

Rugby

Open Group

As is the case these days our experienced players had gone to university and our strength in numbers lay in a large group of players from Year 11. We travelled west and south to Bryanston School, Dorset for our pre-season training and it was without doubt a successful exercise. The group trained hard; they bonded well and the leadership

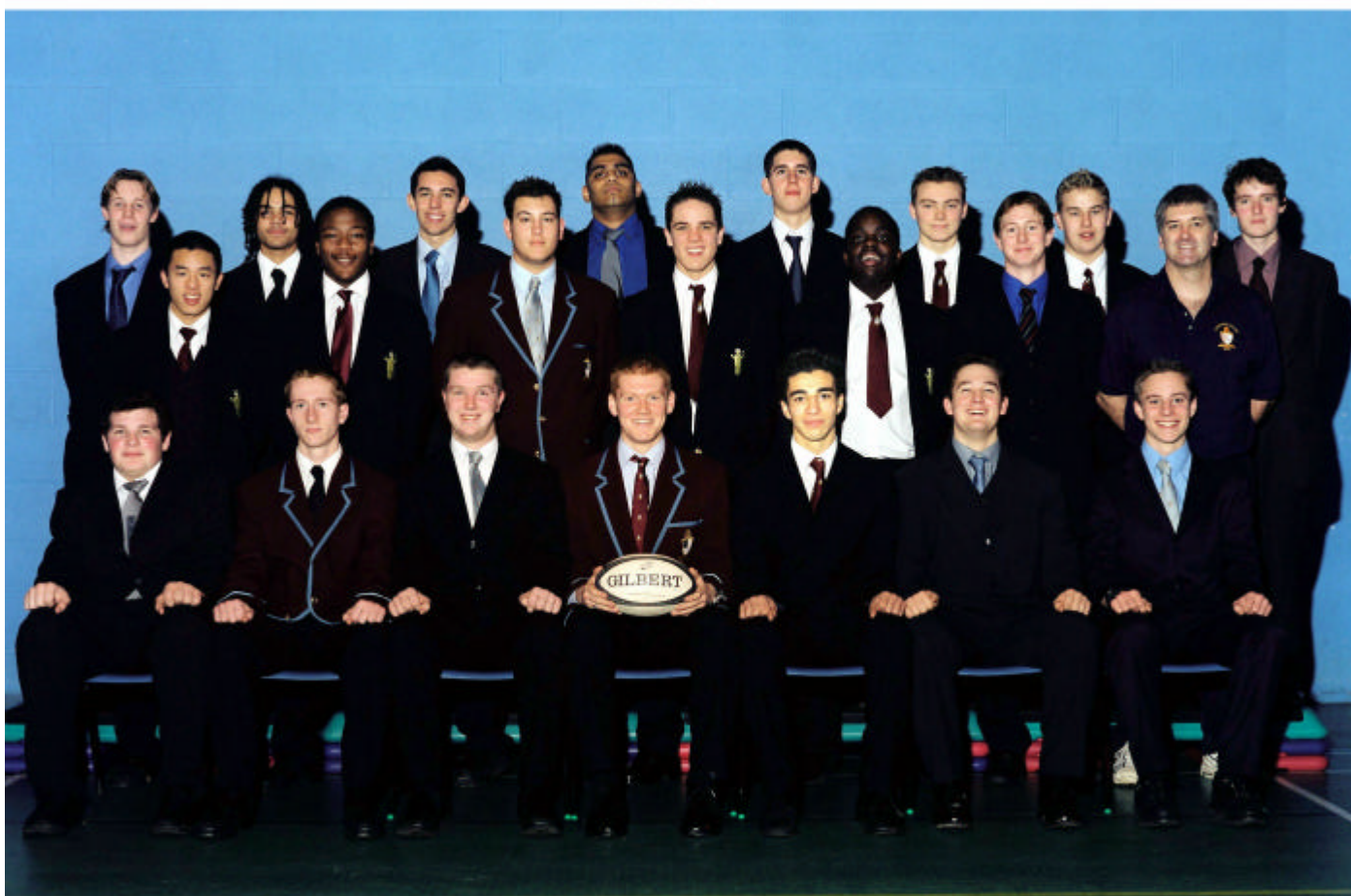
minutes saw just what the team was capable of with Piers Tweddell finishing off a fine 60m move in the corner.

Caterham away was our high point to date. A cracking defensive effort coupled to some fine forward play meant this game went down to the wire. We lost 3-8 but what a performance from the team as a whole. And so the story of poor first 20-minute displays followed by final 20-minute whirlwinds plagued our team. Latymer Upper and Emanuel were both put to the sword in the final quarter but that soft

St Dunstan's College



1st XV Rugby Squad 2001/2002



Back Row: G Condon, O Morson, A Darroch, V Ratnarajah, J Coling, A Bull, S McMillan, M Gumpłowicz
Middle Row: T Hoang, S French, P Peters, L Turvey, A Benn, P Tweddell, Mr R Bodenham
Front Row: W Taylor, P Roscoe, S Giddins, R Britten (Captain), K Tuccaroglu, W Guy, L Whiteley

qualities of the senior players became evident. Whatever else happened this year there was little doubt that the players were suited to each other and that they would give the very best every time they went out on the field to represent the College. Our opening fixture against Gravesend GS is always a stiff test and so it proved again. They had returned from a tour but this did not daunt us in any way whatsoever, however, our youth and inexperience proved costly at the end of the first half when a charged down kick on their 22 metre line lead to a breakaway try which turned the game. So our campaign had got underway with a defeat. The leadership of Richard Britten supported by Kemal Tuccaroglu shone through and we left with lifted spirits. Our next match against Bancrofts showed our lack of experience and despite being in touch with ten minutes to go, errors allowed the momentum to be lost as was the game. Our Cup match against Howard of Effingham out in leafy Surrey put our young team again to the sword though the final 15

belly of the first quarter proved to be our undoing. At last, a convincing win 52-0 against Leigh CTC in the cup gave the players reward for all their efforts. Kemal Tuccaroglu scored a hat trick of tries with Alex Darroch kicking 6 from 8 conversions. The half term finished with a fine display against Coopers' Coburn, Upminster. The forwards were dominant. Paul Peters powered on in the loose closely followed by Richard Britten, Simeon French and Will Guy, the break-away trio. Piers Tweddell again crossed the line as did Alex Bull on this occasion. A fine 18-12 win to savour. The half term break was followed by the House Sevens competition and back to competitive school rugby the following weekend against Chislehurst & Sidcup. Another cracking game which we were to lose by the cruel twist of a missed knock on. Oh how we feel for Peter Stringer of Munster. However, Luke Turvey finally settled into his rightful place at centre and scored a fine try to boot in the game. The hard games continued with defeats against Duke of York's, St Olave's by a

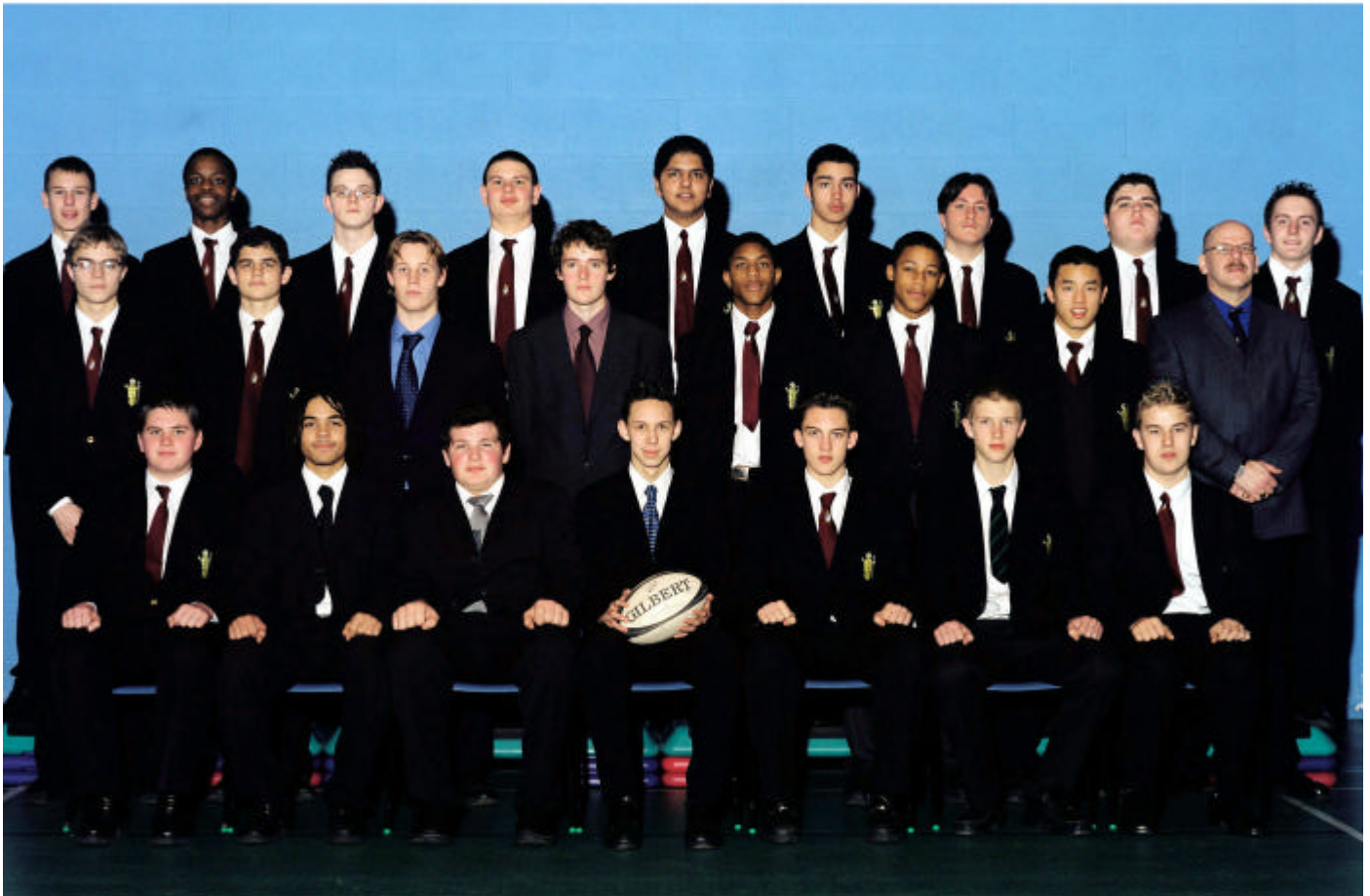
narrow margin and Dartford GS in the cup. But the team showed great spirit to finish the season on a high. The previous season we had lost to a strong Sutton Valence XV away and now it was our turn to demonstrate our progress. A truly powerful performance by the forwards at last allowed our backs to flourish. At both scrum and line the forwards continually pressured their opponents leaving Tuccaroglu, Tweddell and Bull to score wonderful tries and allow a 25-5 score at the final whistle. The American School always

ished off a break by Scott McMillan to seal victory 24-0. This was a brilliant end to a hard season but one in which the players had proven to themselves that they were capable of producing some excellent rugby. On top of this they never ever let the College down in their commitment and behaviour. They were a credit to the College.

St Dunstan's College



2nd XV Rugby Squad 2001/2002



Back Row: J Russell, O Igharoro, C Fairless, G Collins, G Patel, J Lobo, C Levoyannis, T Christodoulou, R Hall
 Middle Row: J Hanman, T Brand, G Condon, M Gumpłowicz, D Johnson, J Cascoe, T Hoang, Mr R Austin
 Front Row: N Giles, O Morson, W Taylor, X Wing Hing, C Clifford (Captain), M Waite, S McMillan

come and play with great enthusiasm and courage. At times, the fact that our pupils have more experience than them proves just too much – as it did on this day. Kemal Tuccaroglu feasted on two tries whilst Condon, playing better and better at open side flanker also got in on the act. Final score 44-0. The customary finish to the season against the Past Captain's XV was eagerly awaited. Matt Cole and his team had enjoyed victory as the school the previous year and were keen to show the young pretenders who were the 'kings'. The school did not recognise this scenario and set about on a cold frosty morning to beat their former mentors, refereed for the first time by a lady referee. The front five dominated allowing the back row to roam in support of an incisive midfield trio. Luke Turvey scored the first – an opportunistic try from 35 metres out. Then excellent build up play put Kemal Tuccaroglu under the post and five minutes later Stephen Giddins did the same – half time and 17-0. The team was not to be denied and Alex Darroch fin-

Player Review (* Full Colours)

Richard Britten* (No 8/captain): Richard did everything that could be asked of a captain and more. He was reliable and took his responsibilities as captain very seriously as indeed he should. On both the training field and the pitch he led by example, never asking players to do anything he would not. He played with drive and determination and was fiercely proud of his school – a trait many of our players exhibited throughout the season. This was testimony to Richard's drive and the expectations he placed upon his players. Being captain of a young and generally inexperienced team calls for true leadership qualities and there is little doubt that Richard either had what was required or strove hard to build new blocks to his character. His resilience and flexibility being core traits. I thank him for all his efforts and help throughout a truly enjoyable season.

Paul Peters* (loose head prop): Paul improved throughout

the season and his contribution in the tight play situations of the scrum and lineouts were immeasurable. The real plusses were his efforts in the loose with some telling tackles and some great carries of the ball. Always reliable and punctual he was a real rock of the team.

Paul Roscoe* (hooker): a position that carries with it the ball winning responsibilities of the team and Paul shouldered those responsibilities. He cared dearly about the College and the team and never wanted to let down his teammates. He had trouble with his lineout throwing though there is little doubt that his hooking and play around the field deserved the praise of his team.

Vinoth Ratnarajah (LHP): an enigmatic player who does have the potential to be a good player but lacks the drive to achieve. He has power and strength – vital components in today's game but he needs to focus his thoughts more and be prepared to work hard. Can be destructive in the loose and tight but at times his distribution skills let him down.

John Coling (lock): Not the largest player in stature but certainly gives 100% to make up for not being large physically. He is excellent in the lineout and has real running ability in the loose and it may be that the future is in the back row for him. His dry wit sometimes eludes him but never mind he has been a character in the team this year.

Adrian Benn (lock): Never gives less than 100% – a team player through and through! The sheer volume of work he gets through is a credit to his commitment to the team and if he gets fit who knows how many blades of grass he will cover. His presence in the group is positive and he is the sartorial barometer of the team – certainly when hairstyles are mentioned.

William Guy* (blind side flanker): I am sure that I can just lift last year's report for Will is another 100% player. He is the epitome of the unsung hero; hardly ever noticed but always there. He is prepared to get right into the middle of battle whatever the situation and he never ever criticises a fellow player. He does need to be more aware of the pass rather than take too much contact. He is rightly the captain-elect and I wish him every success.

Simeon French (open side flanker): When on the pitch he changed into a person who cared about the team and was prepared to commit himself to the school wholesale. He had all the ingredients to be a fine player – strong, quick and fearless in all situations. His problems lay off the pitch and I hope that he continues to play and use the game as a stable vehicle in his life.

Graham Condon (open side flanker): I have never met a more fearless player on the field at St Dunstan's. He is passionate about the College and cares deeply about how the team plays. A characteristic which could be applied to the majority of the team. A converted scrum half who tackles strongly but sometimes is not fully aware of the situation he is in. He needs to develop this aspect of his play. He will be an important player in next year's team.

Lawrence Whiteley (scrum half): Lawrence was injured at the start of the season and we suffered through not having his experience at the base of the scrum. He played with a lackadaisical air, which belied the effort he was putting in. Always a smile on his face and a positive word for his play-

ers – excellent traits to have. I will never forget that sensational kick from the base of the scrum off his wrong foot against Sutton Valence.

Stephen Giddins* (fly half): Stephen had a good season, especially with regard to his improved defensive contribution. He also became more creative on the ball though lacked the pace to make more of the attempted break. His kicking from hand also improved though at times, under pressure, it did crack. He undoubtedly has his best season for the College and made a fabulous contribution to the 1st XV over the past three years.

Alex Bull (wing): It is always a big step up for Year 11 pupils to play in the 1st XV and Alex at times found the going tough, especially in defence. It has to be said that this element of his game did improve though greater advances are needed next year. He is good going forward with the ball and scored some good tries; greater confidence will see an even better return next season. Certainly he showed his attacking potential at the Sevens last year.

Kemal Tuccaroglu* (centre/ vice captain): An ever-present player for three years probably says it all. He is committed and passionate in his style of play, one might even say that his approach was perhaps too physical but who would decry that sort of attitude in a player. Always supporting his captain and leading by example, he has been an outstanding contributor to the team.

Luke Turvey (centre): He has enough talent to be an influential player throughout his Sixth Form career at the College. He has good hands and now has the belief that he is physically capable of playing this level. He does need to work on his basic speed, as this will make him a real threat to all defences.

Piers Tweddell* (wing): Another player who was so proud of his school and indeed to represent them at the highest level was his goal. He always trained with such commitment that it was easy for him to go on to the competitive field and reproduce the performance he wanted to give to the team. A team man through and through! – his one fault was that at times his passion and commitment blurred his decision making on the pitch. A fabulous pupil who should be proud of his contribution to the school.

Alex Darroch* (full back): He is a talented player who has got skill and cheek; an essential element if you are to try the unexpected. He is solid under the high ball and became a consistent place kicker; so important in tight games. He will be an important player in next year's team.

Scott McMillan (scrum half): Scott had a tough initiation into 1st XV rugby and found it hard going. He did not give up and served an apprenticeship in the 2nd XV. He needs to work on his pass whilst building on his ability to break which was so evident in the latter stages of the match against Matt Cole's XV.

Thy Hoang (wing): There is no doubting Thy's pace but the strength required to play 1st XV rugby took time to come. He has grown in confidence and it was good to see him play with much more confidence in the Sevens season.

William Taylor (prop): William can play either side of the front row – a great asset – and works hard around the pitch.

His handling let him down at times, which he needs to work on. I truly hope he will be available next season.

Charlie Fletcher (prop): Another young Year 12 player who grew up as the season progressed. He has the strength to play his position at 1st XV level but he needs to build upon his self-belief that became evident at the end of the season. On top of this he must raise his basic level of fitness.

Matthew Gumpowicz (hooker): Quiet and unassuming which may be the reason that he failed to fully compete for the 1st XV slot last year. He worked hard on his throwing, as all hookers at the College need to. There is a 1st XV slot for the taking next year but work is required on his all round game.

RDB

U15 XV

A season in which the XV won six of the 14 games played shows that this team had a reasonably good year. At least two defeats should have been reversed. Myself, the boys and the parents on the touchline could not believe that we had lost the games after dominating them.

We started with two poor results against Gravesend and Bancrofts but our first round Kent cup match versus Dover showed that the hard work put in in training was beginning to pay off. A heavy defeat to a very good Caterham team was rectified the following weekend with a comprehensive mauling of Latymer. A last minute try saw us through to the 3rd round of the Kent cup against Sir Roger Manwood's. However the next two games were the most disappointing of the season. Two five point defeats to Emanuel and Coopers Coburn were unbelievable. That we could dominate two matches so completely and yet lose was baffling.

It was at this stage of the season that the commitment of several of the team began to wane. Lack of numbers at training, poor punctuality and even non-attendance at fixtures. These members of the squad were not only letting themselves down but more importantly their team-mates. To go to Duke of York's with only 14 players was disgraceful as well as embarrassing.

However we set a target of winning three of our last five games. This was achieved with a comfortable win over Kent College and two hard fought victories at Chislehurst & Sidcup and at home to Colfe's. We went out of the Kent cup in a one-sided game against the powerful Sutton Valence team that went on to win the trophy.

This team was very similar to last year's XV in that they had undoubted ability but failed to really fulfil their promise. The forwards were very mobile and Kevin Ilo and Kemal Bicer were the leading try scorers with 10 and 4 respectively. Taro Miyamoto won the line outs that Calum Sida-Murray threw so accurately in to. James Murray tackled hard all season as did fly-half Kunal Patel. Daniel Woolgar and Robert Jackson provided a solid midfield with plenty of threat in attack and there was pace a plenty with Carl Dennis, Barney Wakefield and Cedric Fadero on the outside. Matthew Lewis attacked well from full-back and also kicked some important goals.

I would like to thank the team for all its hard work and commitment (most of the time) and apologise for you having to push the mini-bus past Dulwich College on the way home from Emanuel. Not a good day!

Also many thanks to all the parents who came to support their sons. Your presence on the tough line was much appreciated by the boys and myself alike.

I look forward to seeing this team progress into the 1st and 2nd XV's next season. Good luck

NRT

U14 XV

The season did not start well with a number of pupils being too disinterested in representing the school. This left us with just enough players to field an 'A' team, but it was still a constant battle to put out sides as last minute family commitments often left the team short of players, or at best being severely weakened. It is also difficult coaching a group who do not get on well with each other; this only leads to disheartened and fraught training sessions. A team game like rugby is about cohesiveness and working together against a common foe. As individuals many of the boys had talent and the ability to perform well but this never gelled. It is a great shame and I am sure that when these players reach the Open Age group they will have the chance to play with people who are as committed as they are. The team had become so used to losing that it became a self-fulfilling prophecy. Throughout the season only two games were won – we even became adept at snatching defeat from the jaws of victory because we were happier to argue amongst ourselves rather than concentrate on beating the opposition.

I do hope that next season is different, but I am sure that, until the whole group can work together, the team will be doomed to the same sort of season as this one.

To those individuals who gave all that they could I thank you and can promise you that things will get better when personnel changes can be made.

GNA

U13A XV

The U13A rugby team made significant progress during the year. Last season they had lost all their fixtures by considerable margins. However, through their hard work they achieved a 50% win rate this year. Indeed, after half term the success rate was even higher despite one-point defeats in three games.

The win against Gravesend at the start of the season proved a false dawn. Although the forwards were easily moulded into a ball winning machine (for once a St Dunstan's side that is physically bigger than the opposition) the defensive alignment of the back row and three-quarters allowed the opposition too many easy scores. Hard work by the squad and the eventual willingness to listen and put into practice Mr Bodenham's drills rectified the situation to a large extent.

As an ex-forward I tend to praise the unfashionable 'coal-face' positions but three players in the backs stand out.

Calum Sharma developed into a combative scrum half that will serve the College well in years to come. His passing is fluid and accurate and he communicates well with his pack of forwards. He still needs to learn to vary his game a little, to keep the opposing back row guessing. Javan Pyne in the outside centre position has the potential to go far in this game. He was the main source of tries in the back division and proved to be a strong tackler. I do feel that eventually he will have to move inside as he does not have the scorching pace to play out wide. The captain of the side was James Nott at fly half. He proved to be an excellent leader and a fine distributor and tackler. Above all he showed bravery in taking on the opposition forwards . . .

perhaps at times a little too brave for his own good. James will be a sad loss as he goes to join his brother at boarding school.

In the forwards the front and back rows stand out as the cornerstone of their success at dominating possession particularly in the second half of their matches. The lack of a settled pair of lock forwards needs to be addressed by next season. In the front row Kunal Patel proved to be a solid scrummager and Reiss Simmonds a combative hooker (a pity his throwing at the line out had the accuracy of a scud missile!). The real star of this unit was James Melbourne on the tight head who scored numerous tries from five metres out.

In the back row Newcombe Edwards served the side well on the open side. He showed excellent disruptive qualities in defence and now needs to add the creative aspects in attack if he is to progress further. David Gray and Stephen Ethymiou at various times sealed up the blind side. David being all aggression whilst Stephen added power to our forward drives.

Nevertheless, the key to our forward platform was Chris Morgan at number 8. He played no rugby in Year 7 but quickly established himself as a driving forward, destructive tackler and a source of possession at the front of the line out.

Finally, there is a good nucleus for a successful side and if the rest of the squad can raise their games they should meet with success in the future.

RWL

U13B XV

The Under 13B had fairly full season playing eight games, winning two and losing six with one abandoned. All though the squad was large it was often difficult to put out a full side plus replacements either for games or practices due to certain individuals lack of dedication. Thank you to that core of players who did turn out regularly and made Saturday mornings and the occasional afternoon most enjoyable. There is nothing more pleasing than seeing young men working hard on the rugby field even though winning was unlikely and this happened numerous times. The pack was lead ably by Edward Craggs with Harry Warrener and Samuel Garofalo developing as effective locks. Samuel Garofalo fully deserved his promotion to the A team as did Calum Mead. Tim Edwards showed much potential in the scrum half position and hopefully this will be further developed next season in the U14 squad. Junior Oppong made the fly half position his own with encouraging runs and some solid defence. In the backs, Tim Leverton-Brooks in the right wing position and Felipe Carvallo-Phillips as inside centre tackled furiously. Thank you to all those who came to support the team and refereed. I wish all the players good luck and every success in the U14 squad.

Team from: T. Edwards; D. Emanuwa; E. Graggs; S. Garofalo; H. Warrener, R. Greenhill; A. Coward; D. Omatayo; M. Twerdoelib; J. Ebie; J. Oppong; C. Mead; F. Carvallo-Phillips; R. Norton; T. Leverton-Brooks; L Christie; J. Starbuck; C Mariampillai.

NMA

U12 A and B XV's

The Year 7 rugby group is always a difficult place to start. Most of the pupils new to the College have never played this complex game and it is very much a learning season for everyone, even those who have come from the Junior School. Neither the A nor B team achieved any wins despite playing well at times; however we were learning and improving all the time. Selection was never set in stone and there was a high degree of movement between the teams, as there should be. Should he be a scrum half or prop? Back row forward or winger? We played with various permutations and hopefully by the end of the season we had found the right position for most.

As the game was so new to pupils the three main problems appeared to be running forward, passing backwards and contact, whether it be tackling, rucking or mauling. However, the children got themselves fully involved in the games and training sessions and improvement was obvious, although at different paces. This is the reason we play the Year 7 and 8 pupils over a term and a half, because of the complexity of the game and its component parts. We try to ensure that the pupils are on an equal footing to the opposition we play.

There are a number of players who have the potential to go far and it would be unfair to mention individuals – however, I am sure that with their continued enthusiasm for the game they will build on what they have learnt this year and we will start seeing some winning performances next season.

ABC

