



## **BEDFORD GIRLS' SCHOOL**

### **National Schools Lacrosse Tournament (19<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> March)**

#### **U19A National Schools Lacrosse**

##### **Mrs Mason-McLeod (Director of Sport)**

In the U19A tournament on Saturday, BGS faced Uppingham in their first match. In a tournament situation every game can be extremely competitive due to the shortened match style and the uneven pitches can make it a real leveller. BGS didn't start particularly well but competed to the very end, ensuring they picked up a win to kick start their journey to qualifying for the Championship on Sunday.

Only the top two teams across the seven sections are guaranteed a spot and this was a destination the girls were determined to get to. Next to play was Abbots Hill and after a much more polished performance and some great link up play in attack the U19As took the win 10-0. BGS went on to win against Godolphin, Cheltenham Ladies College and after a narrow loss to Wycombe Abbey 2-1 and a draw with Bolton School, it meant that BGS had finished second in their group and had qualified for the Championship competition on Sunday. This placed BGS in the top 16 schools in the country and was a superb achievement for the team.

Sunday involved a round robin competition against two schools who went undefeated all day on Saturday, Benenden and Queen Anne's, and St Swithun's School who had placed 2nd in their group. Matches were always going to be tough but BGS showed their class throughout and competed with the top lacrosse schools in the country. They did unfortunately lose to Benenden 4-1, Queen Anne's 2-1 and St Swithun's 4-2 but there was plenty of awesome lacrosse on display, most notably from our fabulous Lower Sixth goalkeeper Kierra Saloma.

As BGS finished in 4th place in their pool it meant we went on to play 1st place in another pool. This was to be Berkhamsted, who we had beaten at the South East Finals so we felt that anything was possible. The students were fired up and after a high quality warm up and some inspirational words from the coaches, the team stepped onto the pitch to face their opponents. It was end-to-end play with BGS having plenty of shooting opportunities but sadly on the day Berkhamsted were a force to be reckoned with and took the win 4-0. For the final five minutes of the game, every Upper Sixth player played together in what was to be their last competitive lacrosse fixture for BGS. These seven students have been totally committed to the lacrosse programme since they were in Year 7 and we would personally like to thank them for their commitment and enthusiasm throughout their time at BGS. They will be very much missed and we wish them well. Well done to all of the team for their hard work and awesome team play across the whole weekend.

Team: Kierra Saloma, Amy Kneller, Georgina Wright, Tash Miller, Freya Arnold, Sophia Gallagher, Meg Howlett, Mya Lakhan, Ella Mathews, Flo Miller, Scarlett Stokes, Ellie Castell, Liz Bruce (Captain), Ella Craven, Anna Mathew, Emily Perry and Scarlett Ames.