

Another outstanding achievement for High School Netball Team

On 11 November, the U14 Netball Team competed in the National Schools Netball Tournament - County Round. After much anticipation due to the postponement last term, the girls were highly motivated to go and do their best. We were drawn in one of the toughest groups and knew that we would have to play our very best to be in with a chance of making it through to the knockout stages. The first match we played was against Parmiters School and the High School showed the teams in their group that they meant business by winning 8-0. Next up were Knights Templar School and again the High School were able to dominate, winning a very convincing 15-1. Two extremely tough matches followed and the High School had to win at least one to secure a place in the next round. Again, the High School remained focussed and even though St Mary's Catholic put up a strong fight, we were able to win 8-2. The final game of the group was against Goffs School. Both teams were completely even on overall goal average and whoever won the game would go through to the quarterfinals as group winners. Throughout the game, the scores stayed very even. With the score at 7-6 in our favour as the buzzer went, the game, however, was not over. We had conceded a penalty in the circle and Goffs had the chance from under the post to shoot and level the scores. Luckily for us they missed and we went through as group winners. In the quarterfinals, we were drawn against Haileybury. We knew that we had to raise our game once more to have any chance of making it to the semi-finals and achieving our aim of gaining a place in the Regional Round of the National Schools Tournament. The High School went 3-0 up but Haileybury fought back and levelled the scores. Again, the scores stayed very even but at the end of the game only one goal separated the teams. Fortunately this was 8-7 in the High School's favour.

In the semi-finals, with a place at Regionals at stake, the High School faced Presdales School, who usually expect to make it through. With 14 minutes between jubilation and devastation, the High School had to play the best they'd ever played! We started strongly and were able to get a couple of goals lead. Our girls showed great tenacity and were not going to give up on all their hard work. The second half was extremely nail biting and as the final whistle went, the High School made the realisation that they had achieved the ultimate goal of making it to the Regionals. Every single girl played with great determination and skill and most of all, collectively played as a solid team unit. A final was then played between the High School and Broxbourne School. Broxbourne, who often get through to National Finals, played extremely well and gave our girls a taste of how tough the Regional round will be. Both teams played a very high standard of netball and Broxbourne managed to secure the County Title by 9 goals to 4.

Nonetheless, the feat of gaining a place in the Regional Tournament is an outstanding achievement and also a first for any High School netball team and many, many congratulations must go to the following girls who would please come forward to receive their medals and certificates: Julia Dawson (Captain), Abbie McCall, Sarah Cleaver, Jessica Thorne, Sophie Carter, Emi Giles, Pippa Babayode, Sabina Messent and Lucy Johnson.



