coming from fantastic footballing talent Ryan Bundy. Ryan was working his guts out for the green house which was absolutely necessary given that one or two of their key players were either absent or without kit! The boys on the pitch slugged it out against Jupiter but fell to defeat by just a single goal. Ryan was on the scoresheet for the fourth time in the morning in the last game against Mars but even that didn't earn them any more points. Taygan Smith deserves a special mention as he was phenomenal in goal for the boys in green and kept efforts out on countless occasions.

Jupiter has to settle for second place after suffering a 1-0 defeat to Mars in their first match. House captain Kanye Christie was gutted in the first game as it was his final touch that took the ball beyond the Jupiter keeper. If ever there was a mark of a great sportsman it is how to respond after a setback. Kanye scored the only goal in Jupiter's 1 nil victory over Mercury and 2 of his team's 3 goals in their 3-2 victory against Saturn – all of that from centre back! George Skeates was the other Jupiter boy on the score sheet. Mac Marshall suffered a few wounds but it wasn't surprising given that he was never far away from the action alongside house mate Will King who was also busy in the centre of the field.

Victory was earned in special fashion by the boys from the red house led right from the front by captain Josh Moore. Josh scored 3 of his teams goals while Charley Songer netted the other 2 – both boys combining as a very effective attacking outfit. Trysten and house captain Matty Brennan were both busy in defence, neither boy giving any opponent a single second to settle on the ball. One of the major reasons that Mars finished top of the pile was the work of Josh Moore – not only did he score goals, he set team mates up, defended with absolute tenacity and led superbly. Josh has enjoyed a hugely successful first school football season and it was all too clear why based on this performance!

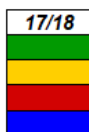
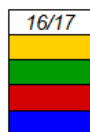


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Year 8

Hockey



- 1 – Mercury – 7 points
- 2 – Saturn – 6 points
- 3 – Mars – 4 points
- 4 – Jupiter – 0 points

Mars v Jupiter 2 – 0: This was a fairly even game in terms of possession, with both sides having plenty of ball possession. For Jupiter, Ella Leakey and Hetty Cleaver were strong defensively and in the first half halted many of the Mars attacks; however some excellent movement and drive by Sophie Weaden and clinical finishing by Jamie Leigh Bell gave Mars the win.

Mercury v Saturn 5 – 0: From the start, Mercury dominated the game, with great interplay between Jolie Breakwell, Chloe Weaden and Isobel Taylor. Despite some excellent defence by Yusra Hassan and Ayyan Abdi, the Mercury attack was too strong and they managed to score five goals, with Isobel Taylor gaining a hatrick.

Mars v Mercury 2 – 2: With both teams having won their first games, both were confident going into this game, but it was mercury that started the strongest. Mars found themselves all behind the ball defending and found it difficult to mount any pressure, conceding an early goal. A change in tactic for Mars saw them score again through Jamie Leigh and the game was much more open. Further goals by Izzy Prime and Sophie Weaden levelled the score at 2 - 2.

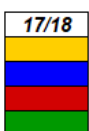
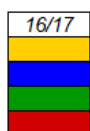
Jupiter v Saturn 0 – 4: This game was important to both sides, having both just suffered losses in their last games. Saturn were the much more attacking side and had an early goal disallowed by Elina Jakabute. Despite this setback, Saturn went onto score 4 goals through Elina, Ellie Ojo, Yusra and Ayyan.

Mars v Saturn 1 – 2: Both sides had displayed confident performances in previous rounds, but it was Saturn that started well. Ellie Ojo made an excellent run through the defence of Mars and dribbled around a number of players to score Saturn's first goal. This was soon levelled again by Jamie Leigh for Mars before half time. Having not learned their lesson from last time, Mars allowed Ellie Ojo to again travel with the ball and once again she found the goal. Despite Mars' best efforts, including a goal disallowed, it was Saturn that were the victors.

Jupiter v Mercury 0 – 9: Knowing that going into the final round both Mars and Mercury had the chance to win, Mercury knew they needed to win, and the final result could also go down to goal difference so they needed to win by a large margin. They succeeded in this and found themselves scoring 9 past the Jupiter side. Isobel Taylor scored 3, Izzy Prime scored 4 and both Jolie and Chloe scored 1 each.



Football



- 1 – Saturn – 8 points
- 2 – Jupiter – 7 points
- 3 – Mars – 5 points
- 4 – Mercury – 1 point

The year 8 boys weren't far behind the 7s in terms of turnout but one or two fewer per team certainly put the fitness and staying power of some of the year 8 boys to the test. Mercury were unlucky as they suffered a points deduction before they even started but were determined to get back into the race as soon as the first whistle went. Unfortunately for the green house they weren't only plagued by turn out but also by injury as Ollie Stratton badly sprained his ankle in the first game – best wishes to Ollie for a speedy recovery! Mansur Yilmaz managed the impressive feat of scoring in every single Mercury game but even 2 goals in their last match against Mars could only earn them a draw. Sean Devlin was excellent in goal for the entire afternoon – he was very busy but stood up to the test well. Isaac Adebo worked his fingers to the bone and ran for the whole afternoon with his house short and in need of someone to count for double – Isaac came as close as possible to being two players with the amount of ground he covered!

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Mars managed two draws in their afternoon captained this year by Joe Williams. Ben Bohin proved just how talented he is on the football pitch with all of the goals for his house. Ben didn't just stand around up front and wait for the ball he dug deep for his house mates and worked himself into the ground – quite literally in the last game giving himself a shoulder injury which forced him off of the pitch. Lewis Cole has really impressed in football lessons this year and was excellent in defence for his house alongside creative spark Fuaad Musa in midfield. Enzo, Joe and Liam kept things solid at the back for the boys in red and were unfortunate not to get more from their game against Saturn.

Nana led his house superbly throughout the competition using all of his experience from last year. Up until their last match Nana was responsible for every single Jupiter goal, netting 4 times during the afternoon. Shadrach was excellent in goal for Jupiter during the competition and pulled off some excellent saves. Maxwell Williams gave Saturn a real fright in the last game – the yellow house needed a draw to win overall while victory for Jupiter would have seen them win outright. Maxwell put the blues 1 ahead after finishing off a lovely square pass from Nana.

It wasn't only the year 7 competition that saw a goalkeeper get on the scoresheet as Toby Rice found the back of the net in his first game against Mercury. Toby saw me earlier in the day to tell me that Saturn had 3 goalkeepers for the afternoon – nothing like being prepared for all eventualities! Ben Lumoso joined Toby in the goal scoring against Mercury while Saturn's newest recruit Joe Betty wasted no time at all in showing his footballing talent. Joe scored decisive goals against Mars and a vital goal against Jupiter to round off an excellent display from the yellows.



Year 9

Hockey

15/16	16/17
Yellow	Green
Green	Blue
Red	Red
Blue	Yellow

17/18
Yellow
Red
Green
Blue

- 1 – Saturn – 13 points (+7)
- 2 – Mars – 13 points (+2)
- 3 – Mercury – 7 points
- 4 – Jupiter – 3 points

Having finished in second place last year Jupiter were looking for a strong performance but it wasn't to be as they were resigned to the bottom spot. Jupiter played quickly a number of times with some sharp thinking from Bethia Brown to score two of the goals for the blues. They came close against Mars and kept their spacing really well which led to Ruby's goal. Unfortunately not even Lechaunda's goal could prevent a loss against Saturn and Mercury really rubbed salt into the wound with an emphatic victory in their last match.

Mercury may have beaten Jupiter comprehensively in their last match but couldn't score or win in any of their other matches amazingly! Edith, Annie and Lucy scored the goals for Mercury in the last match and not even some impressive marking and spatial awareness could earn them points in their other two games. Freya came closest with a great effort that was well saved by Joanne against Mars.

Mars beat Jupiter by the narrowest of margins in their first game and were showing signs of some really excellent fast play. Goals in the first game came from Chantelle Hawkes (2), Anida and Leah and Chantelle didn't stop there scoring the only goal in a tight game against Mercury. Lauren got the vital goal in the last game to draw against Saturn which meant that the red house finished in second position by the narrowest of margins on goal difference.

Saturn finished top of the pile and it was a goal from Molly Jackson that proved decisive – anything less from the yellow house in the last match would have given Mars victory. Molly single handedly took apart Jupiter in the game before scoring all 5 goals and also impressing all of those watching with her ability to pass the ball. You might think that Molly just came good for the last two matches but in actual fact Molly took on sole goal scoring responsibility from the first minute to the last grabbing 3 goals against Mercury in the first game as well. An amazing performance saw Molly score all 9 Saturn goals and earn her house top points – what a performance, what a sportswoman!

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Football

15/16	16/17	17/18

- 1 – Mars – 7 points (gd +6, f7, a1)
- 1 – Saturn – 7 points (gd +6, f7, a1)
- 3 – Jupiter – 3 points
- 4 – Mercury – 0 points

If there was a prize for the closest house competition then the year 9 boys football competition would have won hands down! I spoke to the boys at the start about how I remembered their year 8 competition vividly and was caught up in the drama of late goals where Mars were just seconds away from taking all 4 points but were bumped down to third at the final whistle – my hopes were high again this year and the year 9 boys didn't disappoint!

Mercury could easily have resigned themselves to defeat having finished bottom in the previous 2 years but they did not do such thing and were optimistic of their chances having secured the services of new student Tyrese Bracey. Tyrese worked his socks off all morning long as did a load of his team mates including Charlie Medder, Kieron Keegan, Dan O'Connor and Connor Whiting. The boys were desperately unlucky to be left goalless at the end of the competition and equally as unlucky to have lost in their game against Jupiter. You wouldn't believe the extent of the goal mouth scramble if I told you so I'll just say that Finlay Belcher finally got the decisive touch poking the ball past Ethan Emery. Ethan had a smile on his face all afternoon and captained the green house superbly – a great lad and great captain!

Jupiter battled hard, especially against Mercury and this turned out to be their only victory. I am fairly certain that House captain Louie Dun played every single position during the competition including in goal! Louie captains his team superbly and really smartly made changes to ensure that boys got plenty of football. Charlie Ashdown worked his socks off all afternoon and was a real midfield dynamo for the blues. Mason Jones put in a challenge that I don't think I will ever forget to prevent Max Andrews scoring yet another goal! Mason quite literally threw himself in for a 50:50 tackle with Max going at full tilt to stop a certain goal with the bravest of actions – what a challenge!

Saturn were determined to retain their house football title for a third year and led superbly by Charlton and Jazper. It was Mursal Shariff who got the ball rolling for the yellows with a goal against Jupiter and his second against Mercury. Jazper led from the front with 3 goals of his own while Charlton kept things quiet at the back as Saturn conceded just a single goal all afternoon long. In between them Leeban was really busy, Ajay, Beau and Max also enjoyed great performances. Beau grabbed an important goal against Mercury and it was great to see Max Dixey back after breaking his wrist. Charlie Kearns was solid in goal and Isaac Lomax really impressed with his care free approach and real determination to get involved. Isaac almost had himself a goal in the last game but was forced to watch his effort go agonisingly wide – to the absolute dismay of his team mates!

Mars were absolutely elated with their joint top finish alongside Saturn. The final round of matches was full of absolute drama as Mars and Saturn played Jupiter and Mercury respectively with goal difference the only thing separating the two teams. It quickly became clear that the two houses were going to win their last game but by how many goals? Nobody was more engrossed in the competition than George Turner and it was his goals alongside house captain Max Andrews' that sealed maximum points for the reds. It was great to see the boys in red so happy after finishing in a cruel third place last year – the photo below of George and Max says it all!

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Year 10

Hockey

14/15	15/16	16/17
Red	Red	Yellow
Yellow	Yellow	Red
Green	Green	Green
Blue	Blue	Blue

17/18
Yellow

- 1 – Saturn – 9 points
- 4 – Jupiter – 0 points
- 4 – Mars – 0 points
- 4 – Mercury – 0 points

Unfortunately for the other 3 houses, Saturn were the only ones to have enough girls to compete. Some absence, illness and injury prevented the other houses from turning out teams which meant that Saturn won by default. Well done to all of the ladies that did turn up to represent their house and play some hockey!



Football

14/15	15/16	16/17
Blue	Red	Blue
Red	Blue	Yellow
Yellow	Yellow	Red
Green	Green	Green

17/18
Yellow
Blue
Red
Green

- 1 – Saturn – 29 points (A17, B12)
- 2 – Jupiter – 24 points (A16, B8)
- 3 – Mars – 16 points (A11, B5)
- 4 – Mercury – 14 points (A7, B7)

With the snowfall rendering pitches unusable we had little choice but to revert to an indoor alternative with the year 10 boys. It wasn't ideal to have so many of our oldest competing boys in such a small space but more than 40 boys made the most of their final competition. We split houses into A and B teams with a victory and draw in the A being worth more than in the B; 6 and 5, 4 and 3 respectively.

Mercury finished bottom of the pile for the fourth year running but weren't without effort as Jake Fox was certainly all action throughout. Barney was throwing himself into tackles (one of which was pictured below) while his team mates Tyler Barr looked after the bench. Finn O'Rourke showed quality on the ball and going forward but Mercury's player of the tournament has to go to George Hardwell who doubled up on matches and played well in all of them! Mars finished in third position and by far the highlight of their competition was watching Henil go through for his goal. Henil had worked tirelessly all afternoon long only to be rewarded with a goal scoring opportunity. The chance didn't present itself as Henil had to go and earn it off his own back. He disposed one opponent and made his way through several consecutive challenges before knocking the ball into the attacking bench – a great goal for a great character.

Jupiter may have been favourites before the competition started but despite boasting many of the school football team in their house they had to settle for second place. The indoor alternative didn't really play into their hands as they were

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never able to use the pace and athleticism of Ashya and Henry. The boys in blue worked hard but could only manage draws against Mars and Saturn in the A competition. At the end of the competition it was their draw against Saturn that proved the difference and if they had overturned their rivals they would have taken victory for a second year. Saturn were victorious in year 10 for the first time in a house football competition and deserve nothing less having had so many taking part for many years. This year once again Saturn had the best turnout with 13 boys representing their house. Standout performances came from Alex Wilson who scored a huge number of goals in the B competition as well as Felix McGovern who put his body on the line on more than one occasion in the A competition.



Overall Results

Please see results below for individual year group and gender competitions.

House	Year 7		Year 8		Year 9		Year 10		Total		
	Points	Rank	Points	Rank	Points	Rank	Points	Rank	Points	Rank	
BOYS	Jupiter	3	2	3	2	3	3	3	2	12	2
	Mars	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	12	2
	Mercury	2	3	1	4	2	4	1	4	6	4
	Saturn	1	4	4	1	4	1	4	1	13	1
GIRLS	Jupiter	4	1	1	4	1	4	0	2	6	4
	Mars	2	3	2	3	3	2	0	2	7	3
	Mercury	3	2	4	1	2	3	0	2	9	2
	Saturn	1	4	3	2	4	1	4	1	12	1
OVERALL	Jupiter	7	1	4	3	4	3	3	2	18	3
	Mars	6	2	4	3	7	2	2	3	19	2
	Mercury	5	3	5	2	4	3	1	4	15	4
	Saturn	2	4	7	1	8	1	8	1	25	1

Thank you to all of our leaders who helped run every aspect of our competitions from officiating, timekeeping, result collecting and taking photographs! Some of the students below, including our Senior Sports Captains (*) helped out at all competitions – we are really grateful to you for giving up your time so generously.

4 Competitions

Mason Smart *
Danny Conway *

3 Competitions

Meg Andrews
Matt Crutchley *
Tom Green *
Bo Marshall *
Dexter Mott
Caolán Pearce *
Louis Stratton

2 Competitions

Eli Smith
Ashleigh Wills

1 Competition

Louis Boyce
Lauren Dun *
Finley Smith

Congratulations to everyone who took part for their houses – there were loads of you, but not all pictured I'm afraid!

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HOUSE RESULTS MARCH 2018

Saturn enjoy storming Spring House Sport competition to fly out in front

With spring competitions over it is time to take another look at the House Sport Competition. Students have been battling hard for points all over the lower school including year 11 for the first time! Saturn enjoyed a triumphant spring meet taking 25 points, 6 more than their nearest rivals Mars. With so many points still to play for you wouldn't be as foolish as to crown Saturn champions for the second year running just yet although they are certainly building a healthy lead over their rivals now extending to 13 points!

Current Standings		
Position	House	Points
1	Saturn	93
2	Mars	80
3	Jupiter	73
4	Mercury	69

"Saturn looking to position themselves for victory for the second year running while Mars separate themselves from the chasing pack"

Previous Standings		
Position	House	Points
1	Saturn	60
2	Mars	54
3	Jupiter	52
4	Mercury	51

House		Year 7		Year 8		Year 9		Year 10		Year 11		Total	
		Points	Rank	Points	Rank	Points	Rank	Points	Rank	Points	Rank	Points	Rank
BOYS	Jupiter	14	1	9	2	12	1	10	1	2	3	47	1
	Mars	11	2	8	3	11	2	6	3	3	2	39	3
	Mercury	9	3	7	4	7	4	4	4	2	3	29	4
	Saturn	6	4	16	1	11	2	9	2	4	1	46	2
GIRLS	Jupiter	9	3	6	4	5	4	4	3	2	3	26	4
	Mars	13	1	7	3	11	2	6	2	4	1	41	2
	Mercury	12	2	16	1	9	3	1	4	2	3	40	3
	Saturn	7	4	11	2	15	1	10	1	4	1	47	1
OVERALL	Jupiter	23	2	15	3	17	3	14	2	4	3	73	3
	Mars	24	1	15	3	22	2	12	3	7	2	80	2
	Mercury	21	3	23	2	16	4	5	4	4	3	69	4
	Saturn	13	4	27	1	26	1	19	1	8	1	93	1

Month	Event	*
October	Cross Country (7-9)	✓
November	AUTUMN HOUSE SPORT: Boys Dodgeball and Girls Benchball (7-10)	✓
December	WINTER HOUSE SPORT: Boys Rugby and Girls Netball / Hockey (7-10)	✓
January	Badminton (11)	✓
	Table Tennis (11)	✓
February	Basketball (11)	✓
April	SPRING HOUSE SPORT: Boys Football and Girls Netball / Hockey (7-10)	✓
June July	SUMMER HOUSE SPORT: Striking and Fielding (7-10)	
	SPORTS DAY Field Events (7-10)	
	SPORTS DAY Track Events (7-10)	
	SK Superstars (7-10)	

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SK SPORTING STUDENTS

We are really proud of all of the sporting achievements of the individual students in our school. Below are some updates on some of our sporting students.

Charlie Rice (Rugby)

Charlie selected for prestigious Wellington Festival squad for week of top level competitive rugby



Hard work and dedication does pay off! We're delighted to share with you the news that Charlie Rice has been selected to represent Bristol Rugby PDG at the upcoming Wellington Festival.

The U16 Wellington Festival is likely to involve over 400 players from the 14 Premiership Rugby academies and is a week-long programme held annually at Wellington College, Berkshire.

Charlie is a fantastic example to everyone not to let set backs get you down. A year ago Charlie was suffering with a serious knee injury but hard work and dedication have earned him selection for this event which is thoroughly deserved.

We wish you all the best for the festival week Charlie!

Ashya Gray (Athletics)

Ashya breaks 21 year-old Avon standing long jump record!



On Saturday 10 March Ashya was back in action at the U15 South West Regional Championships competing against Devon, Dorset and Gloucestershire.

Ashya competed in 3 individual events; the speed bounce, 2 lap race and standing long jump as well as the relay. Ashya placed 1st in his 2 lap race as well as a team gold in the 4 x 2 lap relay. The standout performance from the U15 Avon Boys team came from Ashya in the standing long jump where he leapt an unbelievable 2 metres and 86 centimetres to break a 21 year-old record.

In the words of Hillary Nash (U15 Team Manager) – “Dan Brown now a teacher in Hong Kong set the standing long jump best by an Avon athlete back in 1997. Seeing Ashya exceed 2.80m was one of those moments when you recognise talent. It seemed so fluent and easy.”

We are delighted that Ashya will go forward and compete at the National Finals in Manchester on 15 April and will watch with great anticipation given that the 2017 National SLJ winning distance was 2.88! Ashya – many congratulations for your record breaking performance! We wish you the very best of luck for Manchester later this year!

Kanye Christie (Athletics)

Triple jumper Christie will go to Nationals in Manchester after bronze in South West Regionals



We are delighted to let you know that Kanye Christie (Year 7) was also involved in the South West Regional Finals in Torbay competing for the U13 Boys Team. Kanye jumped 6 metres and 37 centimetres to take bronze in the competition and earn valuable points for his team.

Avon qualified in top spot almost 100 points ahead of the second placed team from Devon.

We are really proud of Kanye for his achievement, especially considering that he is in the younger of the two age groups. Manchester will be a fantastic opportunity to compete and we wish him all the very best of luck!

Well done Kanye – a fantastically talented young competitor and athlete!

The PE Faculty

Does your son / daughter deserve to be recognised for their sporting achievements? If so we want to know about it! Email cookd@skdrive.org to tell us more!

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CLUBS AND CAPS TERM 4

A look back at student achievements in the fourth term of the academic year

We are really pleased to be able to share some information about notable student achievements this term. So many of our students give such substantial and sustained contributions to our faculty and they deserve their recognition!

Top Clubbers

Congratulations to the top male and female clubbers for each year group below!

Daisy Medder	Year 7	Ahmed Mahamud
Sophie Weaden	Year 8	Toby Rice, Joseph Williams
Rose Giles	Year 9	Kyle Barrett, Tom Evans, Charlton Milligan, Muhammed Zaeem
-	Year 10	Ashya Gray
Bo Marshall	Year 11	Caolán Pearce, Louis Stratton
Meg Andrews, Meg Edwards, Ashleigh Wills	Year 12 & 13	Danny Conway

School Caps

Congratulations to the students below who notched up the most school caps during this term!

Poppy Baldwin-Brooks, Layla Clarke, Jemima German, Lillie-Mai Hawker, Daisy Medder, Helana Mills, Charlie Mobbs, Renae Rush, Isabella Wake, Daisy Wilkinson, Nancy Woodworth-Hughes	Year 7	Kanye Christie, Mac Marshall
Niamh Gaynor, Daisy Money, Chloe Weaden, Sophie Weaden	Year 8	Nana Gyimah-Sarpong, Ben Lumoso, Ari Rugman
-	Year 9	Max Andrews, Tyrese Bracey, Seb De Montfort, Louie Dun, Leeban Mahamud, Charlie Medder, Jazper Peacey, George Turner
Grace Brown, Stella Crocker, Leah Dickinson, Emily Drohan, Izzy Fielden, Priscilla Lumoso, Josefina Maskell, Eleanor McCarthy, Ebonie McCombie, Grace Molton, Lucie Robertshaw, Lois Scanlan, Annie Wren Talbot-Ponsonby, Ruby Webber	Year 10	Kaie Lawrence, Logan West
-	Year 11	Matt Crutchley, Dexter Mott, Hao Hao Zhang
-	Year 12 & 13	Danny Conway

Congratulations to the students below who are currently the highest cap earners in the school!

Ruby Webber	91	Most Capped Students	Danny Conway	123
Lauren Dun & Bo Marshall	74		Tom Green & Caolán Pearce	112
Elise Wear	66		Matt Crutchley & Jay Spicer	102

Keep working hard - your effort, endeavour, dedication and commitment doesn't go unnoticed!

Thank you all for your contributions.

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