SPORTS BULLETIN

Dear Families,

The last week before half term was a busy and rewarding one, with a large number of hockey and football fixtures. There were some fantastic performances from our pupils and it was lovely to see so many children representing the school with pride, determination and real team spirit.

Our U13A girls were the stars of the week. Emily E, Emily T and Elodie were called up by Mr Janes, Lancing College's Head of Hockey, to play up an age group for the College's U14A side. They helped the team win gold at the Sussex Regional Finals at Christ's Hospital, which was a remarkable achievement. Just a day later, the talented trio carried that momentum back into school colours as the U13As won all three of their games. They beat Dorset House 4-0, overcame Shoreham College and then showed real grit to defeat a very strong St Christopher's side. The equally formidable U11A girls also impressed once again, beating newcomers Shoreham College 4-0.

Our football teams also had plenty to celebrate. The U11B boys showed impressive teamwork, shape and control, beating Pennthorpe 3-0 at home. The U9A boys picked up a 1-0 win over Sherborne House and drew 1-1 with Oakwood at their five-team tournament in Chichester, with Geraint named our Player of the Day. Over at Lancing Prep Hove, our U9A girls won two of their four games against Hove B, 2-0 and 2-1. They had no substitutes and played every single minute, which was a fantastic effort.

It was also a week of near misses and brave performances. Emeka, Orlando and Alex were again selected for the Lancing College U13 ISFA Bowl team, which combined players from Lancing Prep Hove and Dorset House – and made the long journey to Gosfield School in Essex. Emeka was outstanding

in attack and scored a hat-trick, with one of his goals set up by Orlando. Lancing College looked to be heading into the next round of the prestigious competition until the hosts scored a gut-wrenching late equaliser, then took control in extra time to win an incredible game 5-3. It was a brilliant effort from all three boys and cruel for them to end up on the wrong side of the scoreline.

Our U13A and U11A boys took part in the Lancing College flagship football tournament, playing against some of the top schools in the region. Both teams were a real credit to the school and were competitive in every game against some very talented opponents. Both sides progressed through the group stages, with the U11As narrowly edged out 1-0 by Brighton College in the cup quarter-finals and the ever-improving U13As losing 2-0 to St Andrew's in the plate quarter-finals.

Back in U13 hockey action, the U13C girls had an evenly matched game against Shoreham College and were unlucky to lose 1-0. The U13B girls faced some tough opposition and lost to both Dorset House and St Christopher's but kept going to the end. Poppy and Anneka, who were playing in goal for the first time, were named Girls of the Game. Our U13B and U13C boys had a similarly tough afternoon away at Shoreham College. Their opponents turned out to be stronger than expected but the boys rose to the challenge and kept going to the final whistle. Elsewhere, the U11C boys were beaten 2-0 in a competitive and entertaining encounter by Pennthorpe.

Our youngest players had some close games too. At the request of our hosts, Dorset House, the U9B and U8A boys teams were merged together. The balance seemed accurate as they played out a competitive 0-0 draw

against each other before being narrowly edged out by the home side. The U8 girls, playing as two mixed teams at Hove, clicked together well with their new teammates, drawing 1-1 twice against Hove B, before finding Hove A a step too far on this occasion.

Beyond LPW

Our pupils have been flying the flag for LPW well beyond the school gates.

Sisters Pippa and Florence W, along with Chima O, Olivia J and Peaches C, have all been selected for the Prep School Lions and will now have the chance to travel to Sweden next summer to play in the Gothia Cup, one of the biggest youth football tournaments in the world. It is a wonderful reflection of the continuing growth of girls' football at LPW and we are incredibly proud of all five of them.

Huge congratulations also go to Emily T, who has been selected to represent Sussex County in hockey. The selection process ran from June, with several rounds of highly competitive trials involving over 50 players, so this is a fantastic reward for all her hard work. Emily is also competing at county level for Brighton Athletics this winter in both Sportshall Athletics and cross country, so is a talented all-rounder.

In hockey, Hamish B, Harry A, Rory B and Miles C represented Worthing Hockey Club at the Ron Eason U12 Festival. Harry was outstanding in defence and showed great composure and skill throughout the tournament. Rory deserves a special mention for looking completely at home in the U12 age group at only nine years old.

Tobias D will represent LPW at Intermediate level at the South East Schools Trampoline Championships in November. We wish him the very best of luck and look forward to hearing how he gets on.

Well done to them all. If your child has a sporting achievement outside school that you'd like to share, please let us know.

Thank you, as always, to all the wonderful parents who came to support and to the staff and drivers who kept everything on track during such a busy week.

Best wishes,

Mr Marshman
Director of Sport