

SPORT

The real core of what happens in the sporting world at St Dunstan's College will be contained within the individual sport reviews in this Chronicle. It is my hope to make people aware of what goes on and to give you a desire to find out more through these pages or through encouraging you to be at the action throughout the year. In team sports the College has produced an enviable quality of performance. The younger age groups are proving to have real potential in rugby, soccer and cricket whilst the level of play in netball at the College is at its best since the school went co-educational. The teams throughout the age range had real success with Year 7 producing our best ever result at the County Championship. The College struggles to bring hockey on at the pace of netball but efforts are being made to improve the striking game for girls. Fives continues to re-emerge and a girls' team has been formed which we hope will compete next year and basketball has had real success with the under 15 reaching the London play-offs and of course the fine achievement of Matthew Bryan-Amaning in his selection at national level. Athletics continues to revive and the College were proud of the successes of many of our pupils but especially Natalie Bartlett and Adai Sonny-Monerville in reaching the National Schools Finals. In judo, despite our small squad, the team did brilliantly at the National Championships headed by the gold achievement of Stephen Huglestone and a medal winning appearance by George Collins. In swimming the youngsters led the way and at both Preparatory Schools and Lower School age groups pupils from the College reached the National Finals. Once again the College has witnessed a plethora of sporting activity and quality throughout the season or has it. Certainly there have been some magnificent performances in rugby, soccer (their best set of results for many a season), netball (at senior, under 15 and under 12 there have been some outstanding results), athletics, tennis (renaissance of), judo, athletics, swimming etc, etc, etc. I sound like the King of Siam. Yes, the performances are there but are the spectators? What a joy it was to witness the rugby victories in the company of a hardy but



small band of parents. Would it not have been so much fulfilling for the pupils to have played in front of a larger group of supporters. How much more fulfilling would the under 12 success at the County Netball Championships would have been with more supporters in attendance to add to the vociferous support of those there. It is not easy to make a commitment but to all whom give up one night a year to watch the school play or concert I implore you to do so. Parents, tutors and fellow pupils please make an effort to watch your child, tutee or friend at least twice a year in sporting fixtures; so much benefit would flow from these gestures of support. The positive effects on the child, the Common Room, the College as a whole would be enormous. So let us finish focusing on the positives: never has the College played so many fixtures than last year – 120 fixtures in rugby; 70 in cricket (not a dying game in this school); 72 fixtures in netball, not including the county tournaments), 30 rounders fixtures plus tournaments. This is not even to mention fixtures in basketball, tennis golf, swimming, girls rugby, fives, sailing, athletics, dance festivals and so on and so forth. It would be wrong of me at this juncture not to mention the sterling work of my colleagues whose enthusiasm and commitment towards the pupils enhanced education is wonderful and magnificent. I would like to personally thank all those listed: Mr Alderman, Mr Taylor, Miss Hulls, Miss Fitzgerald, Mr Duckworth, Mr Adriano, Mr R Lea, Mr D Lea, Mr Austin, Mr Stevens, Mr Newman, Mr Burman-Roy, Mr Chadwick, Mr Kitchingman, Mr O'Shaughnessy, Mr Loudon, Mr Schofield, Mr Alton, Mr Amy, Mr Thorogood, Miss Murphy, Miss Scarentino. I do hope that I have not missed any colleague out. If I have I apologise. Of course I have not included the magnificent work done in the Junior School and the magnificent opportunities they afford our pupils on the sporting front. Well done! I must also thank the groundstaff (Mr Trevor Page and Mr Steven Matthews) under the expert guidance of Mr Paul Moran. I am sure all will agree that the grounds look fantastic. I must also thank Clive Ryan and his catering team for being so flexible in providing catering for all the fixtures. Finally, I thank those pupils who never let the College down. I thank them for their reliability, their commitment, their deportment and their humour. You are a role model for those who waver from the line of involvement. Yet again a really good year for the College. Thank you.

RDB (Director of Sport)