



SPORTS REPORT

24 November 2023

S1 and S2 Girls – Hockey Match – The Island Free School – Tuesday 21 November

Team: (S1) Alicia, Violet, Poppy, Florence (S2) Bella (C), Courtney, Millie, Melaina, Lilly, Eliza

Report: A chilly afternoon on the south side of the Island saw Priory take on The Island Free School (TIFS) Team A and Team B. Both TIFS teams were very mixed ability groups, some playing outside of school for the Island, some only playing in PE and some in between. So, the challenge for Priory was to play back to back games against 2 teams with some high level players in the mix.

We have struggled with fitting in any goalkeeper training this term due to the artificial turf (IOW Council) restrictions and weather conditions, so TIFS provided 2 goalkeepers in full protective gear to play both games. We played 15-minute halves each way for each game, and the goalkeepers alternated teams for each half to try and keep it fair.

Our first game began with hesitation from Priory, this is the first competitive game this team have played together and the girls were nervous. The first 5 minutes had Priory finding their feet and settling into positions. We started well, but we were just getting caught out of position and allowing TIFS to dominate the start of the game in our half. A first goal to TIFS from a lovely run down the centre and pass to their forward. Reset, and Priory's nerves turned into focus. The girls found their positions and settled into the game. Captain Bella took charge of play and, with some outstanding passing movement, moved the game further up the field into the TIFS half. Priory were moving well around the pitch with Melaina, Eliza and Lilly pushing forwards. But a break from TIFS fought back through our defence and another good goal bringing the score line to 2-0. Nothing to be ashamed of here, the girls had been playing really well, the only issue Priory were having in this game was lack of match practice. We have the skill, not the experience. Into the second half and a change of goal keepers. We played well back into the game but 2 goals were scored, both goals had nothing to do with either team making errors or pushing forwards, the goalkeeper was getting a little cocky kicking balls away and twice fumbled the ball over her own line taking the scoreline to 4-0. Priory did not allow this to dishearten them and another fantastic long pass from Bella made it into the TIFS half and to Alicia. Excellent stick work and control from Alicia working through players and to Eliza who smashed it into the back of the goal. 4-1. TIFS fought back and managed one last goal to take the final score to 5-1. The score line absolutely does not represent the game Priory had. Our girls worked hard everywhere on the pitch and the TIFS coach commented that all they are missing is match practice, everything else is there. And I could not agree more. TIFS also voted player of the match to Bella. Well done Bella and well done Priory!

A 5-minute break and onto the TIFS second team of the afternoon. I was very impressed by our team keeping focus and not one complaint about playing back-to-back games after a loss. We were determined to keep the pace up and bring the score line home in our favour.

Bella set up her team ready to go, and on the whistle we pushed TIFS immediately back into their own half. After the first game, the missing ingredient of match practice was added to our repertoire, and we had full control of the game. The entire first half of the game the ball did not make it back past our midfield, with the line of Violet, Poppy, Courtney and Millie standing strong at the back. Another great pass through the TIFS team from Bella made it to Alicia on the wing and a thunderous hit flew past everyone and into the back of the goal. Unfortunately, you can only score inside the goalkeeper's D in hockey and our forwards did not manage to make a touch, so the goal did not count. TIFS restart and Melaina took the ball from the TIFS push taking it back to Alicia who controlled the ball to make a strike in the D and goal! 1-0 to Priory. I honestly cannot remember the ball being in our own half at all before half time, the girls were playing



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fantastically. All our ball skill and stick work came together with some super passing and superb running with the ball. Into the second half and much of the same, Melaina was everywhere constantly chasing the ball. Lilly, Eliza and Florence pushed hard up front with Bella controlling midfield. Another push, this time from Lilly with a great pass to Bella moving upfield and another long accurate pass to Eliza into the goal area, a great strike and goal! 2-0 to Priory. Great pass and move from the whole team coming together. TIFS came close to our goal for the first time, but a reverse of play from Violet and Courtney pushed the ball back to Melaina, who made a great run up the field. A pass into the keeper's area and the TIFS team saw the player on the receiving end, Captain Bella. TIFS knew a powerful strike would be coming and attempted to block her path, but a lovely spin and turn from Bella and into the back of the goal. 3-0 Priory! Priory pushed to the final whistle and a fully deserved win.

A great outing for the hockey team, the TIFS coach has recommended all our girls to Island hockey. Details will follow for how and when.

Captain Bella was players player and coaches player of both games. Great day for all.
SB





S4 and S5 Boys – Hockey Match (GCSE Filming) – The Island Free School – Wed 22 November

Team: (S4) Noah, Finlay, Joe, Arun, Ethan, Kirby, Thomas, Harry (S5) David, Wilfred

Report: We agreed three games of 20 minutes 1 way. Kindly TIFS lent us a goalkeeper as with no practice at all for this fixture it would have been unsafe to play one of our boys.

Game 1. 4-0 TIFS win

We were very rusty as none of the boys had played since last year. However, for pure heart and tenacity they smashed it. All the boys grafted for every minute and although TIFS were more practiced they were certainly aware they had a tough hour ahead. In attack with Joe Kirby, Finlay and Ethan we always looked threatening, we just failed to nail the final pass. Noah as he does in all of his sport is 100% committed. In the midfield he didn't take a breath and was excellent across all 3 games. The other boys began to find their mojo and by the time game 1 ended Priory lads had got their game faces on.

Game 2. 3-1 TIFS win

Forget the result, we played really well. Tactically we decided man marking their best player would give us more chance of winning as he would obviously get frustrated if he couldn't show off. So, Arun literally stuck to him like glue. He was incredible and kept their best player out of game. As predicted, he got very frustrated and lost his focus. Kirby found his rhythm as well and started the move that produced our only goal. What a goal it was, finally scored by Ethan it was truly the goal of the day. Defending wise we struggled not through lack of effort. Hockey structure is difficult at the best of times and it's a fast game. The boys never backed off or complained. A real sign of sportsmanship.

Game 3. 2-0 TIFS

Great game with lots of Priory domination and skill, and we played the better hockey. Just that precision was lacking. Certainly not the boys' fault. Mr Milton from TIFS is the Head of IW Hockey and was really impressed with some of our boys. To the extent he would like them to join IW Hockey. Every boy put 100% in it was encouraging to hear the boys annoyed about why the captain took them off. I will say that with some practice Priory would have pushed to win at least 2 of these games.

The boys really left everything out there a fantastic display of pure determination and teamwork.

AW



S3, S4 and S5 Mixed – Cross Country Championships – Medina College – Thursday 23 November

Team: (S3) Raymond, Hector, Isabella (S4) Amelia, Hannah, Finlay, Amy, Eleanor, Ethan (S5) Daisy, Eve

Report: It was “run in your school jumper” cold at Medina and Team Priory needed to get moving early to stay warm. The whole team set off together for warm up lap of the course, to keep warm and to learn the layout of the day. This was a 2.2km race, twice around the layout weaving around the grounds at Medina. The top finishers today are in with a chance of qualifying for a place representing the Island in the Hampshire Finals. Thankfully there was no rain today, so the ground was not getting churned up and no one was getting wet to add to the cold!

S3 boys up for the first race, so Raymond and Hector took to the start line. All the boys ran at a good pace from the start, as a large group of 27 runners rounded the first corner. Up to the first section out of spectator sight and the stronger runners pulled away. As they came back into view the group had separated and as they completed the first lap Hector was in 18th and Raymond in 19th. This section of the course shows where everyone ahead of you are, and seeing this pushed the Priory boys to go up a gear for the second lap. Running hard they gained 2 places each, crossing the line in the middle pack with 16th for Hector and 17th for Raymond.

S3 girls up and Bella bravely running on her own. A quick group took off from the start and the leaders pulled immediately away. Bella was surprised by the starting pace and found herself towards the back of the 19 runners. But she did not let this hold her back and Bella pushed hard to gain ground. Approaching the halfway mark, Bella was in 15th position and still running hard. Around the start of the second lap, Bella gained a place and as the runners disappeared from view, she was making ground on the next. A great second lap and sprinting towards the finish line, Bella came home in 11th place. Brilliant pacing for Bella to catch up.

S4 and S5 boys’ race next for Ethan and Finley. 32 runners this time and another quick start. The top 10 boys pulled away quickly, with Finley sitting right in the middle. Ethan settled into mid-way position and was keeping a nice pace to save a push when needed. The fastest first lap we have seen so far and into the second lap with Finley in 7th place and Ethan in 16th. Midway through the second lap and the cold air started to have an effect on Finley, he dropped a few places and began to struggle. As he finished Finley came straight to me with the beginning of a migraine, he did very well to still finish in 13th place. Ethan maintained his pace all the way round sticking with the middle of the pack of runners, coming in at 18th



position. As this was a mix of Year 10 and 11 boys (S4 and S5), there still may be a chance of Finley earning a place in the Hampshire Finals, but we will not know until the list of finishers is separated into both year groups.

S4 and S5 girls to finish the day and our biggest group of runners. Amy, Amelia, Eleanor, Hannah, Daisy, and Eve. 22 runners in total for this race and some very keen looking competitors on the start line. The start command was given, and a blistering pace was set by two runners taking the lead immediately. 3 more runners took off after them with Hannah sitting in the middle. A great start for Hannah. Another small group chasing the 3 down, led by Amelia. Eleanor and Eve were running nicely with the main pack, and Daisy and Amy making a cautious start. As the top group rounded the corner and out of sight Hannah was running beautifully in 4th place and Amelia following up in 9th. The leaders came flying around the bend and back into view with the top 2 runners setting the fastest pace of the day by just under a minute quicker than everyone else. Hannah reappeared, still keeping that great pace and a hugely impressive 4th place given the pace set. Amelia next round in 9th place, followed by the main pack with Eve in 16th and Eleanor in 17th. A few minutes passed and we began to worry about the last 2 girls. Then around the corner they came, and Daisy was jogging with a limp. The uneven ground around the back of the field had caused her to turn her leg and her bad knee had flared up. Amy supported Daisy when she was hurt and encouraged her to keep moving. Good teamwork from them both. Back to the front of the race and the leader came in at under 8 minutes and the quickest finish of the day. The next runners charged up the finishing straight, with a sprint finish and Hannah in for 4th! Qualified for Hampshire. A Fantastic run from Hannah. The chasing pack sprinted home next, and 8th place for Amelia. As mentioned earlier, the Year 10 and 11 groups ran together so we await confirmation once Year 11 runners have been accounted for to see if Amelia makes it to Hampshire. The main pack of runners rounded the corner and another sprint finish for the group. Eve in for 16th and Eleanor for 17th. A very fast pace for this race and all should be proud of their placing. Amy and Daisy officially placed 20th and 21st, but should be prouder of the determination not to quit when injured and supporting each other.

A tough afternoon of running, but a lot to be proud of. Very well done to Hannah on your Hampshire qualification.

SB

Y5/Y6 Boys – Basketball Tournament – Ryde School – Friday 24 November

Team: (Y5) Libby, Seren, Ruby, Archie (Y6) Marley, Joseph, Rufus, Felicity (C), Ann, Georgia, Edinburgh, Huxley (C),

Report: On Friday, our mixed Year 5 and 6 basketball team attended a tournament at Ryde School. The teams were set to play 3 games and a final play off. The games consisted of two halves, where the boys teams played the first half and the girls team played the second half.

Up first, Priory played Greenmount Primary. The boys were on court first and were ready to take on the opposition. However, Greenmount surprised the team by moving quickly around the court, and although the boys tried their best to stop the play Greenmount managed to score 7 baskets. At half time, the girls swapped in, hoping to redeem the boys loss. It didn't take long for Priory to start scoring, with Felicity scoring two baskets and Libby following suit. The game ended 7-3 to Greenmount.

Next, Priory met Bembridge. The team were much more prepared this time and ready to take on their opponents. The boys started strong, making accurate passes and even using dribbling to move up and down the court. Marley quickly scored his first basket of the day, followed shortly by Huxley. The girls then switched on and Georgia scored within seconds. Priory managed to work hard defensively and found much more flow in this game ending in a 3-0 win to Priory.



In the next game we played against Binstead. The boys started strong with accurate passing and good work in the defensive end. At the half time whistle, it was 1-0 to Binstead. Unfortunately, Binstead had a very strong girls team, and although our girls worked really hard, they could not stop the tallest played from sinking multiple baskets. Good play from all but an unfortunate 5-0 loss.

The last game was a play off for 4th or 5th place. Priory went in with a positive mindset after a great team talk from both captains. The boys worked really hard during this game and had multiple shots just slightly off target. At the half time whistle, the score was 4-0 to St Mary's. It was the girls turn to see if they could turn it around. They started strong, with Felicity scoring within the first minute and things looked up for Priory with a score of 4-2. However, St Mary's were determined and scored a halfway shot just before the time ran out resulting in 6-2 loss. 5th place overall.

This was a great display of determination from the Priory team, the pupils were enthusiastic and powered through to the very end. With some shooting practice, this team has great potential in basketball. Well done all.

Player of the match:

Boys: Huxley - he remained calm and in control under pressure and demonstrated great skills as a captain.

Girls: Libby, Seren and Ruby. All three of these girls played against taller and older players but did not let this stop them. Their determination was incredible.

LM





Sports Stars of the Week

It's been another busy week for the Sports Department, with fixtures across all years throughout the week. Monday was our only day without a fixture and in PE we practiced ball handling skills with Mr Byrne's outdoor version of Bench Ball. It is played without a bench and allows a bit more of a competitive edge to the game.

On Tuesday the girls' hockey team travelled over to the Island Free School (details in report), with the remainder of the lower senior group staying at school for rugby and netball practice.

Wednesday, the upper senior boys' hockey team also went over to the Island Free School for GCSE filming. Back at school, the rest of the senior group walked up to the Queensgate artificial turf for a handball tournament. 6 teams on a 15 game rotation, 2 games played at once, for 6 minutes a game. A very competitive afternoon, with several teams competing for the top spot. Player of the afternoon was Nikita Vanin, with most goals scored and most skillful player of the session.

Thursday had seniors from upper senior school travelling to Medina for the individual Cross Country Championships, with places in Hampshire representing the Island up for grabs. See report for details. Back at school, the juniors split into basketball practice for the older juniors in preparation for Friday and the younger juniors training for a football fixture coming up next week.

Finally on Friday, the S4 PE GCSE pupils took charge of Junior PE for more football training. The lesson was very successful, and the GCSE pupils did a very good job. Thoroughly enjoyed by the junior classes. Our final fixture of the week was also on Friday, the older juniors competing in basketball. Thanks go to the S4 Duke of Edinburgh pupils who have been running a junior basketball club, assisting with skills to compete.

This weeks **Junior Sports Star** comes from the basketball fixture. **Libby Cottrell** was a confident player in her first basketball fixture. She was confident in herself, attempting to shoot on multiple occasions and stood well against taller and older players. Great work from Libby.

Senior Sports Star goes to our top runner this week. **Hannah Charnley** put in a super effort at the cross country this week. Her race was the fastest of the day, her time in coming 4th would have won any other race of the day. She qualifies for the Hampshire Championships and has represented the school with calm confidence and pride. Well look forward to watching Hannah run at the championships!

It's going to be a cold one this week, so please could all pupils ensure they dress appropriately in both PE and Games for the weather each day.

Have a good week.

SB