

# Rugby



The **1st XV** were a smaller team than last year and this meant that we had to play a faster game and try to move our opponents about a lot more. This proved very successful in our early games against Claremont (54-0) and Sutton Valance (32-0). There were tougher matches after Christmas, but we brought a sequence of three defeats to an end by winning the last match of the season against Yardley Court 17-12. A match winning try in the final minutes caused great celebration from boys and parents alike.

The **2nd XV** did not have as much success as had been hoped: however, the boys did perform well against St Ronan's 26-5 and were unfortunate to let their lead slip in the 12-26 defeat by Yardley Court. James McNeilly was our leading forward and Jamie Mackwood performed consistently well at fly-half.

The **U12 XII** reached the final of the Eastbourne College Prep School Festival. There were good performances against St Bede's and Dorset House in the qualifying stages.

The **3rds** enjoyed their rugby with Mr Guy and Mr Yeats-Brown. There were exciting wins against St Ronan's (30-10) and DPS (39-12). There was also an epic match against Holmewood House which was lost 22-24 with the outcome hanging on a last minute conversion.

Mr Butcher's **Colts team** started their season well with a 7-0 win against Claremont and the 7-7 draw with St Ronan's gave hope for the future. This was not a very successful season but James Moug showed tenacity as captain and Jasper Piper deservedly won the players' player of the season award.

The **U10As** were unbeaten in their non-tournament season. There was a fine 15-5 win against Holmewood House and a gripping 20-20 tussle with a very strong St Andrew's side. James Maddison was our top try scorer: Ralph Willis-Fleming was a fine captain.

The **Colts BIX** made encouraging progress despite losing their three games. Ivo Elliott and Tom Bass were our strongest players.

The **U9s** made a confident start to their rugby careers. There was an encouraging performance against Claremont 20-10 with good performances from Bailey Wright and Harry Clarke. The two defeats against St Ronan's and St Andrew's will have taught the team about improving their defence.

*(For full team reports see following pages)*



# Rugby



## The 1st XV

1<sup>st</sup> XV Rugby Report, 2008-09

Played	7
Won	4
Lost	3
Points scored	F 134
	A 73

The 1<sup>st</sup> XV finished their season in fine style, coming from 12-5 down to win 17-12 against Yardley Court. I would like to thank the whole squad for their commitment and enthusiasm, which made it a very enjoyable season for their coach Mr Sloan.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> XV did not have as much success as had been hoped: however, the boys did perform well against St Ronan's, 26-5 and were unfortunate to let their lead slip in the 12-26 defeat by Yardley Court. James McNeilly was our leading forward and Jamie Mackwood performed consistently well at fly-half.

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## 3rds Rugby Season Summary

The 3rds have had an enjoyable season with some good running rugby being a feature of their game. The season started with a convincing win over St Ronan's with Caspar Fraser and Oliver Thompson out-classing the St Ronan's backs. There followed the match of the season, away at Holmewood House where we lost 22 - 24 off the very last kick of the game. In a pulsating match, Jose Perez was the star with two tries and he was ably supported by Tim Li who also scored. Our handling skills were excellent but unfortunately our poor tackling ultimately led us to concede a try in the last minute of the game. The tackling weakness was to be a common theme throughout the season with the Bethany game being another example as we went down 32 - 41, although this was against their 2<sup>nd</sup> XII. We then entertained Dulwich and tries from Caspar Fraser, Alec York, Angus Begg and Ralph Yeats-Brown saw us emerge 34 - 12 winners. End of season injuries and poor weather interfered with selection and preparation for the remaining two matches in which we lost to St Andrew's and Yardley Court. Overall, the thirds were an exciting team whose running and handling was excellent but whose tackling let them down at crucial moments. Well done to all involved!

*DG-EYB*



# Rugby



## U10 A Rugby Report 2008/9

The team had a really promising season. I was thrilled with the commitment that was shown in the matches. It was clear that this group of boys really enjoyed playing the game. The tackling was a particularly strong feature of our play. It was also very noticeable how well we managed to retain the ball when going into contact with the opposition.

The most impressive performance was probably our 15-5 win at Holmewood House. This is always a tricky fixture and we managed to subdue a really physical side and turn our pressure into points. The 20-20 draw was a classic match with the lead changing hands several times. They were probably the strongest team on our circuit and it was a fine achievement to come within a few minutes of victory. We finished the term with a 40-10 win against Yardley Court U.10 B IX: it would have been interesting to have played their A team who had another commitment on the day.

The team was captained by Ralph Willis-Fleming. He was an inspirational influence at scrum half and his excellent defence always kept us on the front foot. James Maddison was our top try scorer and he demonstrated a really sound tactical understanding of the game at fly half. The scrum comprised of three doughty forwards, Xavier Yeats-Brown (powerful and good at rucking), William McNeilly (excellent tackler and abrasive runner) and Ben Meehan (line out specialist and strong at mauling). We were blessed with plenty of speed out wide with the fleet-footed James Fosbery and Sam Lloyd.

## UNDER 9 RUGBY

The season started brightly with a good win against Claremont 20-10 with Bailey Wright amongst the tries. Our next match threw us against much stronger opposition in St Ronan's and a 25-0 loss. Our last game as it turned out was against St Andrew's (as all the remaining games fell foul to the weather) and although the scoresheet read 20-5 to St Andrew's it was a much more evenly contested game.

Squad: B.Wright/ E.Birrell/ A.Elliott/ J.Flett/ R.Coles/  
G.Howard-Smith/ H. Clarke/ L.Greenhow/ K.Sassone/R.Radia/  
J.Patel/B.Rees/O.Rees.

Players Player of the Season: Bailey Wright

*J Newman*

## Colts Rugby Report 2008 / 9

Points scored = 14    Points conceded = 217.

This has been a particularly tough rugby season in which the team only managed to score two tries in seven games.

The one and only win of the season was in the first game v Claremont when we won a close match 7-0. In the other games we were outplayed in every department and with the exception of a 7-7 draw v St Ronan's we were well beaten and failed to score again in any of the other games.

Score lines do not always tell the whole story and the effort of the players and their commitment in tackles could easily be forgotten and lost in the statistics. There were some heroic efforts with the thin blue line throwing themselves at, what seemed at times to be overwhelming numbers in the opposition ranks. Those who watched the games can vouch for the valiant endeavours of the players to stem the tide of tries.

The Colts have been a spirited group to coach and have always remained positive in the face of adversity. James Moug captained the side and Jasper Piper was voted Player of the Season.

N J Butcher

## Colts B IX (Report 08/9)

This year the Colts B team was selected from a mixture of Year 5'a and Year 6's. The season started with a 25-5 defeat at Holmewood House. This was not too dispiriting, however, as some boys were playing in their first ever competitive match. The matches against St.Andrews (0-25) and Yardley Court (0-30) looked like convincing losses on paper, but in fact we contested the games really well. Unfortunately we lacked the necessary size and pace to consistently threaten the opposition line.

The players' player of the season was Ivo Elliott. Tom Bass was one of the strongest forwards. Robert Benstead-Smith tackled well in defence.