

NSRT Rugby Midlands and North Regional Qualifiers

Winchester House, Sunday 3rd December

On Sunday 3rd December the U9, U10 and U11 rugby teams travelled to Winchester House School in Brackley for the North and Midlands regional round of the National Schools Rugby Tournament (NSRT). The weather cheered up somewhat which was encouraging and the boys were able to thoroughly enjoy the whole experience.

The U11 boys started brightly beating Beachborough school 30-5, with tries from Jack Seabourn (3), Matty Laubscher (2) and Ned Caton. It was a great start with the boys playing some beautiful running rugby. The next game saw us take on the very dangerous QEGS Wakefield and despite going two tries down in a closely fought game we came back strongly with tries from Matty Laubscher and Isaac Astin to draw the game 10-10. Our final game was against the host school Winchester House and, despite having more than our fair share of chances, we eventually lost 0-15; a fantastic day out and 3rd in our group through tries scored eventually.

After a slow start the U10s managed to scrape a victory against Rushmore 20-15 with tries from Nile McKeown (x2), Oliver Earl and Eddie Davidson. Next, the team faced an Eversfield side with a strong runner who we struggled to contain resulting in a 20-5 loss, try scored by Nile McKeown. The final game was against the unbeaten QEGS side, which turned out to be the U10 team's performance of the day. With a huge defensive effort and fantastic movement of the ball, St Faith's found themselves 10-5 up at the half time break with tries from Oliver Earl and Archie Nye. QEGS did respond well and scored two tries to take the victory with the second being scored in the final play of the game.

Overall a good day, finishing 3rd in our group and a good effort from all involved.

After a tough starting game versus Quinton House in which the U9 boys began to get organised, they narrowly lost. There were then flashes of slick passing accompanied by tremendous tackling from Willkie Nickalls and James Ralston-Bown. This helped the boys take a 10-5 lead into half time against The Croft only for the pace of the opponents winger to once again foil the boys from a memorable win. They then played Wellingborough and Noah Holt cemented a great day with a brace of sniping tries. This settled the nerves and, towards the end of the game, Ben Bullen and Reuben Lygoe began to help dominate proceedings to record a super win. In the final game of the day which culminated in the best Rugby the boys had played and our toughest opponents Akeley Wood. In a nail biting end to end match, Akeley Wood just won, but the highlight of the match went to some exceptional attacking footwork from Daniel Hay to snipe a run from the half way down the blindside. What an amazing experience for the boys.

Essentially all very close matches, too many of which were shaded by our very capable opponents.

Huge thanks to all the staff who took the teams and to the parents for their support, as ever.

E Johnson, T North, M Gillick, P Graves, B Penfold, W Rusted