

Highsted Grammar School Match Reports 2016-17

Kent Schools' Cross Country Championships: Saturday 21 January

Squad list

Katie Stringer (Year 7)

Elena Jury (Year 10)

On Saturday 21 January Highsted students competed in the annual Kent Schools Cross Country Championships. A number of students showed interest and these students regularly run outside of school for local clubs and were training hard in preparation for the day.

Katie Stringer competed in the Year 7 event, competing in a field of 99 other athletes from all over the county. She had to cover a distance of 2550m up and down hills and on a very cold morning. She dealt with the conditions extremely well and finished 43rd in a time of 11 minutes 42 seconds.

Elena Jury competed in the Intermediate event competed against students in Years 10 and 11. This was again a highly competitive field with over 70 athletes taking part. Elena ran extremely well and finishes 23rd in Kent, covering the 4000m distance in a time of 16 minutes 35 seconds.

Both students were only two minutes off the winning pace.

Well done **Katie** and **Elena**.

U12 Netball: Thursday 19 January

Highsted versus Fulston Manor School

The Year 7s played their first league match against Fulston Manor. After a draw against Fulston last term, the squad have been working hard to prepare and have made improvements from the last match. Highsted have had so much interest in playing for the school team that a squad had to be selected with some students narrowly missing out this time.

The game was very hectic as Years 8s were also competing that day and due to lack of space this meant change overs were very quick. Also to allow everyone in the squad to get match time, our time on court was very limited but it meant that the game was very much a team effort.

The match started extremely well and it was Highsted that scored the first goal to take the lead. Fulston did not give up but it was Highsted players that had the majority of the ball and that were showing dominance throughout the game. When Fulston had possession of the ball, all players worked hard to ensure that an interception was made to allow Highsted to have another attacking movement. As Highsted had a number of players, the match gave Mrs Neve the opportunity to try out lots of different combinations and we all got a chance to play different positions each quarter. Every combination was a success and the team won every quarter of the match.

Special recognition should be awarded to **Mercy Onu** who made the squad for the first time and was a strong defence throughout the game.

Well done to all the girls involved, matches against the other local schools will follow this term.

Final score: Highsted 11; Fulston Manor 0

U13 Netball: Thursday 19 January

Highsted versus Fulston Manor School

After the success of this team last term in the local league, Fulston challenged Highsted to a rematch! Fulston had clearly been working hard since our last fixture and this match was highly competitive throughout. The game was very hectic as Years 7s were also competing that day and due to lack of space this meant change overs were very quick. Also, to allow everyone in the squad to get match time, our time on court was very limited but it meant that the game was very much a team effort.

The match started very well and it was Highsted that scored the first goal to take the lead. Fulston did not give up and soon equalised. The match was highly competitive with both teams demonstrating moments of excellent attacking and defending play.

As Highsted had a number of players, the match gave Mrs Neve the opportunity to try out lots of different combinations and we all got a chance to play different positions each quarter. Throughout the match Highsted had most of the possession and we were able to get the ball to our shooters on a number of occasions. Unfortunately, due to some very good Fulston defence we were unable to convert all our opportunities into goals. The match has given Mrs Neve lots of ideas of things to work on in training sessions, so we can improve further as a squad.

Special recognition should be awarded to **Mia Thomas** and **Freya Jury** who demonstrated a strong defence throughout the game.

Final score: Highsted 5; Fulston Manor 2

U16 Football Kent Schools' Cup: Tuesday 17 January

Semi-final: Highsted versus Highworth Grammar School

With Highworth being renowned for having good football teams, we knew that we needed to be on top form to overcome them in the semi-final of the Kent Cup. Highsted were missing some key players due to the Year 11 mock exams taking place, meaning we had some Year 10s stepping in to take their place. This led to a reshuffle in our usual team formation, making the task even more difficult. However, the team showed grit and determination to keep Highworth at bay until the 21st and 23rd minute when they scored two quick-fire goals. We therefore went into the break at half time low in confidence.

At half-time we made a couple of substitutions to utilise the pace we had from the players on the bench. The second half started with us on the front foot, looking for a way back into the game. Libby Francis was playing some fantastic through balls to Georgia Winger, who was unlucky not to score on a couple of occasions when one

on one with the goalkeeper. Brooke Smith, Olivia Auston and Olivia Pearn were solid at the back keeping the score at 2-0.

Highsted's pressure finally paid off with 5 minutes to go when Alex Pearn converted a cross from Libby Francis. Straight from the kick off, Georgia Winger was put through on goal, just when it looked like she was going to grab a dramatic equaliser she was pushed in the back causing her to fall. In what looked like a clear penalty, the referee waived away our appeals and Highworth went down the other end and sealed the win with their third goal.

A frustrating end to a superb cup run, one that the team should be very proud of. We now look to progressing even further next year.

Final score: Highsted 1; Highworth 3

Girls of the match: **Georgia Winger** and **Olivia Auston**.

[Kent Schools' Swimming Championships: Saturday 14 January](#)

Squad list and events

Grace Dolman (Year 7) **100m Butterfly**
Lori Secrett (Year 8) **100m Breaststroke**
Ellie Waller (Year 9) **100m Butterfly**
Polly Thomas (Year 10) **100m Butterfly**
Olivia Hawkins (Year 12) **100m Backstroke**
Rebecca Crouch (Year 13) **100m Freestyle**

On Saturday 14 January Highsted students competed in the annual Kent Schools' Swimming Championships. The squad is selected from the number of Highsted students who regularly swim for a club outside of school and is the only occasion for these girls to represent their school in their main sport.

All students performed extremely well on the day, with many swimming near their personal best times for their events. Grace Dolman on her first Kent Schools' Gala finished 23rd in Kent and Lori Secrett came 24th. This is a fantastic result as this event covers the whole of the county and the Year 7 and 8 category has a high number of competitors and heats.

Ellie Waller and Polly Thomas managed to finish 10th in Kent for their races, with Ellie swimming against some national swimmers and swimming extremely close to her personal best.

Rebecca Crouch competed for Highsted for the last time; she has competed every year since Year 7, and fished 14th in the 100m freestyle.

Finally Olivia Hawkins swam an excellent race and finished fourth in her backstroke event, narrowly missing out on the medals.

Well done to all students involved.

[U12 Netball: Tuesday 13 December](#)

On Tuesday 13 December, the Year 7s played their first competitive match against Fulston Manor. Both schools were very excited about this fixture and had been training

hard to get fully prepared. Highsted have had so much interest in playing for the school team that a squad had to be selected with some students narrowly missing out this time.

The match started very well and it was Highsted that scored the first goal to take the lead. Fulston did not give up and soon equalised. The match was highly competitive with both teams demonstrating moments of excellent attacking and defending play.

As Highsted had a number of players the match gave Mrs Neve the opportunity to try out lots of different combinations and we all got a chance to play different positions each quarter. Throughout the match Highsted had most of the possession and we were able to get the ball to our shooters on a number of occasions. Unfortunately due to some very good Fulston defence we were unable to convert all our opportunities into goals. All team members acted on the advice given to them and worked extremely hard throughout the game.

Special recognition should be awarded to **Katie Waller** and **Isabel Timms** who got a number of fantastic interceptions throughout their time on court.

Final score: Highsted 7; Fulston Manor 7

U13 Football English Schools' Cup: Thursday 17 November

Round 3: Highsted Brentwood County High School

With 398 schools entering the competition and only 128 teams left, Highsted knew that their opposition were going to be strong. Following a long drive to Essex, we discussed team selection and tactics and were ready for the game. Highsted dominated the early stages of the game, but we failed to capitalise on our dominance. This was until a lovely passing move involving Lois Hall, Eleanor Walker and Ella Taylor, resulted in Lucie Breiner squaring the ball for Niamh Davison to tap in. 1-0 to Highsted!

This goal gave us much confidence and within five minutes we had made it 2-0. This time Niamh returning the favour and setting up Lucie for a goal. Highsted searched for a third before the break, but we were unable to convert our chances. Instructions at half time were to be solid at the back, keep possession for as long as possible and frustrate the opposition. This proved difficult as Brentwood came out in the second half with a point to prove. Knowing they only had half an hour left to remain in the competition they played some beautiful football and for much of the second half we were chasing the ball.

Charlotte Broughton, Katie Waller and Poppy Eglinton were solid at the back restricting Brentwood to few chances. However, whenever the back line was breached Daisy Lewis made some great saves in goal. Highsted showed tremendous resilience to rebuff wave after wave of attack from Brentwood and were unlucky not to steal a third when catching them on the break. After what seemed like a long 30 minutes, the final whistle went and Highsted celebrated victory. The U13s now progress to the last 64 of the competition and a home game against tough opposition, Sandringham School, St Albans, awaits.

Final score: Highsted 2; Brentwood 0

Girl of the match: **Lois Hall**

U13 Football Kent League Six-a-side Tournament Cup: Wednesday 16 November

Having finished sixth in Kent last year in the annual six-a-side Kent League Cup, Highsted knew that we had a good chance of going even further this time round. With the winners going on to represent Gillingham FC at the regional finals, there was a lot at stake and the girls were determined to do well. Highsted were given a tough draw for the group stages, having five teams in their group, while other teams included just two teams, due to schools not turning up. With the top two teams from each group qualifying for the quarter finals, Highsted were determined to not let their disadvantaged position stop them.

Our four group games were won comfortably, scoring 12 goals and conceding just one. Outstanding performances from Charlotte Broughton and Katie Waller saw us through to the quarter finals. We were drawn against local school The Abbey in the quarter final and at the end of the eight minutes, the scores were level at 1-1, after Ella Taylor scored a fantastic equaliser. Sudden death penalties and the pressure was on. Charlotte Broughton scored her penalty with ease and fortunately for us the first player to step up for The Abbey missed, resulting in joyous scenes as we qualified for the semi-final.

Our next opponents were Highworth. They were one of the fortunate teams who qualified automatically due to schools in their group not turning up. We knew that they would be fresher than us and therefore we had to work twice as hard. It was a close and tense game, with each and every one of Highsted's players committing themselves fully. Daisy Lewis, in goal, pulled off some fantastic saves to keep the score at 0-0. Unfortunately, as the game wore on, Highsted's players began to tire and gave away a free kick in the last minute, which was converted by Highworth. Despite our best efforts, we were unable to find the equaliser and devastatingly we lost the semi-final 1-0.

Highsted had to quickly pick themselves up as we had to play the third and fourth place play-off. We dominated the game from the start and comfortably won 2-0, with goals from captain Lucy Breiner and Charlotte Broughton.

A disappointing end to a fantastic day of football. However, Highsted left with their heads held high as they realised that they are the third best six-a-side school team in Kent. A very well done to all involved.

U16 Football Kent Schools' Cup: Tuesday 15 November

Round 3: Highsted versus King Ethelbert

Highsted approached this game knowing that a win would see them through to the quarter finals. Our superiority was evident from the kick-off, as we looked to pass the ball quickly along the floor. Our attacking play was too quick for the opposition and they committed a foul on the edge of their 18-yard box. Georgia Winger stepped up to curl a beautiful shot past the goalkeeper. We were looking to build play from the back and Libby Francis was a constant link between the defence and the forwards. Georgia scored another great individual goal, before Maisie Pollock latched on to a through ball to slot past the goalkeeper.

Now Highsted were in full control, they looked to keep possession and move King Ethelbert out of position, in order to create space. This quickly resulted in Highsted's fourth of the game and completed Georgia's hat-trick. At half time, the advice was to

work on passing and moving, in order to prepare for future games. The second half was a bit scrappy as the opposition put us under greater pressure when we were on the ball. This prevented us from playing our passing game; however, that did not stop Georgia scoring yet another fine individual goal.

Unfortunately, we were unable to keep a clean sheet as King Ethelbert snatched a goal late on. Highsted now progress into the quarter finals, where they will play either Archbishops of Canterbury, or local school, Westlands.

Final score: Highsted 5; King Ethelbert 1

Girl of the match: **Georgia Winger**

U12/13 Athletics: Monday 14 November

The competition was held at the Isle of Sheppey Academy and was against the local schools in our area. We have been training since September for this event and were eagerly awaiting our first competition. Each squad member took part in a relay race, at least one track event and a field event. This meant that it was vital that every member of the squad to perform their best as every position earned points for the team. The competition started with the obstacle relay and this set the tone for the rest of the competition. With the rest of the Highsted students cheering on, our Year 7 team stormed to victory.

This was followed by the Year 8 team, which also convincingly won their race. The girls then competed in the track events, with every race being won by a Highsted student, usually followed in second by their Highsted team mate. This success was then continued into the field events with standout performances coming from Amelia Williams in the Vertical Jump and Freya Jury in the Triple Jump. The final event was the two-lap relay and, with slick changeovers, Highsted again triumphed. In fact, both the obstacle and sprint relay times beat the times of the boys' schools, so especially well done.

By winning this event it means that both teams will progress to represent Swale in the Kent Championships in February. The competition will be much tougher so we now need to work hard in training to ensure we perform well at the next stage. Well done to all the girls involved.

U14 Netball Tournament: Wednesday 9 November

The squad have been training hard to prepare for this event, especially as none of us play netball outside of school. Last year we found the competition really tough so our aim for the day was to improve and play better netball than we have done previously. We were drawn in a tough group with a number of private schools and the weather conditions meant that the courts were really slippery. However we did not let this daunt us and we played our game throughout, with all of us working on the advice Mrs Neve was giving us.

The day started well with us scoring in the first game and keeping up against the tough opposition. This continued throughout the day, and although we did not win any matches we did have good possession of the ball, getting lots of interceptions and creating lots of opportunities to score. Unfortunately we were just really unlucky and the shots just did not want to go in! This was especially true in our last game which we narrowly lost 1-0. Well done to the whole squad, everyone played really

well and as a team we played much better than we did last year as we were competitive and putting up a fight in every game.

Players' player: Well done to **Katie Bostock** who the team voted as the best player of the day. It was definitely well earned as she played with commitment and confidence in whatever position Mrs Neve put her in.

U14 Football English Schools' Cup: Monday 7 November

Round 3: Highsted versus Maidstone Girls' Grammar School

Having met Maidstone Girls' Grammar in the 3rd round of the Kent Cup, Highsted faced the same opposition in the 3rd round of the English Schools' Cup. Following our recent victory, we knew Maidstone would be out for revenge. Just like before, it was an evenly contested first half, with limited opportunities and the first half ended 0-0. Within five minutes of the second half, Highsted should have taken the lead when Ismay went through one-on-one with the goalkeeper. Unfortunately the goalkeeper made a save to keep the scores level.

As both teams began to tire, the game became more open and Maidstone converted a cross to take the lead. Highsted kept battling for the ball and pushed higher up the pitch which resulted in us creating more chances. Abi Hearn went close on three separate occasions, being denied by last ditch defending and great saves by Maidstone's goalkeeper. In the dying seconds, as Highsted searched for the equaliser, Maidstone doubled their lead on the break. The girls gave it their all and were unlucky to come out on the losing end. That ends the U14s journey in the English Schools' Cup, but they continue in the U14 Kent Cup.

Final score: Highsted 0; Maidstone Girls' Grammar 2.

Girl of the match: **Abi Hearn**

U13 Football Kent Schools' Cup: Wednesday 2 November

Round 2: Highsted versus St Gregory's Catholic School

Another superb win, another superb clean sheet for Highsted U13s! The team talk at the start of the game was clear; get the ball on the floor and pass the ball until we created openings. Unfortunately the opposition were fantastic at pressing the ball and making it difficult for us to get our passing game going. Despite one-way traffic and a few goal scoring opportunities, the first half ended 0-0.

It was discussed at half time that we needed to move the ball around quicker, to prevent the opposition from closing the ball down. A combination of passing and high pressing from our forwards, led to an early goal in the second half as Lucie nicked the ball from a defender and crossed for Freya to tap home. Highsted were clearly dominating the game, but were not making their chances count. Until finally Charlotte got on the end of a brilliant corner to quickly make it two.

With a two-goal cushion, we were able to make some changes, although this did not stop us from dominating possession. A quick throw in from Niamh put Ella through to score Highsted's third, before Lois smashed home the fourth and Lucie toe poked in the fifth. A solid performance which sees Highsted U13 move into the third round against either Bullers' Wood or Hartsdown Academy.

Final score: Highsted 5; St Gregory's 0

Girl of the match: **Ella Taylor**

U14 Football Kent Schools' Cup: Tuesday 18 October

Round 2: Highsted versus Maidstone Girls' Grammar School

Highsted put in a superb performance against a very good Maidstone side. We knew from the start that they were a strong side, having played them in previous years. The first half was very tight, with few clear cut chances for either side, however Ella Hosken made a fantastic save to deny Maidstone as they went through the middle. The first half ended 0-0 and we changed things about in order to gain control of the midfield.

We changed our formation to 4-5-1 and making sure Freya Jury sat in the last defender so she could use her pace with the through ball. The change of formation worked wonders as within five minutes we managed to nick the ball in midfield, play a delightful ball to Freya, who latched on to it and slid it perfectly past the goalkeeper. 1-0 to Highsted. A second quickly followed as Charlotte Broughton made a surging run from defence and her shot was too powerful for the goalkeeper to keep out.

As the clock ran down, Highsted became more nervous and started to drop deeper. This resulted in Maidstone grabbing a goal back with 10 minutes to go. But we stayed strong and compact, Ella made some fantastic saves late on and we managed to hold on for the win. A fantastic result and Highsted move into Round 3.

Final score: Highsted 2; Maidstone Girls' Grammar 1

Girl of the match: **Ellie Waller**

U13 Football English Schools' Cup: Friday 14 October

Round 2: Highsted versus Spires Academy

Highsted produced an unbelievable display to cruise through into Round 3 of the English Schools' Cup competition. Highsted dominated from the first whistle and found themselves a goal up within 3 minutes. The movement and passing from all of the team created numerous goal scoring opportunities and by half time Highsted were winning 8-0.

It was mutually agreed at half time, by both schools, that the game would be ended early if the score was to reach 15-0. Highsted made numerous substitutions at half time, but started the second half with the same intensity. The new players easily slotted in to the formation and players from all across the pitch were getting on the score sheet, including our left back Poppy Eglinton.

Breanna Gumiro worked tirelessly up front and was able to get her first goals for Highsted. With 10 minutes to go, Lucy Breiner made it 15-0 and the game was stopped. A stunning performance, Highsted go through to Round 3 and will play either Brentwood County High or St Martin's School. Either way, it is another trip to Essex!

Final score: Highsted 15; Spires 0

Girl of the match: **Breanna Gumiro**

U14 Football English Schools' Cup: Monday 10 October

Round 2 (bye in Round 1): Highsted versus Belfairs Academy

Highsted's impressive start to the football calendar continued with a hard-fought victory against Belfairs Academy. We approached the game with a positive attitude after our recent victory in this age group. With both teams having been given a bye into the second round we were unaware of the opposition's capabilities. We struggled to get any real control on the game due to the small pitch and the opposition's physical approach to the game. In what was a frustrating first half, we managed to score a penalty and Ella Gray tucked one away from close range.

At half time, Highsted were encouraged to pass the ball around quickly in order to create space and stretch the opposition. We executed this plan in the second half and had more attempts at goal. Lucy Breiner netted a couple, one from the penalty spot and one at the end of her own run with the ball. Although not our best performance, we move on into Round 3.

Final score: Highsted 4; Belfairs 0

Girl of the match: **Freya Jury**

Squad: Ella Hoskin, Abi Hearn, Charlotte Broughton, Ellie Waller (c), Katie Jones, Allicia Uren, Ella Taylor, Lois Hall, Niamh Davison, Jessica Wiesmath, Freya Jury, Lucy Breiner, Marissa Leyden, Ella Gray

U19 Netball Tournament: Thursday 29 September

The U19s Netball Tournament at Rainham was the last chance for the Year 13 students to take part in something that would be representing Highsted. Although we didn't get as far as we would have liked, it was a really enjoyable day with lots of hard work and enjoyment throughout. We had not worked together as one team beforehand but bonded really well and communicated with each other to put on a dedicated, team performance. As well as this, the tournament really allowed us to bring out our competitive sides but also enabled us to just have fun, which is the ultimate aim of any sport.

Whether we won matches, lost or drew, we continued to be a happy team and just thoroughly enjoyed the day. All matches on the day were very competitive and closely contested. All the members of the squad played some excellent netball but the stand-out performance came from **Sian Adeyemi** who completed some outstanding interceptions in defence.

U14 Football Kent Schools' Cup: Wednesday 28 September

Round 1: Highsted versus the Abbey School

Our U14 football team approached the game in a confident mood following the success of our other teams so far this year, plus the fact we beat the Abbey at the same stage of the competition last year. The big pitch played to our advantage as we were able to keep possession of the ball, switch play and apply early pressure to the Abbey's goal. We eventually took the lead through Freya Jury, after excellent wing

play from Niamh Davison. We were dominant from the start and doubled our lead just before the break with Lois Hall crossing for Niamh Davison to tuck away.

We held a comfortable lead at half time, which allowed us to make some changes at half time. These changes did not interrupt our flow and the Abbey goalkeeper was soon called into action, making numerous saves. Abi Hearn scored a quick double, with jinking runs through the opposition's defence to make it 4-0. Ella Taylor followed this up with a superb free kick from the edge of the area, before Abi completed her hat-trick and Lois finished the game off with a great finish from Ella's cross. An excellent performance and we progress into the second round, where we have a tough draw against Maidstone Grammar School.

Final score: Highsted 7; Abbey 0

Girl of the match: **Abi Hearn**

U13 Football Kent Schools' Cup and English Schools' Cup: Monday 26 September

Round 1: Highsted versus Herne Bay High

Our first U13 fixtures of the season involved a double header against Herne Bay High as we drew them in the first round of both the Kent Schools' Cup and the English Schools' Cup.

In our first game of the double header we started slowly, but soon took control of the game. Keeping possession, playing it out wide and shooting on sight of goal. Eventually our pressure paid off and a cross from Eleanor Walker was converted into her own net by the Herne Bay defender. At half time the advice was to be more clinical in front of goal in order to extend our lead and progress safely through to the next round. Within five minutes of the second half, Lucy Breiner doubled our lead with a powerful shot from inside the box. Despite numerous chances in the second half the score remained 2-0 and we progress through to the second round of the Kent Schools' Cup to play either St. Gregory's or Dartford Grammar.

Final score: Highsted 2; Herne Bay 0

Girl of the match: **Charlotte Broughton**

In the second game we utilised our large squad and made seven substitutions. This had little effect on the pattern of play as we continued to dominate possession and force their goalkeeper into making some fine saves. The breakthrough came in similar circumstances to the first game, as a cross from the right was diverted into her own net by the same player as the first game! As Herne Bay pushed forward searching for an equaliser, Daisy was called upon to make a couple of saves. Our defence held strong to soak up the Herne bay pressure and eventually Charlotte broke free from central defence to slot the ball past the goalkeeper. The game finished 2-0 to Highsted. All players, especially our new Year 7s should be extremely proud of their performance. We now progress to Round 2 of the English Schools' Cup and face Spires Academy.

Final score: Highsted 2; Herne Bay 0

Girl of the match: **Katie Waller**

U16 Football Kent Schools' Cup: Thursday 22 September

Round 1: Highsted versus Royal Harbour Academy

For our first U16 fixture of the season we had a few regular players unable to take part, we therefore had to rely on new players stepping in. They had big boots to fill and they certainly rose to the occasion. With a few new players, we agreed that the first five minutes should be spent keeping our defence nice and tight and not conceding an early goal. The team executed the plan perfectly and actually took charge of the game and started to create chances themselves. Unfortunately we were not being clinical enough in front of goal. However, after 15 minutes, a lovely passage of play between Libby, Maisie and Georgia saw Libby eventually stab the ball home under the goalkeeper from close range: 1-0 to Highsted!

As the first half drew to a close it became apparent that we had total control of the game, picking out passes, applying pressure to the opposition and creating chances; in the second half we just needed to put them away. As the second half got under way we went on the attack straight away, Georgia and Maisie both missed great chances to extend our lead. Eventually, Georgia smashed home our second of the game, which was closely followed by her second and Highsted's third of the game. Were it not for the outstanding performance from the Royal Harbour's goalkeeper the score line would have been a lot different. A great performance from both existing and new players. We now progress through to Round 2 of the Kent Schools' Cup and will play either King Ethelbert or St George's.

Final score: Highsted 3; Royal Harbour 0

Girl of the match: **Olivia Pearn**