

Regional IAPS Rugby Tournament

On Thursday 4th November the U11 A Boys' Rugby team went to Brentwood in Essex to compete in the Regional IAPS Rugby tournament. It was cold grey day, but luckily the rain held off and it was a great event for running rugby.

Squad : Tom P (Capt), Ollie W, Nathan C, Daniel S, Joshua C, Sebastian J, Oliver R, Will H, Noah D, Alistair S, Kit W

We had 11 players, all keen to do their best and pit themselves against some of the strongest teams in the area. We were drawn in Pool A against 4 other teams.

Our first game was against the host school Brentwood Prep and the boys started beautifully scoring some outstanding tries to win the game 35-5. (Tries: Ollie, Nathan 3, Tom, Kit, Alistair).

This was just the start we needed and our next opponent was St Cedd's. Again, we scored plenty of tries and worked the ball well to the 'edge' beautifully handling it in wet conditions to eventually win the game 50- 5 (Tries: Kit 5, Tom, Daniel, Ollie 3). The boys had played some delightful rugby and next up was Belmont Mill Hill Prep, a strong physical side. Through some dogged determination and good tackling, we eventually ran out winners 20-10. (Tries: Tom, Ollie 2, Kit)

Our last pool match was against the other team that hadn't lost either; Dame Bradbury's had some very physical and fast boys and it was always going to be a tight game with the winner being top of the group. After some hard tackling and one last super passing phase T Parr clinched the victory for us 25-20. (Tries: Alistair, Kit, Olly 2, Tom).

We were now through to the final of this waterfall tournament against the team that finished first in Pool B.

We were quite tired after 4 back to back games but obviously were exhilarated to be in the final knowing the worst we could come was second. In the final, we played a strong Milton Keynes Prep and this was just one game too far against a well organised and physical side. They won the game 30-10 despite our best efforts but there were two great tries to remember from Will.

Huge thanks to Mr Johnson for his invaluable support and driving skills, and to the parents for their support. The standard of the boys' rugby has grown exponentially, and they would be the first to admit that they have really improved in the last two weeks, which is so rewarding. Their tackling, ability to identify space and handling skills have really made progress. Over the course of the day, it became more obvious that their decision making at the breakdown was also so much better.

It was a joy to take them for the day and their attitude throughout was exemplary. Well done boys and keep on progressing.

Mr North