

# HWCE SPORTS NEWS



All the latest sports stories from  
High Wycombe Church of England Combined School

September - October '25

## SHAKY START FOR SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

Defeat in cup and opening  
league games, but lessons  
learned



The boys  
still smiling  
and  
enjoying  
their  
football  
despite  
results not  
going their  
way.

It wasn't quite the start the team would have hoped for in their first game of the season – a league match against Castlefield, who were the only team to take points from us in the league last season.

We knew it was going to be a tough act to follow with talented players leaving the school and moving on to the next chapter in their education in secondary school – but it was definitely a baptism of fire!

The weather was glorious and the warm up had gone well before we kicked off. Our starting line up saw Andrey make his debut in goal, a defensive duo of Dylan and Eesah, a midfield three of Davi-Lucca on the left, captain Flynn in the centre and Joel on the right with William starting as a lone striker on his debut for the school.

The boys felt the pressure from the beginning and, although some of our passing was going well, there were too many inconsistencies with us giving the ball away cheaply. Andrey had to make some early saves to keep us at 0-0. This didn't last too long though. In the 5<sup>th</sup> minute, Castlefield had a more decisive shot on goal which Andrey parried well but Castlefield's striker was more alert than our defence and slotted the rebound past Andrey's outstretched hand. 1-0 to Castlefield.

Things didn't get much better after that and we were caught out a few more times when

being a bit too casual with our passes and dwelling a bit too long on the ball. Castlefield's captain and their number 4 on the right wing were both terrific players and were running the show – giving us all kinds of problems. Andrey pulled off several more saves but could do very little about the 2 further goals that Castlefield scored before the half-time whistle blew.

Despite trailing 3-0, the team were upbeat and determined to prove themselves and try and turn things around in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half.

Ellis replaced Davi Lucca on the left wing, Habib came on to play right wing with Joel moving to centre midfield and Flynn moving to striker replacing William. Finally, Jonah came on to replace Dylan in defence.

We started stronger and led a few forays into our opponents' half, only to be thwarted each time before we could get a shot away. We had a few corners, but unfortunately nothing came from these either. Castlefield seemed content to absorb some pressure and try to hit us on the counter attack. This they did, about 7 minutes in to the half with their captain scoring their 4<sup>th</sup> goal.

We knew there was definitely no way back now but, all credit to the team, as

they kept trying and played their best right up until the final whistle despite conceding a fifth goal. Final score – Castlefield 5 High Wycombe C of E 0.

Player of the match was Andrey, without whose heroics in goal could have seen us lose by a greater margin.

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> league game of the season, the team didn't fair much better, losing by the same goal margin as in the 1<sup>st</sup> match (5-0) to a strong Disraeli team. Having been 4-0 down at half time, the 2<sup>nd</sup> half saw a much-improved performance with the team starting to 'gel' much better. More practice to develop our passing skills will hopefully see us improve further.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> October, we travelled to Chepping View for our opening cup game. The squad (see the photo above) played well but couldn't make the most of goal opportunities especially in the first half. We fell behind eventually in the second half to two unfortunate goals. The 2-0 defeat didn't seem a fair result when we had been the better side for much of the match. Ah well, lessons learned and onwards and upwards. What's most important is that the team are still enjoying their football.

Thank you as always to the cheerleading squad of parents and siblings who came to support and who provided vital transport to and from the match.

# GIRLS JUST WANNA HAVE FUN

## (and play football!)

### Winning start in the league for HWCE Girls

Our girls kicked off their season in winning style in a league match against Disraeli School on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> October.

Having witnessed the boys suffer a 5-0 defeat at the hands of the Disraeli boys team, the girls were even more determined to show their mettle and exact some revenge by seeking victory.

They were buoyed on by the fact that they had already beaten Disraeli in the District tournament on the previous Saturday (see below) albeit that this was in combination with 5 girls from the Carrington team.

Our starting line-up saw captain Lucy in goal, Lois and Thea playing as a defensive duo, a midfield trio of Bella R on the left, Anna in the centre and Stephanie on the right and Elsie playing as a lone striker. Sofia and Bella S began as substitutes with Amara sadly missing with an achilles injury.

We began strongly, surging forward with the ball well. Anna and Elsie were a dominant pair, constantly bringing the ball into the Disraeli half, ably backed up by Stephanie. Bella R was determined to be involved in every part of the action and whenever Disraeli attacked, the dynamic duo of Lois and Thea cleared the lines well with some strong kicks. Lucy didn't have too much to do in goal but claimed every ball that came her way – providing a safe pair of hands to calm any nerves.

A few minutes in, we took the lead when Elsie crossed the ball for Anna who was waiting on the penalty spot (exactly where Mr Burgin told her to be) to slot the ball home past the despairing hands of the Disraeli keeper.

A short while later, Elsie pulled up unexpectedly with a painful stitch and had to be substituted with Sofia swiftly pulling on an outfield shirt over her goalkeeper's jersey to play as striker. She proved to be a more than adequate replacement and the team continued to dominate the match all the way to half-time.

Some changes were made for the 2<sup>nd</sup> half



with Lucy moving from goalkeeper to left wing to replace Bella R, Sofia removing her outfield shirt to play in goal, Elsie (now recovered) coming back on as striker and Bella S replacing Thea in defence. The pack having been shuffled, after a quick drink and team talk, we began the second half.

Disraeli started strongly this time and made many attacks but each time were thwarted once more with Lois being first to nearly every ball and Bella S providing superb cover when she wasn't. Sofia made a couple of good saves to help keep us in front.

The game then began to move from end to end – often with a big bundle of players in the middle all vying for possession of the ball. It was tense stuff trying to maintain our lead but the girls were strong in spirit and determination and kept working hard.

In the end, their hard work was rewarded with a second goal, this time Anna being the provider and Elsie finishing off the move – her shot hitting the back of the net. 2-0 to High Wycombe C of E!

There was just about enough time for Disraeli to have an attempt on goal from the kick-off from the halfway line but the shot fell short and the referee blew the full-time whistle. Everyone shook hands and were congratulated on a very entertaining match which was played in excellent spirits with bounds of enthusiasm. It was tough to pick a player of the match as all played so well.

The girls enjoyed themselves immensely and can't wait to play again. Hopefully, they can secure a few more victories before the season ends next Easter. There are some tough games ahead with league matches against Chepping View, Downley and Oakridge to come and a cup match against Downley too. But, they are feeling optimistic and this first league win has definitely fuelled their dreams of emulating last season's boys' team by bringing home a league trophy.

Thank you to all the supporters who attended, provided transport and refreshment and cheered our girls on. We couldn't do it without you. I hope you all enjoyed the match as much as the girls did.

# MIXED FORTUNES FOR HWCE BOYS' AND GIRLS' FOOTBALL TEAMS IN DISTRICT CUP

A busy Saturday schedule sees a lot of good football on show but not quite the results we wanted



The Girls of Carrington and our own Fab Five joining forces at the District Tournament



Undaunted and staying positive – our boys at the District Tournament at Disraeli School

It was an early start on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October as 5 of our girls arrived somewhat bleary-eyed (but not as bleary-eyed as their parents or their teacher/coach – who is used to having a bit of a lie-in at the weekend!) at 8 a.m. at Disraeli School for this year's opening round of the ESFA inter-district cup – a tournament which, if successful in multiple rounds, could see a school team playing in the final at Wembley Stadium next year.

Whilst it is great to dream, our aspirations weren't that high with most of our players very much classing themselves as 'beginners' when it comes to football. With several unavailable to play, the 5 who *could* make it (Lois, Lucy, Amara, Elspeth and Elsie) were not enough to comprise a team by themselves, so, in order to make sure all could play, an arrangement had been made between our school and Carrington Junior School in Flackwell Heath, who were themselves short of players too, which meant our 5 could combine with theirs to make a squad of 10 – we were, rather dully and unimaginatively, named 'HWCE & Carrington' for the morning's matches!

Despite not having played together before, the girls put on a great show, picking themselves up from an opening 2-0 defeat against eventual champions, Hamilton to win 2-0 against Disraeli and then draw 0-0 against eventual runners up Manor Farm to finish 3<sup>rd</sup> in our league. The extra friendly match against the 3<sup>rd</sup> placed team from the other league (Tylers Green), was only lost 1-0 after conceding an unfortunate penalty.

It was a great experience for the girls and it was wonderful to join with another school and make new friends. Thanks go to Carrington and to supporters of both schools. It was a really fun morning.

The afternoon saw our boys playing in their tournament – commencing at 12:30. This saw a far more competitive spirit in the matches being played.

Like the girls' tournament, the boys' teams were divided into 2 leagues. These were leagues of 7 with short 8-minute matches played between each school to decide the winners and runners up who would play against each other in the semi

-finals and then the final. Both finalists would proceed to the next round.

Our squad of 11 players consisted of: Andrey and Matthew (goalkeepers), Joel and Davi-Lucca (defenders), Habib, Abdul, Zachary, Dylan and Joel (midfielders) and Kaedon and captain Flynn (strikers).

Of our 6 matches, we didn't fair too well, drawing 2 (0-0 vs Ash Hill and 1-1 vs Loudwater) and losing the others (1-0 vs St Johns, 1-0 vs Carrington, 2-0 vs Tylers Green and (somewhat controversially) 3-1 vs Great Kingshill). The boys are still seeking their first victory of the season but there were some encouraging signs in the matches played and it was great to secure some points and grab a couple of goals – the first scored by Joel after a powerful surging run into the Loudwater box and the second, a blistering shot from the kick off on the halfway line scored by Flynn which left the Great Kingshill keeper flailing.

It was a long and tiring day so a big thank you goes out to all involved.

# HWCE SPORTS STARS



Matthew and Ellis proudly show off their tournament medals

## TRULY SCRUM-PTIOUS!

### Year 5 pair shine as High Wycombe Under 10s compete in rugby festival

Congratulations to Matthew and to Ellis from Year 5 who love playing rugby for High Wycombe Rugby Union Football Club outside of school. You may have seen them before in previous editions of the school's sports reports as well as in the reports above as both are enjoying being a part of the school's football team. It is true to say that they are two of our most outstanding sports superstars and are an inspiration to many in our school.

In this instance, Matthew and Ellis were participating in the Windsor Minis Rugby Festival on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October. This was the first tournament of the season and saw them play a series of tough matches against teams from Maidenhead, Windsor and Twickenham – the home of English rugby!

It was their first experience at Under 10s level where tactics of rucking and scrums come into play.

When asked about playing rugby, Matthew said, "I like rugby because it teaches you to never give up" and Ellis added "Rugby teaches you respect because you are not allowed to complain to the referee. It also teaches you to be confident and it helps with your mental health."

We wish them well for the rest of the season. Don't forget to send any sporting exploits to the school office (f.a.o. Mr Burgin) so we can include them in future sports reports.

## STAFF SPORTS STAR – MISS IFILL



Miss Ifill demonstrates her fitness on the rowing machine

Miss Ifill is our new L.S.A. who has quickly become a valued member of the staff team. She has kindly shared her active hobby of going to the gym for this edition of the sports report.

She says, "I love going to the gym 4 times a week. I try out all of the equipment. I love to lift weights the most and my favourite exercise is the lateral pull-down machine! I can pull 36KG on it. I started going to the gym when I was 16 to support my mental health, moving more makes me relaxed and improves my sleep. The best thing about the gym is that you can try everything and you get to socialise with friendly people."

# HOUSE TO HOUSE ENQUIRIES

## Latest House-point Scores

Year One - Robins – Running & Ball Skills



1<sup>st</sup> Riders, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bikers 3<sup>rd</sup> Surfers 4<sup>th</sup> Skaters

Year Two – Swallows – Dodging



1<sup>st</sup> Riders 2<sup>nd</sup> Surfers 3<sup>rd</sup> Skaters 4<sup>th</sup> Bikers

Year Three – Kites – Basketball Skills



1<sup>st</sup> Skaters, 2<sup>nd</sup> Riders, 3<sup>rd</sup> Surfers, 4<sup>th</sup> Bikers

Year Four – Hawks – Netball



1<sup>st</sup> Skaters, 2<sup>nd</sup> Surfers 3<sup>rd</sup> Bikers 4<sup>th</sup> Riders

Year Five – Eagles – Health Related Exercise











1<sup>st</sup> Surfers, 2<sup>nd</sup> Riders, 3<sup>rd</sup> Skaters, 4<sup>th</sup> Bikers

Year 6 Owls: Football & Health Related Exercise



1<sup>st</sup> Skaters, 2<sup>nd</sup> Riders, 3<sup>rd</sup> Surfers, 4<sup>th</sup> Bikers

# HOUSE-POINT RUNNING TOTALS

1st		359 points	HOUSE CAPTAINS – KAEDON & ESHAAL 
2nd		329 points	HOUSE CAPTAINS – JONATHAN & AMARA 
3rd		269 points	HOUSE CAPTAINS – JOEL & LUCY 
4th		203 points	HOUSE CAPTAINS – LOIS & WILLIAM 

Well, a new school year has begun and our new House Captains have settled into their roles well – inspiring and leading their teams on the ‘Team Mile’ at morning break and thinking about sporting activities they can organise for the school.

We all think they have been well chosen by their peers and look forward to seeing how they continue to fulfil their roles as the year passes. In terms of the house-point competition, it’s an early lead for Riders, but remember, it’s a marathon not a sprint. There is plenty of time left for other teams to catch up!

