

IAPS Football Tournaments for U13 and U11 Boys

On Friday, the **U13 Boys' Football Team** travelled to Bishop's Stortford College for the IAPS East Regional Tournament. On a gloriously sunny morning the boys excelled themselves! A slow start versus Lockers Park landed them with a goalless draw and lots to consider, with 10-minute games, small pitches, and small goals, they needed to adapt. Game 2 saw more of the same and with some good last ditch defending, another 0-0 draw was seen as a good result versus a strong Edgeborough. Game 3 saw the boys click into gear, James R-B finding the back of the net twice sealed a strong 2-0 win versus The Beacon. We are all still feeling the effects of knockout football from the Euro 2020 final, so when the Quarter-Final versus New Beacon went to penalties, the boys' nerves were tested. With James and Nate finding the net (top bins may I add), Danil making a great save and another hitting the post they passed the test with flying colours. On to the semi-final where Aldwickbury awaited, a strong display saw us win 2-0 and make it to the final. Edgeborough were our opponents once again and in a close game that went to Golden Goal, a thunderous strike from their midfielder saw them win with seconds to spare and lift the trophy. An incredible achievement from the boys who have now qualified for the **National Finals** taking place at Culford on the 21st November and we wish them the best of luck as they pit themselves against the best in the country.

On Saturday, the **U11 Boys' Football Team** travelled to Bishop's Stortford College for their East Regional Tournament. The quality of football on display proved to be outstanding and a real test awaited. Scrapping through a 0-0 draw in the opening game versus Manor Lodge (the eventual winners) with some outstanding goalkeeping from Ollie Rowland the boys then faced another strong team in Berkhamsted. A tough game saw us outclassed by a very technical and talented side; however we were never outworked, and the boys always showed resilience, never allowing their heads to drop, and keeping positive, an attitude that saw us score a great goal in a 1-3 loss. A 1-0-win v Dame Bradbury in our last pool game saw us qualify for the plate Quarter Final v Heath Mount. The score line flattered the opponents ending in a 3-0 loss and the end of our day. I hope that the players learned a great deal from the day and will use the experience in future tournaments and festivals, they represented the school in exemplary fashion with their manners, sportsmanship and resilience, and should be proud of their achievements.

Mr Clayton-Smith
Teacher of Sport and Year 8 Tutor