



# Bishop Vesey's Grammar School

'Inspiration and Excellence'

Headteacher: Dominic Robson BA (Hons) NPQH

Lichfield Road, Sutton Coldfield, B74 2NH, 0121 250 5400, [www.bvgs.co.uk](http://www.bvgs.co.uk)

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you have had a good summer and I thought I would take this opportunity to let you know of a few things happening in school rugby from September 2018.

## Age Grade Rugby:

Age Grade Rugby began in 2016-17 and will continue in 2018-19. Last season the RFU received over 6,000 responses from players aged 6-19 to the Age Grade Survey where they described what they think of rugby, their behaviours and their motivators. This information has been vital to the RFU as Age Grade Rugby develops to ensure they deliver rugby according to the wants and needs of our young players. Further surveys are anticipated and I would ask that you encourage your child to participate when invited to.

## Don't be a HEADCASE this season!

Player welfare and safety is always central to everything we do at school and is something we all take seriously. When the new season starts please be aware I will have asked all members of staff who deliver rugby to complete the [online concussion resource](#), are up-to-date with HEADCASE protocols and have appropriate first aid provision in place for all school training and matches. This is a condition of entry for all NatWest Cup competing schools that we have entered at u15 & u18 levels.

The start of the new term also offers the opportunity to educate players on concussion and nutrition so please direct your son to the illustrated concussion video on [www.englandrugby.com/headcase](http://www.englandrugby.com/headcase) and to [www.foodforrugby.org](http://www.foodforrugby.org) for nutritional advice.

I will ask for the school Twitter account to publicise a number of sports and activities concussion related injury initiatives currently being trialled by other schools similar to ours; please remember injuries can occur in any sport or activity, and sometimes even in the classroom!

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## **RFU Youth Rugby Injury Surveillance Project:**

I would also like to remind you of the RFU Youth Rugby Injury Surveillance Project. We have participated in research over the last three years and will be doing so again this year. In short, the focus of this project broadly encompasses:

- General surveillance of rugby-related injuries in the U15A and 1<sup>st</sup> XV teams during schools' rugby
- Trialling a specific tablet-based app for training/match and injury reporting with the aim of further reducing the demands on coaches and medical centre staff.
- Conducting video analysis of matches with a view to identifying specific "high risk" playing actions and indications of how these may be modified for injury prevention in the future.

In the short term, we will be using the same processes of collecting information as per last year:

- We will be using the same paper-based forms to collect training/match information and the same injury report forms. Medical centre staff / teachers will collect data for any reportable injuries sustained by our players.
- The definition of reportable injuries has also remained the same *"any physical complaint sustained during school rugby matches or training sessions which leads the player to subsequently miss any physical activity for a period of longer than 24 hours after the initial injury was sustained"*.

In terms of benefits to schools who take part in this project, our involvement provides:

- A demonstration of the duty of care shown to pupils and parents.
- Specific and up-to-date feedback around the level of injury risk that youth rugby players are currently experiencing which can then be fed-back to parents, and the school.
- Timely video/notational feedback to our players around matches which may be of benefit during team meetings, one-on-one feedback sessions, etc.
- **Parental Consent is required:** Please click on this link parents of players - <https://bathreg.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/parentguardian-consent-form-filming>
- **Player Consent is required:** Please ask your son to click on this link for players & complete it - <https://bathreg.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/player-assent-form-filming>

## **Help required at home matches:**

Please could I ask for some help with teas and coffees at our home matches? We are generally treated very well when we travel to other schools and it would be nice to return the compliment. Our rugby staff usually have their hands full with game related duties, and some help on the hospitality side

would be much appreciated. Please make yourself known to your son's rugby teacher and we will be pleased to point you in the right direction!

### **Finally...**

All of our school rugby fixtures can be found on SchoolsSports.com. We try to be as accurate as possible by keeping this site up to date but occasionally things may change due to circumstances beyond our control. Please keep an eye on our fixtures and results by using the website, but if in doubt please check with your son's rugby teacher.

Wishing you all the best for this year's rugby,

Yours sincerely,

*Julian Whiting*

PE Teacher and Head of Rugby,  
Bishop Vesey's Grammar School.