



## BEDFORD GIRLS' SCHOOL

### U13A National Schools Lacrosse, 14th March 2023

#### By Miss Hooker (PE Teacher)

Tuesday 14th March saw the U13 team head down to Aldershot at 05.30 and, whilst not quite awake, they were ready! It was a first time experience for the U13's who got to appreciate the scale of this incredible tournament.

We started the day against local opposition St George's Harpenden. It took us a little while to realise how short the matches were and therefore the need to score rather than pass the ball playing classy lacrosse. The fitness of our midfielders Kaia Blake, Sophie Chapman, Isobel Kerr, Caitlin Gill and Sienna Burger were key but it was Brooke Bendall that kept us in the game. We drew 1:1.

We then had to change pitches for the rest of the day and were up against Birkenhead who beat us 1:4. The defence were absolutely key. Nazor Onuekwusi, Christa Wall and Emma Wynne- Williams in particular were a force field in front of an on fire Brooke Bendall. It was a tough game, and a loss, but we learnt so much and this game set us up for the rest of the day!

The next two matches were against schools renowned for their lacrosse and they rallied. Jojo Standbridge, Rosie Brierley, Darcey Griffiths and Ava Brading worked well together to create space and challenge the defence with some beautifully placed shots. Whenever we lost the ball, the team showed grit and determination to turnover possession, the contact was safe and on the hips showing real progress in understanding and team tactics. We drew 2:2 with LEH and then 3:3 with Downe House. This meant we gained valuable points on the table.

Packwood Haugh was our last pool game and we had a convincing 4:1 win. Sophia Perkins had a fantastic game in attack showing maturity and a real understanding. Whilst Chloe Peck led the defence in voice and dynamic pressure.

The results took us through to the last 16, and the team were quite rightly thrilled. We faced tough opposition but as a unit everything clicked. The passing from defence, through to midfield and into an attack moving at full pace for a shot was hard for the opposition to mark. A goalie clear from Brooke Bendall, to Isabella Davis, through to Erin Lincoln who quickly moved it on to Ava Brading who then scored a corker of a goal, ensured all the parents on

the sidelines erupted with delight! We beat St James 5:1. The team were playing lacrosse to be proud of.

This took us to the quarterfinals where we faced a physical Haberdasher Aske's. The midfield kept their cool and put pressure on throughout. We were determined, calm and won 2:1.

In the semi finals we faced Wycombe Abbey and gave it everything we had. With our confidence high, our love of lacrosse intensified but our energy levels starting to flag, we got two yellow cards. It meant we spent 4 minutes of the match a player down and that was the tipping point. Wycombe Abbey, the eventual Tournament winners, beat us 1:3.

Whilst disappointed that we didn't come home with the silver ware, it was a great day of lacrosse and a fabulous team effort. Whilst we had some outstanding individual performances, it was a true team effort and the undeniable player of the day was Brooke Bendall.

### **U13A Team**

Brooke Bendall GK,  
Christa Wall, Chloe Peck, Nazor Onuekwusi, Isabella Davis, Isobel Kerr, Emma Wynn-Williams in defence,  
Kaia Blake, Caitlin Gill, Lily Willard, Sophie Chapman, Erin Linmcoln and Sienna Burger in Mid field,  
Sophia Perkins, Ava Brading, Rosie Brierley, Jojo Stanbridge and Darcey Griffiths in attack.

