



The Wold of Sport



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The Senior Sports Tour 2017: Woldies take Edinburgh



On the afternoon of Friday 15th September, 33 Senior hockey and netball squad members boarded a flight to Edinburgh for some top match play and bonding.

On Saturday morning we set off, armed with sticks, shin pads and gum shields (as well as our music speaker), for our first two hockey fixtures against Mary Erskine School. The 1sts kicked proceedings off and, although this was the first time that the complete squad had played together, everyone put in a tremendous work effort. Despite some great defensive work by Natasha Benson and Jessie Lennihan, and excellent attacking from Ellie Bristowe, who seized the ball from under the nose of many an opponent, Mary Erskine, who had the advantage of a season that had begun three weeks before ours, took the honours 6-0. Next, the 2nds took to the pitch. They

also put everything into their game and there were some strong tackles by Joanna Sinnos in defence and great channelling from Penny Gaul in midfield. However, once again Mary Erskine's extra weeks of training were evident as they overcame us to win 5-0.

We didn't let these initial losses dampen the mood as we enjoyed a city tour of Edinburgh, topped off with a hearty lunch in the Old Town. Then it was time for netball. The 2nds played first against Holyrood Netball Club. Once again we had some brilliant and determined play, with Jade Taylor showcasing some lovely interceptions. As with hockey, the early start of the Scottish season proved to be something of an advantage, as our opponents won 53-15.

The final fixture of the day saw the 1sts take on Heriot-Watt University, some of whose players were four or five years older than ours. But we didn't let that intimidate us; if anything

it spurred our players on, especially Grace Flanagan who exhausted body and voice by her fab jumping for rebounds and great communication. The scoreline didn't represent the quality of our team's play.

Tired after this match-rich day, we enjoyed a meal out and a rather spooky ghost tour of the vaults under the city.

Sunday started with hockey fixtures against Grange Hockey Club. There was a special appearance in goal for our 2nds from Eden Kersse (normally an outfield player), who made some good deflections against fierce attacking. Our girls also made some lovely attacking breaks and had good one-on-one play, but alas our Scottish opponents were victorious.

Our 1st team managed to score two goals within the space of one minute, thanks to some great movement between the forwards and midfielders, and gave our opposition a tough match, resulting in a 2-2 draw.



Next on our itinerary was a visit to Edinburgh Castle, where we all marvelled at the phenomenal panoramic view. Then, after a speedy lunch in the city, we set off for our final fixtures of the tour. The 1st netball team's match was an exciting affair, with lots of skill and physicality on display from both teams. Although our opponents' shooting was consistent, our new arrivals in defence, Nia Griffiths and Charlotte Stimson, successfully forced them into silly mistakes. The final score, 23-41, was not representative of the great teamwork we had shown on court.

Our 2nds showed the same ferocity as they had the day before, with some great movement in the circle from Mieke Ford and Freddy Prime and perfectly placed feeding from Impy McNamara. We put up a great fight, but the quality connections in the Scottish team brought them a 28-14 win.



Junior Scholar profile

Name:

Anna Darlington

Nationality: British

Main sport: Hockey

Position: Centre Midfield

Secondary sports: Netball, athletics, cricket and tennis.

If you could be a pro in any other sport it would be: Cricket, because ever since I was little I have shown a close interest in it.

Year started at Woldingham: Year 7, 2015

Primary school: Holmewood House

Recent results/achievements this year: Nominated for Surrey netball and hockey trials and Kent hockey trials.

Current club: Tunbridge Wells HC

Future goal for this year/season: To represent Woldingham sport scholars as best as I can; be committed to training and matches; inspire others, as well as myself, and stay determined.

Inspiration: Alex Danson and Sam Quek

What do you enjoy most about sport?

I love how I can show competitiveness and aggression on the pitch. It is a time to really concentrate and learn resilience. I absolutely love playing with my teams - no matter if we are winning or losing, working together with them is fantastic.

Finally, our newly-formed 3rds had their moment; great interceptions from Millie Dunlop and Filippa Mansson helped them to our first win of the tour, 16-10.

Before we headed home, awards for 'player of the squad' were presented to:

1st hockey - Jessie Lennihan

2nd hockey - Margot Birch

1st netball - Holly Castle

2nd netball - Jade Taylor

3rd netball - Millie Dunlop

This weekend made all 33 of us remember something very important about playing sport and it was summarised perfectly by Miss Blackwood: *"the score matters, but right now the process of becoming a team matters more"* and I can confirm that if you looked at our squad now, you wouldn't be able to tell we were from different year groups.

Holly Castle
Sport Ribbon



Senior Scholar profile

Name:

Grace Flanagan

Nationality: British

Main sport: Lacrosse

Make of stick: STX / Brine

Position: Midfield Attack / Centre

Secondary sports: Hockey and netball

If you could be a pro in any other sport it would be: Hockey. I love playing hockey at school and compared to lacrosse it gets so much more media attention within the UK and globally. Also, in many ways, it is very similar to lacrosse!

Year started at Woldingham: Year 9, 2013

Primary school: Thomas's Clapham

Recent results/ achievements this year: Selected for the U19 England Lacrosse Squad; Club team came second in the premiership league.

Current club: Purely Blues Lacrosse Club

Future goal: U19 World Cup in Canada, 2019

Inspiration: Taylor Cummings

What do you enjoy most about sport?

Since I started playing lacrosse when I was 12 it has always been my passion. I think that the speed of the game is what excites me the most. Lacrosse is one of the fastest-growing sports in the world. I feel very lucky to be a junior member of the England Lacrosse Squad at a time when it is expanding at a faster rate than ever before. Hopefully it might become an Olympic sport soon!



House Cross Country

On 3rd October we had our House Cross Country Competition. Despite many girls saying how cross country wasn't really their 'thing', the afternoon saw students and staff, suited and booted both for the Thrive 5k and the Fun Run, heading up to the top pitches.



With many girls and staff anxious to start, the 5k set off first, with everyone else cheering encouragement, giving the runners a real buzz to get going. Soon after, the Fun Run began, with students in a variety of costumes, including green sumo suits, soldiers, a dragon and a dinosaur - and even Mr Nunes and Mr Hofmyer in blue nun costumes (a real sight to see!). Within 20 minutes we saw the one and only Charlotte Alexander storming to the finish line to win the 5k. After that a steady stream of runners arrived back at the top pitches, running into the funnels to have their time and place recorded. It was great to see people taking on something that perhaps isn't in their comfort zone, as well as showing support for their fellow students.

Termly team shout-out

1st XI Hockey

Well done for not only having a great start to the season, winning six out of eight matches, but also becoming Surrey Trophy Champions in October - without conceding a single goal in the tournament! Keep going girls! Make it your season!!!!

Motivational quote of the term

“Sports don't build character. They reveal it.”

John Wooden
American Basketball Player