

Highsted Grammar School Match Reports 2015-16

U19 Netball Tournament: Tuesday 29 September 2015

Our senior netball players performed with credit at the Kent U19 tournament held on Tuesday 29 September. After a slow start to the competition, the team raised their game to beat the Towers School 13-0. Despite not qualifying for the next round of the tournament, the girls can be proud of their achievements which saw them finish higher up the league table than last year.

U13 Football Kent Cup: Wednesday 30 September 2015

On Wednesday 30 September, the U13 football team competed in their opening tie of the Kent Cup with a convincing 4-0 win. The team attacked and defended effectively, and maintained their shape throughout the game. The girls created space for their teammates and capitalised on intelligent throw-ins and corners every time play re-started. We look forward to the next round!

ESAA Schools Cross Country Cup: Monday 5 October 2015

On Monday 5 October, Highsted competed for the first time in the ESAA Schools Cross Country Cup. A total of 12 girls were selected to represent Highsted ranging from Year 7 to Year 10. In the Year 7/8 race, Freya Jury, Alex Coleman and De-shawnae Robinson competed well coming 31st, 33rd and 39th respectively out of a field of more than 60 runners. In the Year 9/10 race Polly Thomas and Elena Jury ran well in 34th and 36th place respectively. Our runners are to be congratulated for their efforts in what was a highly competitive environment.

U16 Football Kent Cup: Tuesday 6 October

The opposition withdrew on the day.

U16 Netball Tournament: Wednesday 14 October

On Wednesday 14 October, our Year 10 and 11 netballers were involved in a netball tournament against local opposition. The team performed more successfully than the same fixture last year and won two of its games against Dover Girls 8:0 and Chislehurst and Sidcup 6:3 with some good interceptions and rebounds. The team faced some strong opponents in their other fixtures, not least Walthamstowe Hall, one of the eventual qualifiers for the next round. Our squad is to be praised on their competitiveness throughout the day.

U14 Football Kent Cup: Tuesday 20 October

On Tuesday 20 October, our U14 football team suffered a narrow defeat at the hands of Fort Pitt Grammar School after a fiercely contested game. After an early setback of conceding two goals inside the first ten minutes, the team showed great resilience to level the scoring at 2:2 by half time. Isabelle Bartlett scored a beautifully curled goal to open our account. After the break, it was end-to-end stuff, with Fort Pitt scoring from the penalty spot early on. Georgia Winger equalised to make it 3:3, but, with the game destined for extra time, Fort Pitt grabbed a late winner with minutes to go. A disallowed goal for off side denied Highsted a fourth goal in the last minute, though the whole team can take pride from a fantastic performance!

U18 Football: Wednesday 21 October

The opposition withdrew on the day.

U13 Football Kent Cup: Wednesday 4 November

On Wednesday 4 November we played Highworth Grammar School and were on the wrong side of a 4:0 result. That said, we had periods of the game when we played well, putting in some decent tackles and a number of shots on goal. We sometimes lacked players in the final third of the pitch to take advantage of good possession in their half, something we are working on as we move forwards.

U16 Football Kent Cup: Monday 9 November

On Monday 9 October, the U16 football team suffered a 5:0 defeat against Rainham Girls in terrible conditions. The game was evenly contested at the start, but Highsted fell behind in the 20th minute after a controversial free kick decision. Heads began to drop and Highsted conceded again twice in quick succession. Down 3:0 at half time, the team came out with more determination in the second half, though the quality of the opposition, including both academy and international players, shone through. The Highsted team played well to restrict the opposition to five goals by the final whistle.

U13 Football Tournament: Wednesday 11 November

We played our first ever 6-a-side tournament on Wednesday 11 November with the aim of progressing to the national tournament. We only conceded 4 goals in 6 games and played our best football of the year so far. The organiser even commented that Highsted was the most impressive team on the day. We were unlucky to just miss out on the semi-finals, and came 5th out of 23 teams on the day. Well done Highsted! You did us proud!

U14 Netball Tournament: Thursday 12 November

On Thursday 12 November, our U14 netball squad took part in a tournament at Rainham School for Girls. Despite losing a number of matches during the day, the tournament gave the team valuable experience of a competition environment. We scored well against Combe Bank School and Bullers Wood School, though in other matches we were penalised sometimes for being too close to the opposition player in defence, something for us to work on for next time. That said, the team worked extremely hard and we were proud of our performances.

U18 Football: Wednesday 18 November

On Wednesday 18 November, the U18 football team played Erith School in the Kent Cup after Homewood School conceded in the first round. Erith represented tough opposition having won the regional cup in 2014-15 and finished eighth in the country in the national championship. Given the calibre of the opposition, featuring as it does club players from Chelsea, Charlton Athletic and Crystal Palace, the team battled bravely to reduce the score line. Our defence and midfield worked well in atrocious weather conditions with some excellent saves from our goalkeeper. The final score was 6:0, but the whole team should be praised for their commitment to the side throughout the fixture.

Year 7 Netball versus Fulston Manor School: Thursday 19 November

On Thursday 19 November, Highsted took a team of 12 Year 7s to play a netball fixture against our neighbours, Fulston Manor School. There was a lot of position-swapping given the team's inexperience; however, we handled those changes well and scored the first goal in the opening quarter, before Fulston fought back with three quick goals in succession. The play was pretty evenly matched after that with the eventual score 6:3 in Fulston's favour. Overall, it was great experience for our young side and we look forward to a return match soon!

KSAA Swimming Championships: Saturday 9 January

There were many outstanding individual performances at this year's KSAA Swimming Championships. Matilda Durrant in Year 8 won the Years 7/8 100m Freestyle in a time of 1:04:13, and there were top ten finishes from Rebecca Crouch in the Years 11-13 100m Freestyle, Ella Thomas in the Years 11-13 100m Breaststroke with a personal best time and Polly Thomas in the Years 9-10 200m Individual Medley, also in a personal best time. All 11 of our swimmers are to be congratulated on their performances.

KSCC Championships: Saturday 23 January

Highsted's top athletes competed in the Kent Cross Country Championships on 23 January with creditable performances from Elena Jury, who came in 49th out of nearly 100 competitors, Ella Thomas and Polly Thomas in their respective races over a tough course. Well done, girls!

U12 Kent Football: Wednesday 3 February

On Wednesday 3 February, Highsted U12 Football team played St George's, Rochester away. In a tense encounter Highsted eventually came out on top, victors by 5 goals to 3 in a thrilling penalty shoot-out. In the first half Highsted dominated the play, but couldn't find the back of the net; in the second, Highsted attacked repeatedly, and came close to scoring on occasion. However, a penalty shoot-out decided it, the successful penalty takers being Ismay Tizard, Scarlett Gebbie, Lois Hall, Charlotte Broughton and Freya Jury. The team now progresses to the next phase. Congratulations, girls!

U12 Netball versus Fulston Manor School: Thursday 11 February

On Thursday 11 February, our Year 7s took on Fulston for the second time this year and came out on top by 10:4, avenging the earlier loss of 6:3. The first quarter was tight and both teams shared the spoils at 1:1, but in the second quarter, Highsted let rip and forged into a 5:2 lead thanks to brilliant play from Isabelle Breaker, Ismay Tizard and Charlotte Broughton. After half time, there was more of the same with excellent passing through the middle, from one side of the court to the other, from centre to wing defence, to wing attack, back to centre, before scoring; it was electric! Fulston trailed by four goals with one quarter remaining. Key contributions from Freya Jury and Gabriella Deevoy in the latter stages kept up the pressure and Highsted ran out winners by 6 goals. The whole team is to be congratulated on a fine performance.

ESFA U12 Football versus King John's School, Benfleet, Essex: Thursday 25 February

Highsted's U12 Football squad lined up against King John in the second round of the ESFA U12 9-a-side tournament. Having travelled across the water, we knew that a

match on their turf would be tough, and we had injury problems with Ismay Tizard out and Niamh Davison in as replacement. Highsted started the stronger with goalkeeper Lucie Breiner barely troubled in the first half. Early in the second half, Niamh Davison broke the deadlock by following up a goal-bound effort which the defender missed allowing her to slot past the goalkeeper for the first goal. With 10 minutes to go, Lois Hall used her skill and trickery to fire a second over the keeper from the edge of the area. Highsted kept up the pressure until the final whistle to secure a 2:0 victory. Player of the Match: Niamh Davison. Here's to the next round!

U13 Netball Tournament at Rainham: Tuesday 1 March

Our U13 netballers gained a lot of experience from their participation in this event. Although not the victors in any of their matches, the opportunity to compete at this level was well worth it. The main area for development is in the team's footwork, as well as throwing the ball over the (often tall) heads of the opponents! We look forward to the next tournament!

U12 Netball Tournament at Rainham: Wednesday 16 March

Despite the team's relative inexperience at this level, the U12 netball squad performed well and won three matches on the day. In the matches we won, our passing and spacing were secure, and augur positively for the future. Well done, girls!

ESFA U12 Football versus Ursuline Convent School, Brentwood: Thursday 14 April

As Highsted entered the third round of this national tournament, the squad was well aware of the game plan – to shoot whenever there was a sight of goal! The game started with Ursuline clearly the stronger side and threatening to score. We had to change our tactics and play more defensively than originally planned. We came out for the second half a different side after a motivational half-time talk. We went after Ursuline from the whistle and started to put them under pressure. Unfortunately, the game ended scoreless at 0-0. In a tense penalty shoot-out, goalkeeper Lucie Breiner kept her nerve and saved three spot kicks which ensured we progressed to the fourth round. A fantastic all-round effort, girls!