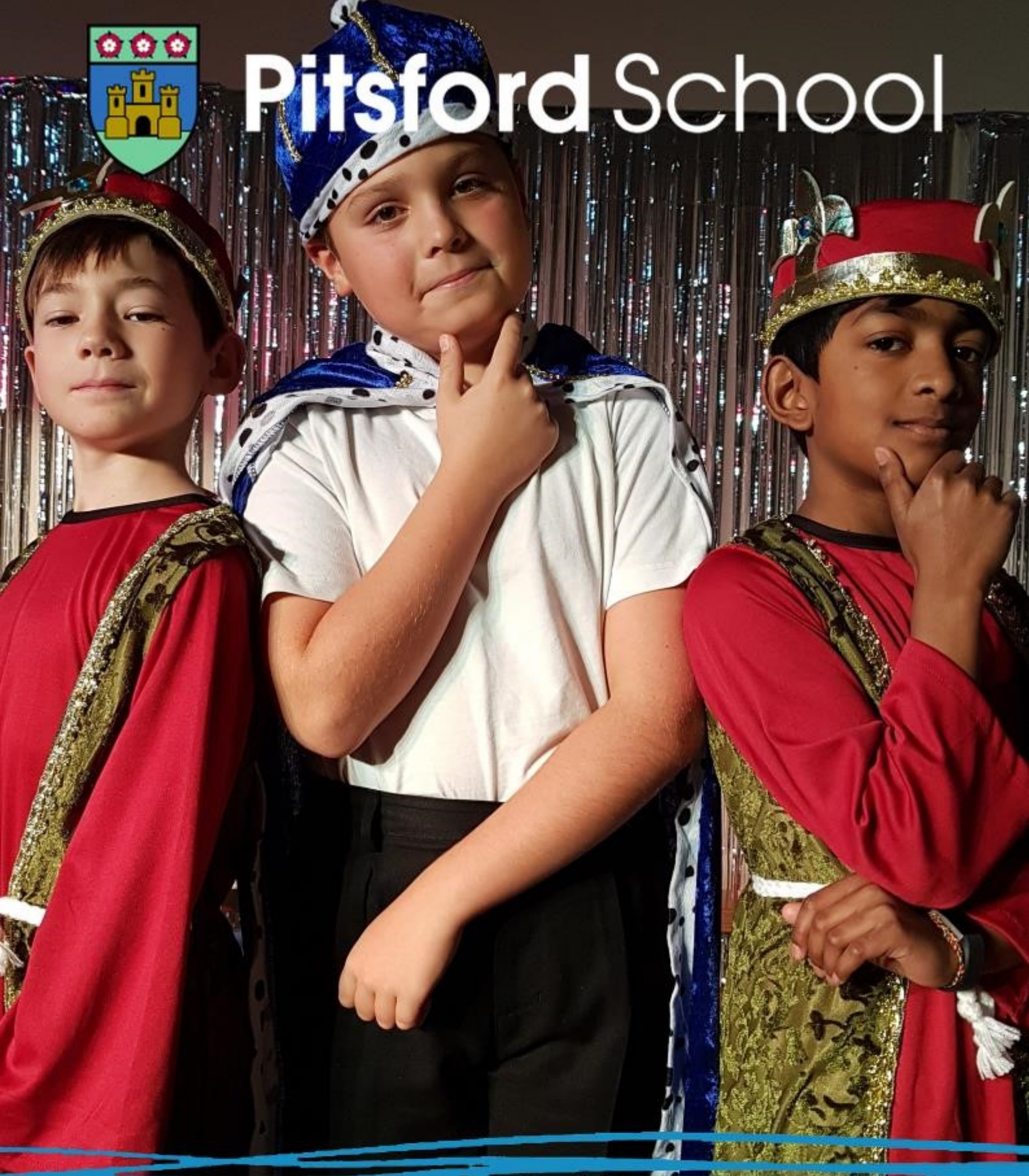




Pitsford School



THE PITSFORD POST

Friday 13th December 2019

Welcome

Hello Parents and so we have finally hit Christmas with its many distractions and fun. Before I get carried away with sharing with you my plans, let me bring a bit of fun-spongery to play to remind all you year 11s and year 13s out there that mocks are coming before the Christmas wrappings have all been recycled, so this holiday needs to be laced with plenty of work. It is a shame but the sacrifice now means that you'll ace the tests and the revision for the big exams in the summer will be markedly easier and, in years to come, you can look back on this good use of time with satisfaction and enjoy a great Christmas free from work and drenched in mince pies. And so, back to Christmas: as so many of my retired teaching colleagues from this school and my previous employer always lament to me, you have to be in a school to properly enjoy Christmas. Of course they say this while loving life free from the routines of schools, marking and children, but full of golf, afternoon cocktails and cheap flights to nice destinations. Nonetheless, I sort of see what they mean. And to prove the point, this festive season at Pitsford School has been simply super, with wonderful Christmas plays in the Junior School, a fantastic Christmas Concert in the Senior School, two exceptional Christmas Services in All Saints' Pitsford (thanks to Reverend Trott, our Chaplain, for officiating) and lots and lots of excited looking children, young and old, looking forward to the coming festive season. And as for the trees - well, you've seen them, so you know. It has been a lovely half-term and it has been a superb year all in all. And so we are about to hit the fast 20s - where is the time going? I hope you all manage to slow it down a bit this break and you and your family have a lovely Christmas and new year and, I also hope, that most of you have earned places on Santa's much-prized 'nice' list. Speak again in 2020!

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- Host Family Vacancy -

We are seeking families, who would be willing to host overseas students whilst they are studying at Pitsford School.

For further information about becoming a host family at Pitsford School, please contact Mrs Judy Ross, Headmaster's PA, by emailing jross@pitsfordschool.com

- Everyone Loves a Baby! -

Tuesday morning saw all of the hard work pay off for KS1 who performed their nativity; Everyone Loves a Baby! A stellar cast delivered singing, dancing and some beautiful reading.



- Lights, Camel, Action! -

On the 4th and 5th of December Key Stage 2 presented their Christmas production of 'Lights, Camel, Action' to a thrilled audience. The play offered up a modern twist on the Nativity story, with a format heavily borrowed from TV's 'Strictly'. We were treated to fantastic dancing routines, beautiful singing and amazing costumes, with hilarious feedback and scores out of ten given by three 'expert' judges. Fab-u-lous darling!





- Junior Christmas Lunch -

This week saw Christmas dinner day for our lucky Juniors who enjoyed a full Christmas dinner with all the trimmings! Thank you to the wonderful catering team.



- The Pitsford Run—

This annual Pitsford Run held was held on a cold and wet December's day with a fantastic turn out of cheering supporters. Despite the foreboding weather the thought of crossing the line and the hot chocolate to follow spurred on the runners who were determined to do their very best... With congratulations to everyone but particularly to the winners:

EYFS: Alexander S-J

KS1 Boys: Archie D—who only joined us last week and absolutely smashed his first Pitsford Run—welcome and very well done!

KS1 Girls: Mia S

Lower KS2 Boys: Aurelio O

Lower KS2 Girls: Erin A

Upper KS2 Boys: Raffi O

Upper KS 2 Girls: Georgie B.



- Pitsford Run House Results -

		Points	3 lap points	Extra HPs (marshalls)	TOTAL
1st	HESKETH	200	95	5	300
2nd	WAKE	120	105	5	230
3rd	ROBINSON	60	130	10	200

- The Pitsford Run -

TIMES FOR 1st/2nd/3rd

7/8 BOYS

1	R Lewis	HESKETH	1	17.14
2	R Iolo	HESKETH	2	21.16
3	P, Oliver	ROBINSON	3	21.40

7/8 GIRLS

1	S Madeleine	WAKE	1	19.52
2	R, Martha	WAKE	2	21.35
3	S, Rosie	WAKE	3	21.55

9/10 BOYS

1	R, Joshua	HESKETH	1	26.37
2	H, Joel	WAKE	2	27.45
3	B, Dillon	ROBINSON	3	28.42

9/10 GIRLS

1	R Cara	HESKETH	1	34.12
2	R, Matilda B	WAKE	2	40.26
3	S, Hannah	WAKE	3	43.18

11/12/13 BOYS

1	G, Lewis	HESKETH	1	24.44
2	C, Dylan	ROBINSON	2	27.52
3	R, Alexander	WAKE	3	28.28

11/12/13 GIRLS

1	O, Molly	WAKE	1	33.21
2	S, Isabel	WAKE	2	38.45
	H, Ruby	WAKE		
3			3	39.45



- Ice Skating at Beckworth Emporium -

After enjoying an excellent term, 8H wanted to think on a nice way to end it and enter the festive period and so a plan was conceived to go out on a mini social outing. On Thursday 12th they enjoyed each others company skating on the ice (or leaning on the rail or a penguin) at Beckworth Emporium and getting caked in synthetic snow.

Great fun was had by all!

Merry Christmas!

By Mr K

- Movember Assembly -

The Sixth Form delivered a magnificent School Assembly on the Movember movement and how important male health is. The rest of the school got into the spirit of things by donning mowers (and some us wore organic and locally-grown).

Well done Alex and her team!



- Senior School Debating -

It's been an exciting week of debating in the senior school this week.

The topics have been fascinating, debated with intellectual rigor and very persuasively argued, making a hard job for the judges even more difficult. Hesketh kicked off proposing a motion of ... compulsory inoculation; A difficult topic for Robinson to defend given the currency of this topic in the news this week.

Robinson followed on Tuesday proposing the motion that custodial sentences could no longer be seen as a deterrent and corporal punishment should be brought in to deter criminals from reoffending - use was made of many current examples including the recent tragedy at London Bridge.

Day three saw Wake proposing that the climate change crisis should lead to the introduction of a policy to limit all families to just two children. We were presented with the argument that a child had a greater ecological footprint than a car! Tempting!!

Despite Wake winning two out of three debates, Hesketh ultimately gained more points which led them to an overall win. Hesketh played their joker which meant double points for the House and a very Happy Me Stoner who took great delight in calculating and predicting all the permutations that could lead to different results!

- Senior School Christmas Concert -

Last Friday was our annual senior Christmas Concert with lots of performances: both Year 7 classes performed, there was an outstanding range of instrumentalists and voice performances, and finishing with some swinging hits from our school band: The Pitz- thank you to all involved!



- Music Exam Results -

Well done to all of the below pupils who achieved fantastic results in their recent music exams!

Harriet	Singing	Grade 6	Merit
Tianna	Singing	Grade 5	Distinction
George	Singing	Grade 2	Distinction
Mirae	Singing	Grade 2	Merit
Anika	Singing	Grade 1	Pass
Cara	Flute	Grade 4	Pass
Matt W	Saxophone	Grade 5	Distinction

- Our very own Pitsford Time Team –

Pitsford Church graveyard is full and there is an urgent need for a new burial ground to carry on the important history of the village. Four of our very lucky Year 10 students were invited to take part in the preliminary geophysical survey of the proposed extension to graveyard.

Ryan, Seb, Joel and Cameron, along with the archeological team, were involved in preparing the site for a dig early in the new year.

It was a fantastic opportunity for the students to apply knowledge and skills from Maths, Geography and History as they measured out grids and took underground pictures of what might lie beneath. The archeology team were convinced that all manners of remains would be discovered! We look forward to being sent through all of the data and have been invited to take part in the dig next year—we can't wait!

Mr Harrison



Wednesday 4th December 2019

A last minute re-jig was required with a few boys struck down with illness or injury making the competition a little lengthier than usual! Despite this Robinson speaker, Zak A, impressively sent in his pre-prepared rousing speech all the way from his sick bed which Lennon S—with little to no preparation - delivered in such a fashion he may well be the first pupil to gain an Oscar here at Pitsford School; bravo the pair!

When the anthem ended and the smoke subsided it was time to do battle! Year 7 had an opening draw between Wake and Hesketh where it came down to tries scored. It was a very close encounter between all three Houses with Hesketh the victors by the narrowest of margins.

1st Hesketh, 2nd Wake and 3rd Robinson (Robinson's pre-match speech though a clear winner).

In Year 8 a fabulous display of running rugby and crunching tackles as House pride came before friendships and niceties. Some controversial refereeing decisions arose as tempers frayed, some calls around ball ground became vital. Pleasingly it was great to see some of the season's players who haven't grabbed the headlines thriving in the spirited competition with Jamberk's K bursting break and run rightly receiving high praise.

An excellent hard fought competition with Hesketh again victors!

1st Hesketh, 2nd Wake and 3rd Robinson.

An excellent and spirited day, with school spirit a clear winner!



- U18 House Rugby -

Tuesday 3rd December 2019

"Play for your school, die for your House!" was the motto of the afternoon! Wake, Hesketh and Robinson certainly embodied this spirit. Hesketh faced an uphill battle in their first game against Robinson with depleted numbers and lack of experience; they were put to the sword by a more physical, powerful and dominate Robinson side. Playing next were Wake and Hesketh where Hesketh dominated the match, but Wake showed their character and never gave up until the final whistle.

The last game of the afternoon saw the minnows, Wake and Hesketh, face each other in a showdown for the wooden spoon. Both houses were up for this one but there was only to be one winner and that was rugby!

What a great contest and afternoon— all boys represented their houses with Pridel!

Results:

Robinson 36	Hesketh 0
Robinson 44	Wake 0
Wake 25	Hesketh 20

1st Robinson, 2nd Wake and 3rd Hesketh



Year 10 v Sponne School (Towcester)

Thursday 5th December 2019 – Northamptonshire Cup Quarter Final

Sponne were a somewhat unknown entity to Pitsford but usually produce strong sides and Pitsford played this game without their skipper, Charlie J, who has been one of this seasons lucky charms and were approaching the opposition with caution. What prevailed though was another excellent performance.

Pitsford attacked very well showing some excellent ball retention putting real pressure on Sponne from the off. It was Sponne who took the lead though, Pitsford bounced straight back and crossed with Monte M diving over.

Jake P was, again, a large threat from the back of the field and returned the ball with interest every time. Unfortunately a couple of errors for Pitsford saw Sponne 24-7 up at half time, a familiar story for the side in recent weeks.

A rousing half time speech worked a treat from standby Captain, Joel H, who took the bull by the horns (so to speak) and the team followed suit. An exciting high scoring second half prevailed and Pitsford moved back into catching distance of Sponne.

Whilst in the ascendancy injury then struck, somewhat understandable by the level of aggression and power of the collisions in the game, Oliver T took a nasty tumble and Athul W also had to withdraw.

Sponne grabbed a couple of late scores to sway the scoreboard in what was actually a very close result.

Tom M was again outstanding finishing the season on a real high, Cameron E made a bone crunching tackle and kept excellent speed on the game at scrum half, in fact all were at some of their best. Well led by Joel H but the man of the match went to Jake P whose running game and kicking game were both on point.

A good season with plenty to build upon next year, well done boys!

Final Score

53-28

- U18 Rugby End of Season Social -

Success isn't always measured in results and after a fantastic season for the U18 team, led very well by the committed skippers Tyler S and Dylan H, the team chose a restaurant to host their end of season meal, topped off with some team building at Lazer Quest. It was a very enjoyable afternoon and thoroughly deserved by all the players who had made an outstanding effort over the season. Their performances from a very young Sixth Form team bode well for what could be a exciting season next year with potential oozing out the side!

The team enjoyed a very civilised meal with some brief speeches from Captain and Coach but unfortunately all took aim at myself, clearly unfairly in the Lazer Quest, with Josh N the owner of the sharpest gun on the day. By Mr K.



- Cross Country -

The cross country season started early for all club runners with relay team events testing individual speed and endurance. All who participated had varying degrees of success including first position in an u18 race. There have also been a number of runners who have participated regularly in park runs a free organised 5k event competing against themselves to improve their PBS. Perhaps a park run league next term will inspire others to get involved?

The schools district cross country has sadly demised over the last few year resulting in only one event for the team to compete in. This years' event was held at the Race Course with an opportunity for yr7-13 runners being able to run the course. Fielding a team which was a combination of experience and inexperience all of the runners ran the best they could have in rather boggy conditions. To qualify for the next race runners needed to come in the top 15. Seven runners will now be representing the district in the county competition in January.

Next term there are three events to look forward to: Lincroft and Maidwell Chase for the junior runners and for all the ISA Midlands at Bedstone. This is always the highlight of the cross country season requiring all to conquer the deep stream and killer hill!!

By Mrs Chacksfield

- Golf Presentation Evening -

I recently attended my golf club junior presentation evening where there were many awards to be presented.

Over the course of the season, I won 5 competitions and was runner up in the Winter Pairs competition. On the night, I was presented with prizes for all of these along with two further trophies for most reduced handicap and commitment to practicing award.

I really enjoyed the evening and it has inspired me to work even harder at my game in the future.

By Oliver, Year 7



By Mrs Chacksfield

So far this season the netball teams have played 41 matches not including the year 7 invitational tournament or u14 and senior county tournaments. The matches have been a combination of local league and friendlies. We dread to think how many times Mrs Chacksfield has blown her whistle over the past 12 weeks! A number of the girls across the year groups have also played and trained weekly outside school for local clubs and represented the county.

All of the year 7, 8, 9, 10 girls have represented their respective age groups with a few players stepping up in to the older age groups. The senior teams have had 23 players made up of yr 11, 12 and 13 girls. This term has also seen a number of the girls venturing in to art of coaching both in the junior and senior school during games afternoons and extra-curricular clubs, often leading sessions. Additionally many have also learnt the art of scoring helping with the smooth running of fixtures.

U12 team

With a large number of girls in the year group there has been an opportunity to field two team at all fixtures giving everyone an opportunity to represent the school. The mix of experiences has seen a number of the players having plenty of previous experience and many having never caught a netball before. The group have been very enthusiastic in their approach to both training and matches working very well as a unit. Many have had a go at a variety of different positions on the court. The season started with an invitational tournament which was full of excitement and some wonderful play with the teams finishing in 2nd and 6th position out of all the teams entered. This has been built upon with the teams being successful in many of their league matches demonstrating the progress they have made both as individuals and units on the court. It has been great to see a number practicing their skills during lunch times and others looking to join local clubs to play more netball. A number of the year group have been awarded player of the match awarded by the opposition which reflect the diversity of the team and developing confidence. The group have also been enthusiastic to score for the older teams whilst watching them play.

U13 team

The team has certainly built up on last year's work with them all understanding their roles and responsibilities on court. They have all continued to demonstrate their understanding of each position with many being able to play a variety of different positions if required. This has bought a more competitive edge to all as they have demonstrated why they should be selected for their preferred position. A few of the team have also stepped up in to the U14 tem when required and have not looked out of place. The team have improved greatly over the last few week as their fitness levels have increased making sure fewer silly passing mistakes were made enabling the shooters to concentrate on their skills in the circle. The shooting percentages have helped build upon the confidence of the team capitalising on the oppositions weaknesses. Many of the team have been practicing during break and lunch times this has further helped the winning streak. Long may this effort and enthusiasm continue.

- Netball Reports continued -

U14 team

The team have been very close on the court all working for the team remaining focused throughout all of the games. They have continued to work on their individual skills showing an improvement in defensive skills often turning defence quickly into attack moving down the court. This confidence has enabled a number of players to try a variety of different positions rising to the challenges faced particularly against taller opposition! The team have had some very closely fought matches with the winning team being decided in the last few seconds fortunately in their favour as a result of the never say die attitude and team spirit. The team has been affected by a number of injuries resulting in the team having to pull together to plug any positional gaps left. Hopefully this will be rectified in the New Year. Looking forward to their weekend tour to Conover Hall in September

U15 team

A few new faces have joined the team this term and have grown in confidence throughout. They have been encouraged by the team to join in and have a go, a few whom had not ventured on to the netball court since year 7! The additional bodies have strengthened the team providing others an opportunity to play in different positions developing their court skills and understanding. The team has continued to be most enthusiastic with their approach some weeks playing back to back matches to squeeze them all in to the calendar. This has been great to watch and be a part of particularly of their self-management of practices sessions and warm ups before each match. They have developed a greater maturity being able to bond on the court pulling the team and individuals together. The defence have been able to hone their individual skills being competitive with each other to retain their preferred positions, not wanting to watch from court side whilst others play. The attacking player have been equally competitive with many wishing to take on the centre court roles which link defence to attack requiring a high level of fitness and individual discipline. Great starts to the season, with the teams never give up attitude on and off the court. We will be looking forward to planning the teams weekend tour in September to Conover Hall.

Senior teams

The senior team have been made up of yr11, 12 and 13 players all opting to continue to play netball for the school. Having new smart playing kit has certainly inspired all to play with passion and pride in each game. The country tournament at the start of the season was a good bench mark with the team only losing two games to very experienced opposition eventually coming third narrowly missing out going through to the next round. The team s has continued to maintain this focus, level of competition and determination to play to their strengths. The defensive unit has seen a number of players interchange in the positions all understanding the development of zonal defence which has capitalised on the teams speed around the court. The attacking units have been equally successful dominating the centre passes and D area with sharp accurate shooting. When put under pressure the teams have thrived pulling together on the court with discipline. The remainder of the season will be equally as interesting with old and new opposition to play against some who will certainly want to revenge their losses from this term!

Looking forward to the remaining number of weeks of the season all teams will have both friendly and league fixtures finishing the season with county tournaments and the inter-house competitions. The seniors will also be looking to plan their end of season gathering and presentation. We will then finalise the total number of games played and goals scored!

Well done to all of those who have coached, scored, led warm ups, captained teams and written match reports supporting all of the staff. I hope you are all looking forward to the remainder of the season in the New Year.