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## SPORTS REPORT

23 February 2024

### S1 and S2 Mixed – Cross Country – CTK College – Wednesday 21 February

**Team:** (S1 Boys) Archie, Rowan, Ollie  
(S1 Girls) Indi, Alicia, Lexi  
(S2 Boys) Will, Isaac, Stan  
(S2 Girls) Courtney, Millie, Melaina

#### Report:

After being postponed due to bad weather before the half term break, the cross country had to go ahead due to the timing of county qualification but, of course, the weather was much worse! The rain was relentless, the wind howled across the field and it was very, very muddy. Some would say 'perfect cross-country weather'. Due to the damage all the runners would do to the field, the cross country was moved from the usual fields over the road from CTK, where a lot of parents from the Island will remember running (I remember this fixture from my own school days), to the fields within the CTK grounds. A track was marked out weaving around the field, very similar to how I mark out the running for cross country training around our own grounds. Before we even began, pupils from all schools were slipping over just on the warm-up! This was going to get messy very quickly.

The top 8 runners from each race (possibly top 10 but this will be decided based on the number of runners confirming places) will make it through to the Hampshire Finals in a few weeks.

Year 7 boys were up first, and the task was to run 3 laps around the track. After the first lap the field was already destroyed, and the call was made to make the rest of the races 2 laps only. While slightly unfair on the Year 7 boys (who did 3 laps), it was the right decision given that the rain was getting heavier as they ran. A good steady pace ran by our 3 boys, Rowan and Ollie running nicely together just outside the top 10 and Archie a few places behind. They maintained these places, running a good race through to the end of the second lap. Rowan pulled ahead, with Ollie and Archie running well as they were. A tough third lap saw runners falling and slipping all over the place, but our runners pushed through and came across the line still on their feet. There was a mix up with how the hosting school was giving out places and they only marked the top 10 runners. However, I know that all 3 boys came in the top 20 and this was a very good run in a field of around 45. CTK pulled in their 6<sup>th</sup> Formers with race placings thereafter.

Year 7 girls next with Indi and Lexi slightly anxious and being encouraged by Alicia. Knowing the race was going to 2 laps instead of 3, the group of girls took off at a faster pace than the previous race. Our girls had managed to start at the back of the big group, but by the time they had reached the first corner Alicia had powered through almost everyone, running a good pace alongside the top 10 runners. Lexi moved to the middle of the pack, with Indi just behind. Alicia stayed with the leaders and took a few places as she came in for the second lap, looking strong and eyeing the next runner in front. Lexi next, running confidently with a good pace, followed by Indi still running well. Back with the front group and Alicia had taken the next place, now running in 6<sup>th</sup> position. She kept that place and a sprint finish across the line confirmed her 6<sup>th</sup> place. Great running from Alicia. The middle group came in with Lexi finishing in 22<sup>nd</sup>, with Indi following in 34<sup>th</sup>. Slightly more runners in this group, around 50, so a good finishing place from both girls.



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Now for the Year 8 boys and Stan, Isaac and Will. This group has the UK champion across various distances, so there were a lot of boys itching to take him on. From the line there was a huge sprint start, the majority of runners bursting out at top pace. Our boys knew better and set a sensible pace. The UK runner took first position from the sprinters and Stan ran nicely with him. The sprinters all tailed off and the race settled into a cross country pace. Isaac and Will running well in the middle pack, with Stan in the top 5. The field was really bad now, every corner the runners were having to slow to a walk to stay on their feet and those without studs on were slipping all over the field. After the first lap Stan maintained his strong position just behind the leader, Isaac and Will continuing to run well in the middle. Round the second lap and Stan moved up a gear and began to edge closer to the runners in front, around the halfway corner and he took off out running his rival and moving into 4<sup>th</sup> place. A lovely sprint finish from Stan, keeping that 4<sup>th</sup> place over the line. Well paced, well timed and a great finish. Isaac ran confidently throughout the second lap, keeping his nice middle pack position, and then on the last stretch found that sprint finish taking a few places and coming home in 17<sup>th</sup> place. A very well run second lap. Will crossed the line in 37<sup>th</sup> place after running a good steady race. And again, out of about 45 runners.

Final race of the day, the Year 8 girls. There was some competition in this group as there were 2 former Priory pupils, and a new focus of beating them spurred our girls on. The girls had all seen the previous boys' race, with the unnecessary sprint start and across all schools a sensible pace was immediately set. Our 3 girls ran nicely together around the first 2 corners, with Courtney and Millie just pulling slightly ahead, Melaina running confidently just behind. Towards the end of the first lap and the top 15 or so were bunched together with Courtney and Millie right in the middle. As Courtney ran across the line in around 10<sup>th</sup> place, she realised a former pupil was just ahead and she focused on beating her, pulling away from Millie. All 3 running very well, with Millie in 15<sup>th</sup> and Melaina in the mid-20s. Half a lap to go and Courtney had found her top gear chasing down those in front. She came down the final straight and a fantastic sprint finish saw a confident 6<sup>th</sup> place. Just behind was the next group, led by Millie. Another sprint finish and 14<sup>th</sup> place. Melaina with the next group and great 23<sup>rd</sup> place. I'm sure there were more than 50 in this group, it was a huge group of runners, easily the biggest of the day.

A really good day of running from Team Priory. Everyone should be pleased with their performance and congratulations to Alicia, Stan and Courtney for qualifying for the Hampshire Finals.

Mr Byrne



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Principal: Mr DEJJ Lloyd BSc (Econ)



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## Sports Report

Another week of bad weather for the Sports Department. Surely it must be time for summer to start?!

Monday was our last opportunity to train for the cross-country fixture and the course was again marked out around the very edge of the school grounds. The team ran well and showed us that they are ready to compete later in the week. After running, we worked on ball handling skills, with catching and throwing to prepare for the upcoming cricket season.

On Tuesday, the S1 and S2 Games lesson was the first to be moved to the Vectis rugby ground in Wootton. We now have use of a full rugby pitch, complete with goal posts, for training and hopefully fixtures moving forwards. The field was quite muddy from the weekend's weather, so great for rugby! We trained both non-contact and full contact games, working on playing position within a game. A good first lesson at the new venue.

Wednesday, the day of the cross-country fixture, started with bad weather and just got worse! We were actually surprised the run went ahead. But, with no choice due to timings with Hampshire qualifications, we travelled over to Christ the King to run. Please see the report for the muddy results. The remaining Seniors at school, due to the large number of them, had no choice but to work in the Hall as the school grounds became one huge puddle.

With the weather not letting up on Thursday, we were back inside for the Juniors. We began with the KS1 classes doing dance, before being joined by some of the older Juniors to continue dancing. The Junior football teams had a whiteboard lesson, covering the rules of the game and going over positions and how they change within a game. KS1 returned to classroom for the second half of the Games lesson and the rest of the Juniors moved on to a team building task. They divided into 6 teams, with the task being who could move their entire team from one end of Hall to the other, without touching the floor and using only 2 small mats. The winning teams being the fastest team and the group who worked best as a team. Some very creative ideas and great teamwork displayed. We also just had enough time to go overthrowing and catching skills to finish.

On Friday we managed to actually stay outside the entire day for our PE lessons. But with the field being very wet, the playground was again used to cover ball handling skills. Throwing and catching games of various types, with invasion game skills also added in.

Our **Senior Sports Stars** this week are 3 of our fantastic cross-country team. Alicia Feather, Stan Steventon and Courtney Feather all ran great races on Wednesday, qualifying for the Hampshire Finals in March. Details can be found in the report; very well done and very impressive running.

This week's **Junior Sports Star** comes from our ball handling skills lesson. Joel Barnes was focused, paid attention to detail, and worked hard to improve both his catching and throwing skills. He made some huge improvements in his catching and worked well to increase his throwing accuracy. Well done, Joel.

Also, from one of our ball handling lessons, Libby Cottrell was observed by Sports Captain, Joshua Byrne. "Libby has previously been hugely impressive on the football pitch with her goalkeeping skills, but today she impressed me again with her catching ability. Two handed catching, single handed catching, close and



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long distance catching. All absolutely nailed! I hope she will be a solid fielder in our summer sports teams. Great work from Libby, I would like to name her the **Sports Captain's Player of the Week.**"

Hopefully, next week will see an improvement in the weather, but can I again please remind everyone that studs must be in school for every PE and Games lesson. Also do not forget gum shields and shin pads.

Thank you,

Mr Byrne