BADMINTON

1ST – BGS defeated by Wesley 10-2

This week was round 8 of the season, the second last round against Wesley College at 10am at Altona Badminton centre. Wesley College were stronger than usual this season, having a similar line up to last year, thus having the benefit of a number of boys with a season’s 1st competition under their belts. After the 8 singles matches, it was 1-7 to Wesley, with a win from first seed Kevin Sun. However, many of the games were extremely close, with 5 out of the 12 games being 3 setters. It was disappointing to lose 10-2 to Wesley, especially because there was only an 80 point difference combined across all 12 matches, against emphasising how important every point is in every match. We won 1 out of 4 doubles games (pair 1: Kevin Sun and Daniel Lee). I commend the boys for the hard work in preparation for this round.

2ND – BGS defeated by Haileybury 10-2

Even though the result might indicate otherwise, it was a close-fought match, with a number of close three-setters, in which the outcome could have gone either way. Despite being a player short, the BGS team fought hard against a very strong opponent. Particular praise should go to Jeremy Tian, Michael Chang and Angelo Lin, who all won their matches. In the end, despite our best efforts, Haileybury came out on top. Nevertheless, we look forward to our next match, as we keep improving.

4 RED – BGS defeated by St Kevins 8-4

CRICKET

1ST – BGS 82 & 6/207 defeated by Xavier 9/224

Last weekend the First XI returned to the Crowther Oval to face the Xavier, who, after coming off an uncharacteristic loss to Melbourne, needed to win outright in order to return to the top of the ladder. After being sent in to bat, we knew that it would be an incredible test to withstand the almighty Xavier bowling line-up, and unfortunately, due to tight bowling, we were rolled very quickly for 82. This left just over an hour to bowl on the Friday, with wickets to Hamish Dick and Nathan Murphy creating the opportunity for the unthinkable, but missed chances left Xavier to win on first innings, with the best part of five hours left to play.

After reaching 9/224, with the stand out performer with the ball being Jonty Leadbeater, taking an impressive 4/54, Xavier declared, leaving us to chase 143 runs and bat the rest of the day and to refocus our efforts on the processes we are trying to enact. In reply, our first three batsmen all were unflappable in their approach, with scores of 39, 42 and 58* to Matt Harris, Jack Munnings and Ben Durkin respectively leading the team to play out the rest of the day, ending Xavier's hopes of a premiership. This was a product of clearing our mind, working singles, building partnerships and pressure on the bowlers and punishing the bad ball. We have to make sure this is our template for batting each week.

This week we play Geelong College, with the match being a really good opportunity to perform well as a team in what is our second last game of the year.

2ND – BGS 112 defeated by Xavier 5/113

The 2nds travelled out to Kew for the game against Xavier. Won the toss thanks to the help of Tommy Kenny and chose to bat on a very green wicket. That was a mistake. We started off well thanks to some solid batting from Harry Osbourne and 1’s player Nick Knight but after that it was all downhill. The batters didn’t get the job done and the tail wasn’t wagging as we lost 6/24 and were bowled out for 112.

Still, over a 100 was a total to bowl at and picked our bowlers nipped out a few early wickets with Dec Adams and Hugo Butler and some great fielding support from Anthony Zimmerman. From there Xavs showed us how to bat under these conditions, making a solid partnership and past us in the 32nd over. In the end we were outclassed by a quality opposition. More partnerships and a greater contribution from all of our batting line up will give our strong bowling unit a greater chance of winning us games each week.
It was a gloomy Saturday morning when the Third XI cricket squad arrived in the middle of nowhere to take on the mighty Skevs army. Upon losing the all important toss, the Skeves sent the mighty tonners into bat, but we were not fazed, as we were all salivating at the prospect of witnessing two of the all time great batsmen, Will Roynic and Steve Alesi. After a solid first over off missing the ball by Roynic, Steve Alesi faced up for his first ball. We were anticipating great things, until he got bowled for a golden duck. When Roynic fell shortly after for a mere 2, we were really up the creek without a boat, let alone a paddle. Enter Tom Avadulous. The big six hitting machine was carving up the Skevs bowlers with superb shot placement, reminiscent of the golden days of Sir Don. He kept powering on, despite his fellow team mate’s rather mediocre efforts, with Bryson Konoroth, Charlie Fry, and Liam Farrell all getting dismissed for a combined total of five. Charlie Hicks played a nice supporting role for Avadulous, with a rather skilful twenty, before him, Tommy Kenny, and Luke Bottomly were all sent packing. Tom Ashman put up a good fight late on, with 16 before being run out, leaving the man of the moment Tom Avadulous not out on 42, and gave Skevs a target of 106 to win.

Despite this relatively small target, The BGS boys felt that they had the firepower in the sheds to break through the St Kevins defence. Tom Ashman opened the bowling with a very tight over of spin, along with the pace machine Tommy Kenny, who was redeeming himself after a poor bowling performance, only going for a single. Kenny soon got the all-important breakthrough wicket, and we had a glimmer of hope. Charlie Hicks then came into the attack, bowling some absolute meat pies with extra sauce, with the batsman saying “thank-you very much” as he helped himself to a boundary. However, Hicks’s soon found his rhythm, taking a very solid caught and bowled chance, before claiming his second victim in his very next over. The skipper Liam Farrell then decided to bowl himself, who despite his claims, was neither quick, nor accurate, hence he didn’t take any wickets. Henry McDowell then came into the attack, and after constantly hitting the right areas, the pressure got to the batsman, as he chopped it on to his own stumps. But Henry wasn’t done there. The very next ball, he bowls an absolute rip-snorter of a delivery, and the batsman was so scarred, he decided to leave the ball, which he instantly regretted as he watched it cannon into off stump, and bore you knew it, Hen-doggy-dog was on a hat trick. It was a great hat trick ball as well, flying through to Charlie Fry behind the stumps. There was a brief appeal for caught behind, but after going upstairs, hot spot confirmed that there was no bat involved, as the batsman sighed a sigh of relief that McDowell was out of the attack. Will Roynic also claimed his first wicket of the season, breaking up a solid St Kevins partnership after a quality catch by Tommy Kenny, however it was too little too late, as St Kevins went on to win the match by 4 wickets.

10A – BGS defeated by Xavier 6/132 – 7/150

On Saturday the 10A’s broke with APS and played a T/20 match against Xavier out at Barkers Rd. After a Summer of Big Bash the boys were keen impress with their own version of innovation defence and hard hitting. Xavier batted first scoring 150 off their 20 overs. Main wicket taker was the economical medium pace of Jasper Mutimer with 4/25. We got a solid start with openers Will Agius and Joel Crocker putting on almost 80 runs for the first wicket. Crocker has been in amazing form this season, if he’d only train more consistently...who knows where he may have played this season. While we kept the run rate ticking over in the second half of the innings, despite the fine contributions of the two openers plus Pryor, who also continued his fine season with the bat, we fell 10 runs short after the 20 overs. A great contest with 290 runs being scored for the day.

DIVING

On Saturday 27th February, the BGS diving team had the opportunity to compete at Caulfield Grammar. This, along with last week at Scotch, has been the first time in many years that the BGS team has placed in three different age groups, with Luca Jarvis winning the open division, Max Simic coming second in the under 15s and Ethan Gendala winning the under 14s. Great job to Matt Warrell and Harry Fisher for putting in a great effort and for displaying consistent improvement every week. We’re getting closer to the Finals at MSAC on Tuesday 15th March and the team is certainly ready for some great competition. Well done boys!

LAWN BOWLS

Punctual, organised, systematic, fulfilling and creative! And that was just the morning tea! To top it off both teams exposed significant flaws in opposition tactics to have two wins. The 1sts in Division 1 had a runaway 23-9 win leaving them on the precipice of a finals berth. They must win next week and win well hopefully slipping into 2nd spot. The 2nds had a great fighting win, 16-13, to move into second position and must now win their last game next week to advance to the Grand Final of Division 3. Well done to the players of both teams. The whisper around the Burwood rink is that schools will be gearing up this week to try to keep BGS out of the finals. Dangerous, unpredictable and every man for himself. No! not the team, just the parking arrangements around The Bowls Club. We doubled our attendance of parents last week to two, when Mrs. Mastromanno made a special appearance so its onwards and upwards this week. We may have to sell tickets.

There is a strong rumour that the Senior School Headmaster, Mr. Ray Swann will put in an appearance. Mr. Swann is a noted bandwagon (lucky charm) supporter on the eve of finals so ‘everyone loves a winner’; something that seemed highly unlikely when this long campaign started. Can’t beat that BGS fighting spirit.
TENNIS

1st – BGS defeated by Xavier 12-4

The BGS boys were back on home soil last week and after losing in a tight finish the week before we were going to give Xavier, who have been very strong this season, our best shot. From the outset it was clear that it would be a tough day for us, Xavier winning all but one match in the doubles, were Ricky Dong and Connor Hipwell proved too good for Xavier’s number 2 pair, winning 9-3. To come back and win from here was going to be hard going, but the boys put in a great amount of effort to try. Ricky was impeccable in his singles match winning 9-0 early on, which brought some confidence to the rest of the team. Daniel Abbott and Luke Sorensen also displayed some great tennis and ended up coming out on top as winners in their singles. Although we didn’t achieve victory in the end result our single’s wins proved that we can match it with the top schools like Xavier and hopefully our young side can start to improve our win loss record in both singles and doubles.

2nd – BGS defeated St.Kevin’s 10-2

Last Saturday the BGS Seconds Team took on Wesley College in what was a very interesting contest. Having lost two top four players, everybody had to play up and play opponents of a higher calibre than what they might have encountered in previous matches. After the completion of the doubles we had a comfortable lead, not dropping a set. The singles proved to also be more challenging, Eddie Bartlett-Bragg, played exceptionally well against a very high standard opponent who he defeated in a tight set to win 7-5. Despite singles being close there were a number of comfortable singles wins including Andy McGrath getting up 6-1, Arthur Xafis winning 6-2 and Sam Gross winning 6-3. Overall it was a great effort by the boys to get up against such a tough and persistent opponent and hopefully this form can be carry through into next week’s game against St Kevin’s.

3rd – BGS defeated St Kevins 7-5

It was quite a tense morning as it took a long time to take the lead but we finally got there. Nick Mennie put up a sterling effort against a ridiculously overqualified player and although he was not victorious there was no shame in his skill level. Ben Lawlor, exhibited nerves of steel facing his doubles victor, and retaliated with a victory of his own in the singles. James Barber and Nick Roberts put up good fights but were slightly outclassed on the day. Blake Hayes and Taka Fujwara, while appearing relaxed and even magnanimous towards their opponents, were victorious in both doubles and singles. Chris Gianna and David Lawlor also triumphed over their opponents. The pressure is now mounting to complete the season in triumph.

4th – BGS defeated Haileybury 12-0

With a tough loss to St. Kevin’s last week, the 4ths tennis boys were eager to bounce back from that defeat. Playing away at Haileybury Keysborough, the team arrived at 10 for a 10:30 only to discover that the opposition were one man down, giving us a one set advantage. However, despite the headstart, the boys showed no mercy as we dominated both singles and doubles, losing only one set overall. Honourable mentions go to Jack Carlson, Finn Campigli, George Bilionis, Jerry Lee, Patrick Dillon and Matt Atcheson for winning 6 sets 6-0 between them, while the rest of the team won their sets 6-1. This emphatic win was key in boosting the team’s morale as the 4ths look ahead confidently for the next game.

5th – BGS defeated by Xavier 5-7

After a series of exciting games against a strong Xavier side the BGS 5th unfortunately left Kew with a narrow lose. Important doubles wins by Lachie McLeod/Will Woodman 6-5, Evan Evans/Matt Webster 6-5 and Nick Parsons/Hamish Whillas 6-1 insured an early lead. However, singles wins by Will Woodman 6-0, Nick Parsons 6-1 and Hamish Whillas 6-4 were just not enough to insure the overall team victory.

6th – BGS defeated Haileybury 11-1

The sixths blitzed Haileybury on Saturday morning 11 sets 68 games to 1 set 19 games. This was partly due to our good line up of players and the fact that only 5 boys from Haileybury turned out to play. Those 5 Haileybury boys and their teacher were great though, and most played an extra set so that all our boys got a decent hit. Will Moore again had good placement with his shots and hit the ball just out of reach of his opponent on many occasions. Jacob Ni played solidly and sent some blistering unreturnable forehands towards his opponent. Well done to all our boys for their fine efforts.

10A – BGS defeated by Xavier 6 sets 47 games - 6 sets 49 games

In a change to form, BGS kicked off the day with dominance in the doubles, winning 3 sets to 1. The first pair of Tom Whitson and Brandan Duan teamed together exceptionally well to win their match 6-2. In the singles, BGS went to a 6 sets to 4 lead and victory seemed within our grasp. Tom backed up to win his singles 6-2. Other notable wins were recorded by Alex Grant by winning 6-0 (his maiden singles win in the team) and Azmain Kalitzki, whose improved recent play was on show in his 6-1 victory over his opponent. These gained us a good games advantage but Xavier’s use of a ten-man team meant it was not easy to predict the singles results and Xavier came back with some dominant wins. The two
game defeat left us inevitably thinking of the games we could have won but gave away too easily. It was a valuable lesson about the need to fight out every game irrespective of the expected outcome of each set.

9A – BGS defeated by Xavier 6 (53) – 6 (57)

Continuing his good form, Harry had only dropped 3 games from a total of 4 matches in the last 2 weeks. The boys showed great poise in the doubles with great hands at the net. Finishing level on both sets and games after the doubles, we couldn't get over the line at the end of the day only losing by a mere 4 games. Next week the boys have a well deserved break where they can refresh themselves physically and mentally, by hiking for 10 days across Victoria...we have played great tennis and it would be great to return and finish our season with a win.

9B – BGS defeated CGS 12-0

This week the 9B Brighton Grammar Team ended up winning with no sets lost in both singles and doubles against Caulfield Grammar. Some of our most outstanding performances in the doubles were Casper Tremlett and Jonty Wells winning 6-0, Frank Morris and Lewis Panauris winning 6-0. The biggest highlights of the day were when Tom Bartels and Gordon Chen played against Lachy for Caulfield who was an absolute comedian and provided entertainment for all the boys while he was playing his matches, firstly when he was going for a smash he usually commented about Star Wars. Some of our most outstanding performances in the singles were Sam Haddon winning 6-1 against a boy who tried to play like a professional and Spencer Nevett winning 6-3 in the number one position.

9D BLUE – BGS defeated by Xavier 6 (37) – 6 (52)

9D Blue had a frustrating Saturday, playing Xavier at Brighton Secondary. There were solid victories across the board, at least for those who showed up. We were short by three players and consequently forfeited five games in total, disappointingly losing the overall fixture. Josh Sum, had the closest game, snatching a 6-5 win from the opposition in his singles match, and Matt Downs, a first-time tennis player won 6-1. After we get back from Sea Change, we hope to ensure that the whole team shows up to training and more importantly, Saturday morning games.

SWIMMING

On Saturday the boys went down to Caulfield Wheelers Hill to swim against both Caulfield and MGS. Everyone swam well, but unfortunately it wasn’t enough to beat the opposition, coming in a close last with MGS just ahead and Caulfield taking the win convincingly. The year 8s had an outstanding performance, winning 4 of their 5 events and coming in close second for the other. Special mention to Luke Mathews who stepped up from middle school to fill in positions in many of the senior relays whilst still remaining very competitive. All of the other boys had quite a good performance, with personal bests being swum and giving the other schools quite a run for their money. We are now only a couple of weeks away from the APS finals; it is vital that we use our last two swims to prepare well and ensure we get as many points as we can on finals night; we have a great lead up event in the All School Relays and need to use this as a launching point for our finals. All boys should set themselves the goal of finishing ‘one place higher’ than they have been in events. In doing this we gain 50-60 points for the team. Last year tis would have been the difference between 5th and 7th place so we need to set our standards hard and cut off valuable seconds in every swim to ensure we finish as high as possible. See you Saturday at Carey.

TOUCH RUGBY

BGS 7 defeated Scotch College 0

BGS had a great mid-week win against Scotch College in Scotch College. Despite the scoreline, it did take BGS some time to find their rhythm and a number of scores did go “a begging” due to a lack of cohesion early on. Once BGS secured the early scores their structure improved and they began to create many more opportunities. It was a very special day for the team with two Year 8 boys, Jakub Williams and Christopher Valcanis making their debut, and what a debut it was with Chris scoring and Jakub going close.

BGS 9 defeated St Kevins 4

BGS secured a great win against St Kevins 2nd team to secure a spot in the finals. This was a must win game for the boys and it was great to see BGS respond to this pressure by playing their best game of the season. St Kevins were difficult to breakdown with their hard working defense keeping Brighton at bay during the initial exchanges. BGS were patient and did not panic. Instead they remained true to their game plan and played with structure and composure. Henry Moir and Oscar Donald led the team superbly, orchestrating the plays. Thomas Burns, the only Year 12 on the team, really stepped up in terms of performance and leadership and he inspired those around him. Next weekend will present new
challenges, however, this team is improving each week and they will continue to do so. Scorers for BGS were Henry Moir (5), Oscar Donald (1), Lennox Amatruda (2), and Tom Burns (1).