

ST. PAUL'S SPORTS REPORT

St Paul's Academy Netball programme continues to go from strength to strength, and has done for the last 4 years. With a regular 15 - 20 girls from S1-S6 taking part in training sessions, friendlies and competitive festivals, it is no wonder they are always at the business end of the competitive format come this time of year! The current S1/2 girls have recently been crowned as Dundee Schools Sports Association (DSSA) Plate Winners, beating Morgan Academy and Grove academy to the title. The current S3/4 team have still to play in the DSSA Cup Finals, so tune in next time to find out how they fared. A big thank you goes out to Mrs Bovill who is team manager, kit woman, team motivator, refreshment supervisor etc. etc. and who's help and support is crucial to the running of the programme.

St Paul's Swimming clubs continue to be held on Tuesday and Thursday lunch times. Ran by our resident swimming instructor Mrs Burnett, the clubs are well attended by boys and girls of all ages. A new girls only session has been started on a Wednesday after school due to a number of girls citing lack of time for hair drying as a reason that they couldn't attend the lunch time clubs. This has proved to be a very successful move, with some 17 S1 and S2 girls attending the session over the past term. This extra session has been made possible due the support of a volunteer lifeguard from Abertay University as well as a number of female staff from across the school.

Badminton has proven to be a popular sports club this year at St Paul's with two separate session happening throughout the week. A lunch time club run by PSW Kim Pallas and an after school club run by Mrs Flynn has seen a regular 20+ pupils per week playing this fast paced sports. The culmination of these sessions has seen a staff and pupils mixed doubles tournament being held in the final two weeks of this term. This is the second year in a row that this tournament has happened, but this year being organised and ran by the pupils from the school's sports council. It has so far been an exciting tournament which will no doubt end in a nail biting finish as was the case last year. Tune in next time to find out who was victorious.

Football as ever is a popular sport within the school, with both boys and girls competing in citywide leagues and tournaments at various age groups. The Senior girls and U14 boys teams both competed in this year's Scottish Schools Cup but were unfortunately eliminated in the early rounds. Better luck next year. Futsal has become a popular variation of football for the S1/2 boys, who attend a lunch time club on a Friday. This also seen a select group from those who attend, take part in a city wide festival, testing their skills against teams from other schools with the finals tournament to be played at the DISC sometime in term 4.

In the new term Active Schools will continue to work with PE and wider school staff to further develop girls only activities to try and address the huge 'drop off' in girls physical activity levels which happens during their transition from Primary to Secondary. By expanding on current girls only activities, netball and swimming, both on a Wednesday, we hope to create a 'Girls Night' which will see a further 2 or 3 activities added to the timetable to tempt girls to take part.

