

Bedford Prep School – Y6, Y7 & Y8 Rugby Programme – Autumn Term 2020

Dear Parents,

Firstly, we would like to thank you all for your patience with the start of this term. We are aware that there have been some operational issues which have caused confusion and we can only apologise for this.

With inter-school fixtures cancelled until further notice, we do plan to organise intra (internal) school fixtures on Saturdays in the coming weeks. Indeed, we are trialling one of these sessions for selected players on Saturday 12th September. If this proves successful, we would like to open the session to all boys in these year groups, at which point coaches will post teams on the School's Sports website (I hope the first of these will be on Saturday 19th September). The overarching aim is to put together an enjoyable and fully inclusive programme of rugby, following the Guidelines set out by England Rugby. The format for these matches will be Ready4Rugby. Therefore, if your son is keen to take part, please encourage him to let his tutor know.

Groups: Our aim is for all boys to be playing at a level that is suitable and safe for them and it is of primary importance that boys enjoy their rugby experience. Consequently, if your son feels he is in the 'wrong' group, he should let me know as soon as possible to discuss this. Please be aware that due to the current guidelines, I may not be able to accommodate every request at this time. Naturally, staff will also be making professional judgements in relation to movement between groups.

The following information is for an unrestricted rugby term, with normal fixtures. However, I thought it best to share this information regardless, as it still contains useful information for the rugby season as it currently stands and for the future should we be able to have fixtures against other schools.

Kit (Please ensure all kit is named)

Training: Boots, School tracksuit, Reversible Rugby shirt, Blue shorts and socks

Match (against other schools): Boots, School tracksuit, Reversible Rugby shirt, blue shorts and blue socks

Both (when full contact only) Mouthguard – highly recommended. Contact equipment - optional. Water Bottle

Extra training opportunities:

School sport and sport in general has become ever more specialised and we have identified the need to make appropriate provision to help develop our athletes. With this in mind, we will be putting together a weekly programme of extra-curricular activities which will start from 14th September. Our aim is to have a programme that caters for boys of all levels and will allow them to reach their potential. A great deal of time and resources are dedicated each year to having this structure in place. We are confident this programme will be of great benefit to the boys' rugby and all-round athletic development. However, it must be a two way process and boys should attend some of the extra sessions if they are keen to develop in sport. We would also ask for your support from home, particularly in relation to diet and nutrition.

For Fixtures:

The school sports site will give you specific details of fixtures, results and teams lists (ONLY WHEN FIXTURES ARE RESUMED). The aim is to publish team lists 48 hours prior to a match. I think it is worth adding that we have a robust but very simple policy in relation to selection of teams:

- Staff will select purely on merit
- Staff will try to ensure that all boys get as much game time as possible, at the appropriate level
- Our philosophy around our Rugby programme can be summarised by the following points:
 - Safety and Enjoyment
 - Skill and game sense development
 - Appropriate / balanced fixtures
 - Assist boys to reach their potential (Every boy in every team is of equal importance)

We are fundamentally not results driven and absolutely believe that this aspect of our programme will take care of itself, given the systems and processes we have in place. We naturally aim to give the teams a balanced fixture programme at all levels.

I hope this goes some way to giving you some background and context to our programme, along with highlighting safety considerations. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me – sphillips@bedfordschool.org.uk