



## SPORTS REPORT

10 November 2023

### S4/S5 Boys – Rugby Match – Free School – Wednesday 8 November

**Team:** (S4) Noah, Finlay, Joe, Kirby, Ethan, Tom, Harry (S5) Joe, Milo, Caelen, Felix, Wilf

**Result:** Free School win 15-0

**Report:** We took 12 boys from S4 and S5 to play. Unfortunately, the very wet weather hampered our tactics, as moving the ball and playing with pace is our best option. We lack size and with the limited time our S5 boys get to train, our pace is our go to attack.

Free school were dominant in the contact from the start. Apart from S4, Noah who has the heart and courage of a lion. His ability around contact and ball stripping is excellent. He was outstanding from start to finish; definitely our man of the match. Joe Kirby and Kirby Simons both S4 followed Noah in the contact breakdown and were equally impressive.

Our S5 boys led by Milo, who has been unable to train at all, showed skill and determination as well as some glimpses of quality rugby. Caelen, Joe, Felix also deserve a mention as not only did they front up on the contact point, they also, with a little space, created some real problems for Free School in defence. I honestly believe on quicker, drier surfaces they would have cut holes in their defence.

Harry, Tom, Fin and Ethan were brilliant; they sustained a real battering from the Free School's contact at breakdown. To their credit they just got up and got on.

Sadly we didn't score; a couple of times we got close, particularly when Wilf took the hard route through channel 1. All the boys pushed themselves far out of their comfort zones and kept going for the full 50 minutes. Although a loss, there is some genuine talent in our group. If we can get them practicing together for longer, they will definitely challenge opposing teams.



Mr Woodward



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## S1, S2, S3, S4, S5 Seniors – Cross Country Relays – Medina College – Thursday 9 November

S1 Team (Boys) – Rowan, Sam, Cameron, Ollie  
S1 Team (Girls) – Lauren, Poppy, Indi, Alicia  
S2 Team (Boys) – Stan, Josh, Tom, Isaac  
S2 Team (Girls) – Melaina, Courtney, Eliza, Lilly  
S3 Team (Boys) – Raymond, Isaac, Harry, Hector  
S3 Team (Girls) – Jess, Bella M, Lola, Daisy  
S4 Team (Girls) – Hannah, Amelia, Eleanor, Amy  
S5 Team (Boys) – Joe, Joshua, Arlo, Caelan

We arrived to look upon a very wet and muddy Medina field and even the warm-up lap had our entire team covered in mud! The competition was a 4 x 1000m cross country relay, with teams of 4 running one at a time. Our S1 boys were up first against 9 other schools. Rowan set the pace on the first lap, running well with the leaders. Rowan is very good at pacing himself over multiple distances and handed over to Sam in 4<sup>th</sup> place. Sam, Cameron and Ollie ran well but the course and pace proved very challenging and we finished in 9<sup>th</sup> place.

The S1 girls were up next. Lauren ran a great first lap against a very fast field of girls. She kept the pace and came in with all the girls very close together, handing over to Poppy in 5<sup>th</sup> place. Poppy also ran a good lap, pacing herself very well but lost a place on the final corner coming in 6<sup>th</sup> to hand over to Indi. A good start from Indi saw her close on 5<sup>th</sup> place, but she ultimately finished the lap in 8<sup>th</sup> position and handed over to Alicia. Alicia was determined to catch those in front and took off at top pace. She fought hard to close the gap but those in front were just out of reach, and she narrowly missed out on 7<sup>th</sup> place.

This was a new experience for S1, and it all came down to pace practice on a larger field. Still a great effort from both teams.

S2 boys were ready to run as the heavy rain and hail arrived – not the best running conditions! Stan was up first and he ran a great lap. This was a very fast group, perhaps one of the fastest of the day, and Stan put in a fantastic effort, finishing in 5<sup>th</sup> place to hand over to Josh. The speed was electrifying and although Josh tried his best, the pace was just out of his reach and he handed over to Tom in 10<sup>th</sup> position. Tom worked hard to try and make up ground, but the speed of the field made this a difficult task. Tom handed over to Isaac still in 10<sup>th</sup> position. Isaac closed his eyes and ran with heart and grit, but the competition just proved too strong and 10<sup>th</sup> place was the final outcome. This was a great effort from the boys.

S2 girls saw how the boys did and this added to their pre-race nerves. They changed their running order at the last minute and Melaina stepped up to get the girls running. Once again, the pace was fast. Melaina kept with the leading pack and tore around the 1000m at a pace that even surprised her! She handed over in 6<sup>th</sup> place and Courtney took to the field. The leading pack were still right in front of her, Courtney got her head down and worked hard. Half a lap in and she had powered into the leading group, taking a position and pushing hard to catch the next. Courtney crossed the line handing over to Eliza in 5<sup>th</sup> place, and Eliza pushed with the same determination and moved towards the leaders. A hard-fought lap and Eliza crossed the line only a few strides behind the 4<sup>th</sup> place runner. A tag to Lilly and the final fight was on. Lilly has a nice long stride to match her pace and she gained that ground to take 4<sup>th</sup> position and fought to keep it and cross the line. 4<sup>th</sup> place for our S2 girls and a great race!

Another heavy downpour and the S3 boys were ready to run in what was fast becoming a very boggy field! Raymond was first to run, with runners now slipping all over the place and the field starting to go against everyone. Raymond struggled with the timing of his run on the bigger field and conditions were not helping, but the second 500m saw Raymond dig in and he crossed the line in 5<sup>th</sup> place. Isaac H ran next, and the rain



came down again. A difficult lap saw Isaac come in at 7<sup>th</sup> place to hand over to Harry F. A great effort from Harry to even be at the event as he has been ill this week, and he ran well in the poor conditions to maintain the 7<sup>th</sup> position. The final tag was passed to Hector, who does not understand the concept of quitting when it comes to running. Hector flew out of the changeover area and ran down 6<sup>th</sup> place with ease. 500m to go and Hector had the next runner in his sights. He found another gear and took off once again with 3 corners to go. This section of the course was out of sight for spectators and when Hector reappeared, he had passed the next runner and finished in 5<sup>th</sup> place. A fantastic effort.

The S3 girls up next. Once again, the girls changed their order at the last minute after watching previous races and Jess was up first to run. Another fast-paced race, and with the ground getting worse all the time. A quick leading group pulled just ahead of Jess, but she was right on their tails all the way round and she came into the changeover to hand over to Bella M in 5<sup>th</sup> place. Bella ran a great 1000m, taking 2 positions from the pack and finished her run in 3<sup>rd</sup> place. The 2 leaders were pulling away now, as Lola took to the field. The first 300m looked as though the leaders were out of reach, but Lola found another gear and pushed hard, coming around the final corner and across the line in 2<sup>nd</sup> spot. Only Daisy was left to run. She maintained 2<sup>nd</sup> place for the first half of the run but the girl behind was an absolute machine and powered through both 2<sup>nd</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> to take the lead. A great race from the girls here, finishing in 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

S4 girls only for the next year group due to injuries amongst the boys. A strong group of runners here and Hannah took to the challenge like an absolute champion. She maintained a great pace all the way round the course and took 2<sup>nd</sup> place by the halfway stage. She stayed on the heels of 1<sup>st</sup> place to come in and hand over to Amelia. Another fantastic pace from Amelia the entire 1000m and keeping that 2<sup>nd</sup> place just behind the leader. Eleanor next and another textbook run of pace and speed. Still in 2<sup>nd</sup> and a handover to Amy. 100m in and the weather switched the rain tap back on! The worst rain of the day so far and the wind howled across the field. Amy would not be stopped and another great run through the wind and rain saw the S4 girls keep that 2<sup>nd</sup> place from start to finish. Top work from the girls.

S5 boys up next, and they become the Island's fastest cross country relay team by default. A mix up had meant we were not told there were no other schools entering a team for this age group, so all the boys had to do was run 1 lap together as a team and take 1<sup>st</sup> place. Not the ideal way to do it, but we will take it. A good, but very wet day!

Mr Byrne

## **Y5/Y6 Boys – Football Match – Gatten & Lake Primary School – Friday 10 November**

**Team:** (Y5) Archie, Asanka (Y6) Marley, Joe, Rufus, Ted, Edinburgh, Huxley (GK)

**Report:** We travelled over to Shanklin for the game against Gatten and Lake Primary with the threat of yet more rain. Thankfully it held off for the game, but the previous days and weeks had left their mark on the pitch, which was very muddy indeed. The pitch is also on a significant slope, which meant a tough half for each of the teams when playing uphill.

We began playing up hill, so the boys had a tough challenge from the whistle. Archie took the captain's role as we kicked off and he set his team. This is the first time this team had played together in a competitive setting and the first time three of the players had ever played in a football fixture. Gatten and Lake have been playing together for a few years, so they immediately knew their roles and took control of the ball early. Priory settled into the game quickly and defended well as Gatten and Lake immediately pressed forwards. A great save from Huxley kept the ball out, but the forwards managed to turn it round and snuck the ball past the keeper. An unlucky first goal. We reset to go again and made our first push up the field,





but the opposition regained control of the ball and scored again. Edinburgh was now the skipper and we changed our set up. We played well, defending and attacking for the rest of the half. It seemed as though Rufus was playing every position on the pitch, he was everywhere – a great work rate from Rufus! Asanka and Marley played well and adopted the defensive strategy, “if in doubt, kick it out”, constantly forcing Gatten and Lake to reset their play. Unfortunately, 2 more goals did make their way past Huxley, but he was making some excellent saves throughout the half.

Half time and our turn to play downhill. Knowing how to play on this pitch, Gatten and Lake switched to a more defensive set up and tried their best to stop the ball at the halfway line each time we pushed forwards. We continued to work well as team, Edinburgh tried to encourage everyone to use their voices as we had become a little quiet, and we broke the defense a few times but could not quite make it to goal. Back in defense Ted was making things difficult for the opposition forwards, blocking several attempts to make a shot. Joe took the advice of others in defense with “if in doubt, kick it out” and was also making life hard for Gatten and Lake. Huxley was making some fantastic saves when the ball made it through our back line, getting his hands to the ball and impressively diving on the ball. A few balls did make it past, and the game finished 7-0 to Gatten and Lake, but this was not a bad result for us. An experienced team against a first-time outing team was our only problem. Priory worked well together, made some great passes, defended excellently and our goalkeeper Huxley, was commended by the opposition and various parents from Gatten and Lake. We know where we need to work, but overall a good first outing and the boys certainly should not be disappointed by the score.



Mr Byrne



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## S4, S5 Girls – County Netball Tournament – Seaclose Netball Courts – Friday 10 November

**Team:** (S4) Hannah, Amelia, Lydia, Amy, Eleanor, Francesca (C) (S5) Maya, Charlotte

**Report:** On Friday, our U16 Netball Team travelled to Seaclose Netball courts to attend the County round of the England Netball Schools Competition.

After some rain interrupted practice at school, the team turned up ready for 2 games, against Ryde and Cowes. Unfortunately, Cowes had a mix-up of dates and did not bring their U16 team to this fixture. As a result, the team played a 'friendly' against Ryde School.

As the game started, Priory were very nervous, the team had not played together competitively before and were up for a tough game.

The first quarter was quite difficult, with Priory struggling to stop Ryde from pushing through and scoring goal after goal.

Into the second quarter, Priory really started to work as a team; Francesca stepped up as captain, controlling and supporting the team as the ball moved down the court.

Defensively, Amy, Charlotte, Eleanor and Hannah worked well to increase the pressure on Ryde. Charlotte marked her player tightly, giving them little opportunity to receive the ball. Amy played GD and intercepted many balls, she used her height to her advantage and really improved during the game. Hannah and Eleanor alternated as WD and tirelessly worked to put pressure on the defence, turning lots of balls over into our possession.

During the 3rd and 4th quarter, our attack were really able to shine. Amelia played WA beautifully, moving into space and passing strong balls into the shooting circle. Maya played GA, improving continuously throughout the game and managing to move free from the GD marking her, a difficult task against a county level player. Lydia surprised us all by stepping in as a shooter, she worked with great determination to free herself from the defence and managed to score her first goal for Priory.

The team improved significantly throughout the game, becoming more confident in their own ability and were able to demonstrate the key skills needed to be a successful netball team. The team can go into this Friday's match much more confident in their own ability.

Player of the match: Amy Lee, who worked endlessly to defend their shooting circle, and even received a comment from another coach stating 'she is a beautiful player, with a lovely stretch' - well done Amy.

Special mention also goes to Lydia Holt, who really stepped up for this fixture and has really worked on and improved her netball skills over the past few weeks.

Miss Mildenhall



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## Sports Stars of the Week

It's been a busy week in the PE Department. We have had multiple fixtures in various sports and had lots of training to do in preparation. Monday began with cross country training for the Seniors followed by hand hockey to continue match movement training.

On Tuesday we all had to stay on the school site due to the artificial turf still not being clear from all the rain, so the girls began their rugby season with training on the school field and the boys began their hockey, practicing stick skills on the playground. The boys also had the opportunity to do some basketball training to finish the lesson off.

Our first fixture of the week on Wednesday took the older Seniors to The Island Free school for rugby (see Mr Woodward's report) with the rest of the group either staying at school for netball or up at the artificial turf (finally) to have their first training session of handball. We are hoping to play more handball going forwards and have discussed making it a regular part of PE and Games. Watch this space!

So far this week the weather had been a lot kinder to us than in recent weeks, so some good training had been done.

And then came Thursday...! On Thursday we took 8 Seniors from each year group to Medina for the 4x1000m cross country relay event, while the Juniors stayed on the school site to continue their rugby practice. We managed to stay outside but several heavy bursts of rain and hail had us ducking for cover a few times!

Friday's PE focused on ball work and netball practice, while the Year 4 and 5 football team travelled over to Shanklin for a football fixture against Gatten and Lake Primary. After school the older Senior netball team competed at Seaclose (see report).

Our **Junior Sports Star** this week comes from the football fixture, and goes to **Huxley Wight** for his fantastic effort in goal. We may have lost the game, but the point of the fixture was match practice and Huxley took advantage of this, diving at every ball that came near him! The opposing team and opposing parents all commented on how well he had done. Great work from Huxley.

Our **Senior Sports Star** goes to **Amy Lee** for her effort in both fixtures this week. Running through wind and rain during the cross country and then her performance at the netball fixture was so good that an external netball coach contacted Miss Mildenhall to say just how well Amy did. What a week for Amy! Quite a few fixtures coming up next week so lots of work to do in PE and Games. Let's have another good week Team Priory!

Mr Byrne