

Sports Report Summer 2019

Last Sunday a country of 4.8 million people, which already holds the men's and women's rugby world cups, contested the men's cricket world cup final and came within a hair's breadth of winning it. Whilst applauding New Zealand the point is simple, it's not just the size of the country, or in our case the school, but the size of the hearts of the talent pool. We regularly compete against schools with more students in each year group and therefore a bigger pool of potential competitors. However, as the following highlights record we always punch above our weight and often succeed in a huge range of sports.

In the Spring term our U15 footballers were within 15 minutes of claiming the Kent Cup against a school with more than twice as many boys in each year, their skill and determination showing through to all of you who witnessed it. Our magnificent girls rugby league teams won county and regional tournaments against big London schools and the U14s and U15s both qualified for the National Semi Finals competing against large Northern comprehensives in rugby league's heartland.

Our indoor athletics teams were victorious in the district competitions and three of the four won the county finals as our yr7 and 8 boys and our yr8 girls all won. The girls won two of the district Netball tournaments and were runner's up in the other three and the U14s finished 3rd at the county netball tournament having first won the qualifying event.

The yr10 boys lost the Futsal county final by the odd goal again, to walk away with runner's up medals. At the county Badminton finals our U14A boys were runner's up and our U14B and U16A team finished 3rd in their groups.

This term has been dominated by our athletes who competed superbly at the Julie Rose Stadium and our Junior boys and Intermediate girls both qualified for the County B final in Hillingdon. The day was ruined by constant rainfall but there were many decent performances in spite of it.

At the district relay championships we won the yr8 and 9 boys and yr8 and 9 girls competitions and our yr7 boys won their Super 8s competition and finished 7th out of the 14 districts at the County final. Then last week at the District track and field championships we swept the board winning the Junior and Intermediate boys and girls competitions, a fantastic return for their efforts.

Our yr9 boys reached the quarter final of the Kent Cricket Cup beating St. Lawrence College and Chatham House on the way. Our tennis teams, boys and girls, competed in the Aegon Challenge and our Girls U15 side made the county finals. On Margate sands our U15 boys secured bronze medals at the county Beach Volleyball tournament. The girls rounders teams won 3 of the 4 district tournaments to end the year on a high.

We have many talented and determined individuals who take part in these teams and several have performed well enough to gain further recognition. Harvey McIntyre is a regular in the County Squash team and is ranked 23rd in England in his age group. Willow Dryden and Izzy Arezina are in their respective County Netball squads, and Abbie Debling continues to represent the County Rugby Union side with distinction. Oli Sexton is a member of the County U15 Football team and the County Golf team, Keira Hulks has been chosen to run for the County athletics team and Cameron Macrae, Louis Procopi, Jake Stevens and Natalia Austin were all selected for the county Cross Country team. Also, in the combat sports Taekwando and Kick Boxing, Cameron Smith is British champion and Mollie and Kian Vickery have performed excellently in British and World Championships all around Britain and across Europe.

Our Swimmers, through their club, have performed superbly in county and regional galas and Halle Broughton, Ben Millington, Josh Crabtree and Oscar Miles have all been selected to swim at the National Championships.

In a perfect example of our theme Year 7 Jacob Johnson has just returned from an open skateboarding competition held in Somerset where he competed against 35 top skateboarders, most of whom were adults and he came away with a silver medal as runner up, size and age don't always matter.

Once again our Yr9, 10 and 11 Sports Leaders have been in big demand around the island as many of Thanet's Primary schools have availed themselves of offers of help for tournaments, taster sessions and Sports Days for their little ones. The Primary staff are never less than delighted by the patience and professionalism of our students, which is a huge boost to them in the practical element of their course. They prove time and again to be a credit to themselves and their school community.

We are not a "David", nor are we a "Goliath" except in terms of our commitment to school sport and the pursuit of individual excellence in our performances. Sometimes it's not easy to perform when the odds seem to be stacked against you, however, that is when your best sporting memories are made and victories taste all the sweeter. The PE Dept are constantly amazed by the loyalty and dedication shown by so many students and are truly grateful for your never-ending enthusiasm. Thank you, enjoy your summer, come back ready to go again in September.