



AGSB SPORT TERM REVIEW



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AGSB HAVE REACHED

2

NATIONAL FINALS

OVER

160

FIXTURES ACROSS
ALL SPORTS

YEAR 9 HOLLAND RUGBY TOUR

U14's Netherlands Rugby Tour 2023

Since the start of year 9, Mr Cundick has worked hard to instil in us that when we play rugby, we are a team. It's about 'we not me' and that was never more apparent than on the U14 De Nederland trip 2023. We met on an unusually warm and sunny Sunday morning at The Grammar 'HQ' for a final training session on home turf with Mr. Cundick, Mr. Rawson and Mr. Meakin, and by midday we set off on our way. The 2 hour coach trip to Hull flew by with the assistance of some classic rugby anthems being sung by the 17 lads....our camaraderie growing with every off key note!

We made it in good time and boarded the overnight ferry early to watch the much-anticipated World Cup clash between England and Fiji and our 'we not me' ethos stood its first test when Oscar came down in a Fiji shirt...his unexpected stunt only galvanised the team with jovial banter and after 80 minutes the last laugh belonged to the English.

After a hearty team dinner (which we all enjoyed, especially Aiden, Callum & Eddie) our systems were tested by the waves and some of us felt a little green. Thank you to Harry for further teamwork by distributing his stash of anti-sickness tablets! By the time we arrived in Rotterdam, squad spirit was high, assisted by random room allocation and a genuine eagerness to spend time with everyone from everyone.

A relaxing afternoon was had by all, testing our mini golf and arcade skills in the beachside town of Scheveningen and then we settled into our new rooms in the fantastic hostel accommodation.



For the evening ten pin bowling contest we donned our Hawaiian shirts and again the 'we not me' team spirit shone through when Jack lent Louis a spare shirt. Jack's wardrobe was extensive, but not a match for the usually punctual Luca who had already worn a Shaun the Sheep outfit as a forfeit for uncharacteristic lateness, both he and Ollie G who was dressed even more creatively took the forfeits with good grace!

Lights out at 10pm drifted somewhat, but we awoke the next morning feeling fresh and eager for our first test. Armed with the wise words of the coaches we took on the skilful Oisterwijk RC (Oysters) captained by Ivor, and despite great rugby on both sides we won 76-0. It was a great team performance, everyone pulling together in the same direction. The after-match hospitality from our hosts was phenomenal and climaxed in a joint rendition of their club anthem Billy Joel's Piano Man...it was easy to see why our school and Oisterwijk RC have such a strong longstanding bond.

Our third day involved delicious Dutch pancakes and go- karting at Race Planet! Ollie C challenged Mr. Rawson to a race, the loser having to do a forfeit. Luckily for Mr. Rawson he beat Ollie C hands down!

Our second game (captained by Ivor and Cameron) against Gouda RUFC was physical and challenging but we stuck together and won 56-10....Rueben helping the team selflessly with a stint as hooker and Toby tackling like a machine. The real winner was our new relationship with the Gouda players who like the Oysters were a warm, hospitable and fun bunch of lads!

The final activity at the Tikibad waterpark was a real extravaganza as advertised on the itinerary, the whole team embarking on a journey through the rapids together.

The awards handed out to Ollie C, Frank, George, Ted and Harry were much deserved and celebrated by us all, however, it really was a team success built on the expert leadership of Mr. Meakin, Mr. Rawson and Mr. Cundick.

The AGSB under 14's rugby team are living and breathing the 'we not me' mantra and the only improvement to the trip would have been having Charlie, Sahil, Adam and Satvik with us too....but they were ever present on our rugby group chat!

Massive thanks go to all those who organised the tour and especially to Mr. Meakin, Mr. Rawson and Mr. Cundick for a memorable and inspiring first taste of rugby on the road!

By Cameron Smurthwaite



HOUSE SPORT



This year we have had two major house sports competitions, the winter house festival, and the house football competitions.

The winter festival involves each house competing in, Rugby, Hockey, Badminton and Table Tennis. The results can be seen below.

Year 7 – Winter sports Festival Results 2023.				
Rugby				
Position	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th
House	Massey	Bradbury	Tatton	Stamford
Points				
Hockey				
Position	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th
House	Tatton	Massey	Stamford	Bradbury
Points				
Badminton				
Position	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th
House	Stamford	Massey	Tatton	Bradbury
Points				
Table Tennis				
Position	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th
House	Massey	Bradbury	Stamford	Tatton
Points				
Final Standings				
House	Points total (lowest wins)			
1 st	Massey 6 – 100 points			
2 nd	Tatton 11 – 62.5 points			
3 rd	Stamford 11 – 62.5 points			
4 th	Bradbury 12 – 25 points			

Year 8 – Winter sports Festival Results 2023.				
Rugby				
Position	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th
House	Bradbury	Tatton	Massey	Stamford
Points				
Hockey				
Position	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th
House	Bradbury	Massey	Stamford	Tatton
Points				
Badminton				
Position	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th
House	Stamford	Bradbury	Massey	Tatton
Points				
Table Tennis				
Position	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th
House	Tatton	Massey	Bradbury	Stamford
Points				
Final Standings				
House	Points total (lowest wins)			
1 st	Bradbury 7 – 100			
2 nd	Massey 10 – 75			
3 rd	Tatton 11 – 50			
4 th	Stamford 12 – 25			

Year 9 – Winter sports Festival Results 2023.				
Rugby				
Position	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th
House	Tatton	Massey	Stamford	Bradbury
Points				
Hockey				
Position	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th
House	Stamford	Massey	Bradbury	Tatton
Points				
Badminton				
Position	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th
House	Tatton	Massey	Bradbury	Stamford
Points				
Table Tennis				
Position	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th
House	Tatton	Bradbury	Massey	Stamford
Points				
Final Standings				
House	Points total (lowest wins)			
1 st	Tatton 7 – 100			
2 nd	Massey 9 – 75			
3 rd	Bradbury 12 – 25			
4 th	Stamford 12 – 25			

Year 10 – Winter sports Festival Results 2023.				
Rugby				
Position	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th
House				
Points				
Hockey				
Position	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th
House	Stamford	Bradbury	Massey	Tatton
Points				
Badminton				
Position	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th
House	Stamford	Massey	Tatton	Bradbury
Points				
Table Tennis				
Position	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th
House	Stamford	Tatton	Massey	Bradbury
Points				
Final Standings				
House	Points total (lowest wins)			
1 st	Stamford 3 – 100			
2 nd	Massey 8 – 75			
3 rd	Tatton 9 – 50			
4 th	Bradbury 10 – 25			

The house football has been a great success with all years, except year 12 having completed their competitions. The standard has been exceptionally high. Results are as follows.

Year 7	1 st Place – Massey	2 nd Place – Stamford	3 rd Place – Bradbury	4 th Place – Tatton
Year 8	1 st Place – Tatton	2 nd Place – Massey	3 rd Place – Stamford	4 th Place – Bradbury
Year 9	1 st Place – Stamford	2 nd Place – Massey	2 nd Place – Tatton	4 th Place – Bradbury
Year 10	1 st Place – Tatton	2 nd Place – Stamford	3 rd Place – Bradbury	4 th Place – Massey
Year 11	1 st Place – Stamford	2 nd Place – Tatton	3 rd Place – Massey	4 th Place – Brabury
Year 13	1 st Place – Massey	2 nd Place – Stamford	3 rd Place – Tatton	4 th Place – Brabury



VISIT FROM KING WILLIAM COLLEGE

On a cold and rainy Saturday morning we took on a touring team from the Isle of Man, King William's. With the late cry offs of Sahil, George and Adam, and the unavailability of Adeniyi and Toby leaving us light on numbers, we really benefited from the contributions of Alex in the backs and Charlie in the forwards from year 10. However, On the back of a positive performance against Stockport Grammar last time out, we started on the back foot as some early, strong carries from King William's allowed them to catch us off guard and take a quick lead.



However, from this moment onwards we stepped up the intensity and grew our way back into the game. Playing with the wind in the first half, Aiden was making good ground of the lineouts with some tactical kicking putting AGSB back on the front foot and applying pressure to our opposition full-back. It was from this that Ivor picked up a loose ball and scored in the corner and converted to give us a narrow lead. Straight from this, the backs and the forwards began to link effectively with Oli C, Cameron, Charlie, and Satvik getting us over the gain line up front and Jack providing the link with the backs allowing the likes of Oscar, Charlie, and Eddie in the centres to distribute the ball to YuHong, Ted, Reuben and Callum out wide. From this increased intensity we were able to put the opposition under sustained pressure on their try-line from which Oli C sprinted clear and scored in the corner. Oscar added the extras this time to make it 14-5 to AGSB.



Throughout the game, ill-discipline at the rucks cost us and gave our opposition a route back into the match. However, we defended well with Joadd, Frank and Harry showing their usual aggression and tenacity and at the breakdown and in the tackle, with Oli G winning us multiple turnovers through his effective mauling. Before half time Cameron crossed the line to give us a comfortable lead at the break, with AGSB 19-5 up.

In the second half we restricted King William's to very little ball, largely due to crunching tackles from all the forwards, but especially Luca who led the pack in the tackling throughout the game. Like previous weeks, we worked well as a team and supported each other when mistakes were made, and we started to gain the ascendancy at the scrums. From this, we spread the ball wide, with Alex doing a great job filling in at scrumhalf, and Oscar powered over the line from close range. Two more tries followed in the second half, a quick tap from Ivor and a powerful run from Charlie helping us to take control. We were able to exert our control on the game despite a couple of breakdown infringements leading to a conceded try. The forwards continued to work as a pack, making their tackles and making yards in the carries, while the backs found space and exploited gaps in the opposition defence regularly.



Another good team performance led to a 38-12 victory for us, with a particularly positive bounce back as a team from the early deficit, to front up physically and produce a strong performance. Everybody knew their roles and stepped up another level from previous games despite the conditions to produce arguably our best performance of the year so far.

Ivor Davies was players player of the match in a close vote with several others in the running.

Written by I Davies & C Smurthwaite

CROSS COUNTRY

The 2023 cross country season was very successful for AGSB, with the senior squad qualifying for Nationals. The team was comprised of 6 runners, namely, Fin Day, Ed Lord, Ben Stone, Will Johnson, Ben Clark and Xander Gilmartin.

At the national qualifiers in Sedbergh, after a tough race with lots of hills and difficult terrain, the senior squad won the whole event, crowning us the North-West champions. In addition to this, we beat St Ambrose in this race by 5 points.

In early December, the national finals took us down to Ipswich, Woodbridge School. On the morning of the race, we were met with the harsh conditions of a very cold and windy day. The ground was hard, meaning the steep inclines were even tougher on our legs. Despite this we powered on, with all AGSB participants completing the race, and we also managed to achieve another win over St Ambrose.



Junior Boys Success at Trafford Championships

2023 has been an exciting year for Cross Country at AGSB. In the English Schools XC Cup the Intermediate and Junior boys qualified for the Northwest regional round held at Sedbergh school, whilst the Senior boys made it through to the National finals. On Tuesday this week the Intermediate boys (years 8 & 9 combined) travelled to Crossford Bridge in Sale to compete in the Trafford Schools event, unfortunately due to illness and injury our other teams were unable to attend. After having trained together since the beginning of the season, the team arrived ready and prepared. In contrast to Sedbergh's hilly and technical course, Crossford Bridge is renowned for being flat and fast. The team needed to start off hard, keep the pace and work on their cornering. They committed from the get-go with a sprint start to counter their positioning on the outside of the start line. The boys worked their way through the pack nicely with some fantastic sprint finishes. With great performances from the whole squad and our first four counters placing in the top ten, the team finished in first place. Charlie R, Archer B, James H and Ben S qualified to represent Trafford at the Greater Manchester championships. Thank you to Mr Gooch and Mr Soulsby for giving their time to help this all happen.



Archer B



BASKETBALL

Both the U14 and U16 teams have started the season very well. The U14s have only lost one fixture to date, and the U16s are undefeated scoring over 180 points in just 3 games. Credit to captain Hamza S, who has led from the front. Fingers crossed we can be crowned Trafford champions in the new year! Special thanks to Mr Land who has recently taken over coaching the teams. His expertise has been very valuable this season.



FOOTBALL

Following on from last season's success, we went into preseason with high hopes and top-quality players competing for their spot on the squad. After three sessions the initial First XI and Second XI teams were selected ready for our first game vs Kings Chester. We played with a 4-3-3 formation and although we won 5-2, we played very poorly as a team, but there were moments individual class shown.

The team began to solidify a few games into the season and so there was a sense of togetherness on and off the pitch and so we went into our first ESFA cup game (English Schools cup) feeling very confident. After a first round bye we ended up winning our first 2 games comfortably, taking us into round 4 to play The Bluecoat school in Liverpool. Suggestions from players and Mr Cammack's thoughts combined to come to a final decision to play a 5-4-1 formation and it seemed to work well. Going 2-0 down after a screamer of an own goal from our centre back and a great header from Bluecoats centre back, we thought the game was over. But not a single head dropped on the team, and we brought it back to 2-2 with 2 goals from corners. We worked vigorously on set pieces throughout the season with Mr Cammack putting in lots of his time to ensure we were more prepared than most other schools and so I'm happy that it paid off. We won the game on penalties with a winner from Zain Hatoor.

Overall, this season has been a massive success so far, thanks to Mr Cammack's effort and the drive that this year's first team has and I'm expecting more good things to come. We've finished the year off with 8 wins, 2 draws and 2 losses. Hopefully we will defend our title in the Greater Manchester cup, and we'll be lifting the Trophy sometime in the new year.



SPORT FOR ALL CAMPAIGN - UPDATE

Thanks to the 'Sports For All Campaign', AGSB Sport has benefited massively. Substantial investment in drainage of the fields has meant the only time we have lost all sport on a Saturday has been due to frost. In previous years we have lost as many as 4 Saturdays due to waterlogged pitches.

Our new outdoor cricket nets have allowed us to start cricket earlier increasing our provision, we have also gained new box goals for football, branded post protectors for rugby, spectator barriers for both football and rugby and new indoor surrounds for indoor hockey.

With phase two about to start, we will see additional developments to the lower field, and improved facilities for tennis, athletics, and outdoor hockey. The campaign has been a great success that has improved AGSB sport in many ways. Special thanks to those that have contributed!

HOCKEY

The new term started with lots of optimism for the under 18s indoor hockey team. We had new recruits joining us in the 6th form in the Josh MW and after a strong performance last year, we were looking forward to the season ahead. With Albert Marcano's (coach) expertise guiding us we were looking forward to the challenges ahead.

Our campaign started with a Northwest indoor final. We attended Manchester Grammar School on 17th November where we faced off against Cheadle Hulme, Rossall and King's School Chester in the group stage. Matches 1 and 3 were plain sailing for the boys but a lapse in concentration in game 3 allowed Rossall a chance of going through ahead of us, we were only kept in by a few incredible saves from Josh L. Our final game against MGS started well and we were up with 4 minutes to go but a keeper substitution by mgs increased their out field numbers which put greater pressure on our defenders. Nevertheless, we persevered and won our place at National Super 6s school Finals at Whitgift.

Thanks to Mr Meakin's organisational skills, we were on our way down to London with hotel rooms booked and new quarter zips within 2 weeks of qualifying. The next few games would not be as simple as the last. Our pool was deemed "the death group" and rightfully so. In it were the host's and last year's winners Whitgift alongside Repton and Caterham School. Against Repton we help our own, creating chances and guarding our half we were only 1 goal down by the end of the first half due to an unlucky bounce. Unfortunately, in the second half Repton found 3 more goals, our first defeat as a team. The rest of the tournament followed a similar pattern and the scoreboard was often unfair to the balance of play. There were many outstanding contributions and Will L was voted player's man of the tournament. It was a fantastic experience for all involved and a brilliant foundation for our outdoor campaign.

Oli H

The younger age groups have also enjoyed success, the U14 squad have reached the county semi-finals and the U16 squad have reached the county finals. In the new year we have plenty more county, with the next cups, power play series and completion of the county cups. Well done to all those that have played for the school teams.



TABLE TENNIS

It has yet again been another successful start to the competitive Table Tennis at AGSB. We have had over 100 boys take up lessons with are resident international Table Tennis coach, Brian Kean, with more opportunity throughout the year to join.

AGSB again hosted the Greater Manchester Table Tennis regional rounds for U13, U16 and U19. I am pleased to say that the U13's and U19's won their respective age groups with the U16's coming runners up on a count back. Our U13 and U16B teams both lost out in the semi-finals against our A team. The next round will be played in the New Year.

We also look forward to the individual competition also held at AGSB in the New Year.

Mr Rawson



BADMINTON



U16 - Being part of the badminton team for the past 2 years for me has personally been one of the best two playing years of my life and being part of something like this has not only pushed me to be a better player but also has acquainted me with many new friends and also has handed me the opportunity to learn and excel in the sport of badminton. The school not being able to play for the past few years, due to various reasons such as the pandemic, has certainly been taken on positively by the team, the love and enthusiasm from the players on the sport has led for us to have a strong mentality even through the fixtureless months and years keeping us on our toes for when the fixtures were once again to resume. The love and dedication from the players on the sport has clearly been shown in the last couple of months with both of our U16 teams having achieved the great feat of playing in the regional semi-finals and unfortunately only one of our teams could qualify to the finals as the U16A team defeated the U16 B team, even the younger and upcoming players in the school are also performing to a very high standard as our U14A team has also reached the regional finals, overall resulting both of our A teams reaching the finals probably being one if not the only school to achieve this incredible accomplishment. This comes to show the quality of badminton players that we have in our school and once again shows the devotion for badminton and personally for me, my love for badminton has been used as my drive taken me and my team to the semi-finals of the regional cup defeated many established schools such as MGS and Grammar school at Leeds. This all would not be possible without Mr Rawson and his belief in the team that he had in the team to take us to where we are currently and under the same management, I think we are ready and prepared to take on the national school cup with our heads held high and able to come back with something to be proud of.

Yeshwin Dutt Musunuri

U14 - The Under 14-A team has now reached the regional finals after a tough game at home against Leeds Grammar School, that went down to points breakdown which we won by around 40 points less conceded than the other team, but they put up a good fight against us and we were very fortunate to win.

The B team got to the Schools of the North final but unfortunately, they lost to the very same Leeds Grammar School A-team that the AGSB A-team played. The B team played exceptionally well because they also took Leeds to points breakdown, but they were just short of 5 points.

In these matches I think we were well coordinated, and we always went into our matches with a plan, whether that be singles or doubles, we were always well prepared before any match. Also, considering that most people haven't been able to make it to the group session, it didn't seem like it when we were playing which was a good sign, so I think that with everyone coming to the group sessions we can win this next match. It may not be easy but, if we fought like we did against Leeds, we will have a good chance.

Omi Dev
8DO