

St Bernard's College Sports Newsletter



Welcome to our Sponsors and Community Sports Newsletter - Term 3

From national titles to local competitions, our students have done us proud, but it's the energy behind the scenes that makes it all possible. Whether you're coaching, volunteering, cheering from the sidelines, or just keeping tabs on every result. This newsletter is for you.

Term Highlight:

This term, our Intermediate AIMS basketball team made us proud by winning a national title, a major achievement. But at St Bernard's College, success runs deeper than just the scoreboard.

What truly sets our school apart is the strength of our community. Our volunteers are the heartbeat of sport at St Bernard's, showing up with passion, selflessness, and a deep belief in what our students can achieve.

This community has roots. Many of our students' parents once walked these same halls, some even sat in class together. Now, they stand shoulder to shoulder on the sidelines, cheering on the next generation. Some of our staff are former students too, and all of them show genuine care for our boys, following every result, every game, every setback and success with the same pride as a parent or teammate.

Sport at St Bernard's is more than a competition, it's a shared journey, shaped by legacy, fuelled by connection, and made stronger by the people who continue to believe in and support our young men every step of the way.

Terminology used in our newsletter

- Seniors = Year 11, 12, 13's
- Juniors = Year 9 & 10
- Intermediates = Year 7 & 8's
- CSW = College Sport Wellington



AIMS Basketball: Mr Bialy, Jason Love, Chontel Foley



Some of our amazing volunteers! Senior A Basketball Management: Hannah Cody, Josh Cody and Jordan Tenetikainga.
Absent: Michelle Nixon

Badminton

Badminton Achievements – Joby Brothers are on FIRE

Our Prem badminton team delivered an impressive season, along with achieving standout individual results at the College Sport Wellington One-Day Tournaments across both Junior and Senior levels.

Achievements:

- Jeese Joby (Year 9): 1st Place – CSW Regional Junior Champs. Jeese has stepped confidently into the spotlight, following in his brother's footsteps by claiming first place in the Junior Regional Champs. A huge achievement for a rising talent!
- Jovan Joby (Year 11): 1st Place – CSW Regional Senior Champs. Jovan continued his winning streak, defending his title and going back-to-back as Senior Regional Champion. Even having to beat his younger brother along the way! Jovan is proving to be a serious contender and one to watch in future seasons.

These exceptional results are a testament to the dedication, skill, and hard work these athletes continue to put in. We're incredibly proud of what they've achieved, and even more excited to see what's still to come.

Shoutout to Our Premier Players:

Special recognition also goes to Liam Baltazaar (Year 11) and Jonah Ah-Young (Year 8), who were key members of our Premier Team. Week in and week out, they had a crucial part to play in the CSW weekly competition.

As we celebrate our rising stars, we also take a moment to acknowledge and farewell two long-time contributors to SBC badminton: **Vishal Patel and Vansh Kumar (yr13's)**.

Both students have been dedicated badminton players for many years, consistently showing up with commitment, respect, and a genuine love for the sport. They've been outstanding role models, always reliable, supportive, and eager to help where they can.

Intermediates:

It's been another strong term for our Intermediates, with five teams proudly representing St Bernard's College in the development league run by Lower Hutt Badminton Hall.

This league continues to be a fantastic platform for our up-and-coming players, helping them grow their skills, gain experience, and build confidence on the court.

A huge thank you to all the parents and caregivers for your dedication and support, week in and week out. Your commitment plays a vital role in the development of our young athletes.



Basketball

Basketball Continues to Grow:

This year, we welcomed Josh Cody as our Basketball Director. Josh coached our Senior A Team and led development sessions on Sundays for our rising stars. Throughout the season, he took the time to connect with our students, understand our culture, and identify areas for growth in the years ahead. We appreciate the fresh ideas and improvements he brings, and we look forward to what's to come under his leadership.

We were proud to field **6 Intermediate teams, 6 Junior teams, and 5 Senior teams** this year, a solid increase from previous seasons and a reflection of the growing enthusiasm for basketball within our community.

Premiership Basketball

A big congratulations to both our Junior and Senior A teams for once again competing in the Premiership grade, a level we've consistently reached in recent years, though it is never guaranteed and certainly not easy.

One ongoing challenge we face is limited access to gym space, particularly with College Sport Wellington competitions running from Tuesday to Friday. This often leaves little room for teams to train during the week. As a result, our Sunday development sessions have become a vital part of our programme, ensuring players still receive quality coaching and court time.

Unfortunately, our Junior A team experienced a disrupted season. Due to a Sports Exchange clash, they were forced to default a key game, which pushed them down the standings. They ultimately finished in 7th place, a result that doesn't reflect the talent and potential within the team. With limited training opportunities, they weren't able to perform at their best, but we remain confident in what this group can achieve in the future.

Thank You to Our Basketball Community

We extend a huge thank you to the many volunteers who coach and manage our teams across the region each week, particularly on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Your time and commitment make it possible for our students to compete and grow through sport. A special thank you also to our **referees** and **scorebench** students. Every team we enter requires support staff, and we are lucky to have a dedicated and reliable roster of students stepping up each week to keep our games running smoothly. Your efforts are essential to the success of our programme.

Basketball cont.

Intermediates:

Once again, we met a need in our community by running our very own weekly Intermediate Basketball Competition. This competition brings some of the region's top-performing Intermediate schools to our courts, where they play full-length games refereed by our student officials. It ticks many boxes, providing students with proper game time, valuable experience, and a competitive yet supportive environment.

Our Intermediate A team had an outstanding season, winning both the Term 2 and Term 3 competitions for the second year in a row. It was also fantastic to see two other schools from our league, Maidstone and HIBS, perform strongly at the AIMS Games. This reflects the quality and impact of our weekly competition in preparing teams from across our area for major events.

Our Intermediate B team also competed in this league and showed impressive improvement from last year, picking up several wins throughout the season. Coached by student coaches and supported by a parent manager and assistant coaches, this team developed well and consistently rose to the occasion each week.

Four of our other Intermediate teams took part in the social grade competition at Walter Nash Stadium in Taita. This level of play focuses more on enjoyment and participation. The boys turned up each week with great energy, played in good spirits, and experienced both highs and lows, all backed by amazing support from their families. We're proud of their commitment and the positive attitude they brought to the season.



Intermediate A (AIMS) Team, winners of the SBC League. 2 years running



Green Team at Walter Nash, winning their final in overtime



Intermediate B Team, having some great victories through their season

Senior A:

The 2025 St Bernard's Senior A Basketball team had a roller-coaster season full of highs and lows. Trials began in February, and a squad of 15 players were selected to go through the preseason process. The CSW 3x3 Tournament was the first tournament for the preseason. The squad was split into three teams, with one making it through to their semifinal. The boys did a great job of using this tournament as a chance to develop chemistry and display skill. Trainings continued as the squad built towards the final preseason event, the Silverstream Preseason Tournament. All 15 players competed in this tournament and did an excellent job with the very limited minutes given due to the size of the squad.

Following this tournament, the final squad of 10 players were named to begin the CSW season with the team selected Te Ao, Nic, and Mabei as the leadership group. Due to last season's placings, the first grading game was a loss against a tough HIBS squad. The teams back no against a wall, needing wins from their next two games to qualify for the premier division, the boys responded with a dominant win against Wellington High School. The final grading game came against Mana College. The St Bernard's boys came out successful on the day beating them eventual division one champs, displaying true grit and heart, and asserted themselves as a deserving premier team.

The team struggled through sickness and several injuries throughout the CSW season. Some successes were a close loss to last year's national champions, Wellington College, as well as a decisive win over Newlands College. At the end of the College season, the boys finished with an 8th placing, not what we initially had hoped for, but still two places improved on the previous season.

Joshua Cody
Director of Basketball



Football

Senior 1st XI:

The 1st XI football team faced a season full of setbacks, challenges, and growth. With many senior players graduating, a fresh group of Year 11s made up the bulk of the squad. Adding to the difficulty, long-serving coach Paul had to step down before the season even began due to unforeseen circumstances. The school quickly appointed a new coaching team – myself (Terry Lynch), Matt Crighton (Co-Coach) and Johnny Austin (Manager). Balancing club commitments for the coaches meant the squad often rotated between games and training sessions with the coaches, leaving little time to prepare for the season.

Despite this, the team entered the year with optimism. Early grading games showed promise, with narrow defeats (2–0 to Scots College and 3–1 to Heretaunga, both decided by late goals). However, confidence soon dipped, and after losing the remaining grading matches, a spot in Reserve Grade slipped out of reach. The squad regrouped and set its focus on Premier Division 1.

Injuries added further challenges, with several players from outside the 1st XI stepping up. A standout was Year 10 student Rylie, who impressed on debut and later earned a place in the tournament squad.

The hunt for that elusive first win continued deep into the season. With four games left, the breakthrough finally came in the form of a dramatic 3–3 comeback draws against Scots College. The following week, the team put top-of-the-table Aotea College under immense pressure, going into halftime just 1–0 down. A deserved equaliser after the break seemed to spark a turning point, but two quick goals against the run of play swung momentum. Despite 60 minutes of dominance, the match ended 7–1 – a cruel reflection of the effort on display.

With a lengthy injury list, the coaches considered cancelling the final fixture. But the players, determined to end the season on a high, insisted on taking the field once more. In their third meeting with Scots College, the lads fought in a thrilling end-to-end encounter. A late winner from Declan sealed a 4–3 victory – the team's first win and a moment of immense pride. This season was marked by resilience, character, and learning. While results didn't always reflect the true quality of the squad, the growth was undeniable. With the right coaching and guidance, this young group will be a force to be reckoned with in the years ahead.

A special mention goes to Ashtun, who reached his 50th cap for St Bernard's College – a remarkable achievement. Congratulations, and thank you for your contribution to the team.

Terry Lynch
Head Coach

We'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Terry for stepping in to coach this season. Although his appointment came late, he embraced the role with dedication and made the season work. We truly appreciate his commitment and the positive impact he had on the team.



Congratulations to Ashtun Lake (yr13), who recently played his 50th match for the St Bernard's College 1st XI. Starting his 1st XI journey back in Year 10, Ashtun has been a consistent and committed presence on the pitch. Over the years, he's not only grown as a player but has truly left his mark on football at SBC. Well done, Ashtun, a fantastic achievement and a legacy to be proud of!

A huge thank you to our Year 13s, dedicated footballers and great mates, who have given so much to football at St Bernard's College:

Ashtun Lake, Tommy Avery, Aaron Conway, Jayden McLean, Jonty Taylor, and Sam Whiley.

Your commitment, leadership, and passion for the game have made a lasting impact on the team and the wider SBC football community. You've worn the jersey with pride, and your presence both on and off the field will be missed.

All the best for your next chapter, you'll always be part of the SBC football legacy.



Senior 1st XI Team

Football cont.

Junior 1st XI:

This year our junior first XI was a squad of 17 talented young players. Six of the squad were year 9s and eleven were from year 10. We started our grading games strong, with a 14-0 victory over St Pat's Town. The next grading game was against a Wellington College team. They exposed our vulnerability to fast, powerful strikers and beat us 5-0. Our final grading game was against Newlands College, who we beat 8-2.

After grading, we were placed in division 2. Our first round-robin game was against the same Wellington College team that beat us in grading. This time we were aware of their strengths and were able to set up appropriately. We beat them 5-1. Our next game was against Wellington High School. We were missing several key players to illness, and despite making a late comeback to get the score to 3-2, we lost 4-2. We played Scots College next and scored a late goal to win a tight game 1-0. Next, we beat Upper Hutt College 14-2, in a game where one of our strikers, Jacob Greally, scored seven goals. Our next opponent was Tawa College at home. We had a strong first half and were up 3-2 at half-time, unfortunately the wheels fell off in the second half and we lost 8-4. Our final round robin game was against the Wellington College year 9 first XI. They were another team with a dominant striker, who combined pace, skill and good finishing and was a real handful for us to contain. He scored four goals and set up the other one, and we lost 5-0.

At the end of round-robin we were placed fourth on the table and were scheduled to play a semi-final against the first placed team, Wellington High School. In the first half of this game, we played some of our best football of the season. We moved the ball quickly and cohesively and went 3-0 up within 25 minutes. Wellington High were awarded a penalty just before half-time and converted it, to take the score to 3-1 at half-time. In the second half we kept our heads, worked incredibly hard and defended doggedly to win the game 4-3. We were in the final. Our opponents were the Wellington College High School year 9 first XI. Unfortunately, one of our key midfield players, Lars Meyer-Westfield, was away in Rarotonga, so we had to reshuffle our midfield and defence to adjust. We started the final strong and dominated territory and possession but couldn't quite get the ball in the net. The striker that caused us problems the first time we played them started to get into the game, won a penalty, converted it, and scored another goal. We went into half-time 2-0 down and the boys looked shell-shocked. If we had scored a goal early in the second half we may have turned things around. We didn't, and they scored a couple more goals in quick succession. The 4-0 scoreline did not reflect how close the game had been.

Michael and I were incredibly proud of how the boys played this season. They were a pleasure to coach. Special mention to the following boys. Mason Achari for his incredible work-rate and athleticism at left-back. Jacob Greally and Rylee Page, our top goal scorers, scoring 21 and 8 goals respectively. They gave us cutting edge in attack and are both year 9s. Lars Meyer-Westfield was immense in midfield, winning ball and then initiating attack with exceptional skill and work-rate. Everyone in the squad played their part and made it a great team to be involved with.

Damien Cleland
Head Coach



Junior 1st XI Team

Flag

The Yr 7 and 8 Flag Football team competed in the NFL Flag regional competition in Week 9. After lots of practice under their belts, they were primed and ready to take on the best the Lower North Island had to offer. Our first game was up against Oxford Crescent School. It was a closely fought game with the team sealing a victory in the final minutes. Next up was Whakarongo School. The team hit their stride and came away with a convincing win. Hutt Intermediate were out next challenge. We had played them in the previous weeks and come up short both times. They were looking dominant and handed us our first loss.

A good chance to reflect on what needed to change meant we came out firing against St Josephs to secure our place in the semi's. After a repeat against Oxford St, we were up against our rivals Hutt Intermediate in the Finals. We had lots of support from the other schools to try and take down the defending champions. Again they proved too dominant and took out the competition. Our team was gutted. We took a lot on board and reflected on what areas we needed to improve and using this loss as fuel for future games.

During the prizegiving Hutt were celebrated as champions, but they also announced that the top 2 will be going to Nationals! The team has an amazing opportunity to compete against the best in NZ at NZCIS on October 31st. They will be staying on site, get to meet NFL players, get their own kit and experience a professional team environment.

The winners of the tournament get to compete in the USA in January. We've got some work to do, but can't wait for the challenge!

Jonny Hewson
Head of PE and Flag Coach



Hockey

The St Bernard's College 1st XI competed in the Secondary Premier Hockey League (SPHL) P3 Boys division in Wellington. We welcomed four new year nine players and three players from St. Patrick's Silverstream along with ten returning players. The squad came together quickly as a team and showed resilience, growth, and a strong sense of camaraderie from day one.

The team were led by our Captain Liam Taylor and Vice-Captain Finn Jones and were unbeaten over the fourteen round robin P3 grade season ending up top of the table heading into finals. The semi-final was a tight win over Whitby Collegiate. The final against Wellington College ended in a draw and went to penalty shoot outs which we narrowly lost.

A highlight of the season was the inter-regional fixture against Francis Douglas Memorial College 1st XI, who compete in the Taranaki Hockey Association Premier 1 Boys division. The match was more tightly contested than in recent years and served as a valuable opportunity for players to test themselves against a high-calibre opponent.

At the start of the season we recognised five players who had reached the milestone of 50 caps for St. Bernard's 1st XI – Liam Taylor, Kurtis Hyman-Nyberg, Riel Curato, Cristopher Ellis and Finn Jones. During the season we welcomed Calum Faulkner to the 50 cap group and celebrated the tenacity of Liam Taylor who reached 100 caps for the 1st XI.

We would like to thank our amazing coaching duo – Sam Jones and Kit Taylor and our sponsor – Mortgage Advice Company. Along with all the parents who have generously supported the team this year and turned up in all weathers to cheer the boys on.

Cath Taylor
Manager



Our 1st XI Hockey team, vs Francis Douglas at the Founders Cup Tournament

Rugby (Nick Risdon, Rugby Director)

SBC Rugby – Term 3 Wrap Up

Term 3 marked the closing of another exciting rugby season at St Bernard's College, with our players, coaches, and supporters all contributing to a memorable campaign. Across the grades, the commitment and passion for SBC Rugby shone through, reinforcing our identity as a proud rugby school, which punches above its weight.



Rugby cont. (Nick Risdon, Rugby Director)

On the Field

We were proud to field 9 teams across various grades, including 5 teams in CSW competition plus U14 and U15 Hurricanes Tournament teams, a Year 7 and 8 1st XV and our AIMS Games 7's team.

160 players from Years 7 to 13 played rugby for SBC in some capacity, meaning almost 1 in every 4 students play rugby. It has been fantastic to see so many of our young men representing the College, with strong numbers across grades showing that the future of SBC Rugby is in good hands.

Congratulation to our U65 team who convincingly won the U65 Div 3 grade.

Also noting the 1st XV lost only one of their 6 traditional fixtures in 2025.

1st XV Caps

The following players earned their 1st XV cap during the 1st XV season: TJ Fonoti, Wairangi Manaiapoto, Taika Cross, Arlo Cross, Peteru Leaupepe, Angus Little, Lachlan Wallis, Orlando Sakalia, Ryder Toheriri-Tangipo, Kavell Manaia, Tyler Shaw, Finlay Bosworth and Nikau Rangiwetu.

Caps are awarded for playing in 5 traditional games, and are source of great pride.



Representative Player Honours

We are also proud to acknowledge players who earned representative honours this term. Their selection is a reflection not only of individual ability, but also the hard work and support of teammates, coaches, and families.

Wellington U16 Maori: Tenakee Love, Kavell Manaia and Rico Lomano

Wellington U18 Maori: Kingston Wright, Wairangi Manaiapoto and Tai Mariri

Wellington U18 Samoan: Lui Perez and Jesse Smith

Rugby cont.

(Nick Risdon, Rugby Director)

Community and Support

The success of rugby at SBC is built on the strong support of our community. A huge thank you must go to our coaches, managers, and volunteers who give countless hours to ensure our boys can train, play, and enjoy their rugby.

1st XV: Stephen Cross, Lee Bosworth, Siu Anae, Pat Tangipo and Elia Fonoti

2nd XV: Iafeta Matalasi, Gareth Connell-Smith, August Collins, Clayton Durham and Jennifer Goodwin

3rd XV: Ese and Tania Latu

U15's: Chris Molenaar, Mitch Bialy and Marlene Hearn

U65's: John Emery, Nicola Matenga plus student coaches Angus Little, Tyler Shaw, Kori Gibb and Nic Ernst

U15 Hurricanes: Justin Wilson, Khya Wilson and Dan Faisandier

U14 Hurricanes: Chris Molenaar, Mitch Bialy and John Emery

Year 7/8 1st XV: Simon Malaelulu, Polonga Pedro, Dan Mellon and Jason Love

AIMS Games 7's: Nick Risdon and Anna Ellis

We also extend our gratitude to families and whānau for their unwavering sideline support throughout the season.

We are also extremely grateful to our rugby sponsors, whose generosity and ongoing support make a significant difference to the success of our programme. Their contribution helps provide our players with quality equipment, resources, and opportunities to thrive both on and off the field.



Looking Ahead

While the 15-a-side season has wrapped up, our rugby calendar isn't over just yet. We have teams representing SBC at upcoming Sevens tournaments in Term 4, which will provide another exciting opportunity for our players to test themselves against strong opposition.

- Sat 4th Oct, Te Mana o Porirua 7s Festival, U15's
- Mon 27th Oct, Wellington School's Sevens (Condor Qualifying), U15's/U18's
- Sat 1st Nov, Hurricanes Youth Rugby Council Sevens Tournament U18's
- TBC, Hurricanes Region Year 9 and 10 Sevens tournament, Year 9/10

Looking further ahead, our focus now shifts to preparing for 2026. Planning is already underway for pre-season and player development opportunities to ensure SBC Rugby continues to thrive.



Mixed Netball

Another great year at the CSW Mixed Netball Tournament!

A big thank you to Sacred Heart College for organising and including our boys in the team. The tournament was played in great spirit, and our students had an awesome time getting involved, showing teamwork, and having fun on the court.

We always enjoy opportunities like this that bring schools together and give our students new ways to connect through sport.



Swimming

The school championships were once again held in Term 3. An enthusiastic group of 16 competitors competed at the newly opened Te Ngaengae Aquatic Centre. It is to be hoped that with this new facility our numbers of competitive swimmers can increase. Competition was strong in the three categories – Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 to 13.

Jack Owens and Toby Mellon dominated the Year 7 competition with Jack narrowly winning the overall championship at that level.

Ryan Fisher and Caid Holmes pushed each other hard in the Year 8 competition with Ryan the eventual winner.

In the Year 9 to 13 category the experience of recent competitive swimming saw Nathan Travers a comfortable winner from Ben McCullough with Jacob Win coming in a close third.

With good numbers in Year 7 and 8 we were once again able to enter the Lower Hutt Primary and Intermediate regional competition. There were some pleasing results (listed below) and an excellent opportunity to once again form a relationship with Ss Peter and Paul School by entering two joint relay teams. The highlight being a second place in the Year 8 competition.

Result highlights:

Caid Holmes (Year 8) 3rd 25m Freestyle and 3rd 50m Freestyle

Ryan Fisher (Year 8) 3rd 25m Breaststroke and 4th 50m Freestyle

Toby Mellon (Year 7) 1st 25m Breaststroke and 3rd 25m Butterfly

Jack Owens (Year 7) 3rd 50m Freestyle and 1st 25m Freestyle

David Housden
Swimming Convenor



Water Polo

Senior

The senior team started the season strongly with a convincing 10–8 win over HIBS. They continued to play well throughout, with some close games against tougher opposition. The highlight of the season was a hard-fought draw against Palmerston North Boys' High School, who have won the competition every year since 2020. That game really brought out the best in every player, with the whole team digging deep to secure a much-deserved result against one of the top sides in the competition.

Junior

Our juniors dived into bonus game time in Term 3 with an extra Wednesday night competition hosted by Hutt Club. It was the perfect chance to sharpen skills and build confidence ahead of the CSW competition in Term 4.

The players showed individual improvement, and teamwork really started to click. The season built to a nail-biting finale: a showdown for first place against HVHS. With the score drawn in the final minutes, the game went to a penalty shoot-out... which ended in yet another draw! The drama continued into a sudden-death shoot-out. Hearts were racing on the sidelines as both teams held their nerve, but one narrow miss meant we had to settle for second place.

Even without the title, the competition was a huge success, giving our juniors a taste of high-pressure play and a heap of momentum for the regional competition in Term 4.

Year 7 and 8

Our Year 7 and 8 team was able to get consistent game time throughout Terms 2 and 3. In Term 2 we played in the local A grade competition against local schools and the Hutt water polo club. The team was mainly made up of Year 7 students who had limited exposure to water polo previously. We had a couple of experienced players from Year 8 who provided great leadership. In Term 2 we were highly competitive and won the third and fourth playoff against St Orans.

In Term 3 we fielded a more inexperienced team and eventually competed in the B grade. The team performed admirably and narrowly lost in the final to the unbeaten Ss Peter and Paul team. It was excellent to see the commitment from the team in terms of training and a willingness to learn.

Thank you to our coaches and managers for all their time and dedication.

David Housden
Water Polo Convenor



Winter Tournament Week

Winter Tournament Week is one of the 2 biggest College sporting event on our sporting calendar. It is when Colleges from around the county travel and compete in various divisions for their respected codes.

Thank You, Alo Faamoe – Leading Our Tournament Campaigns

A huge thank you to Alo Faamoe, who joined the Sports Office this year and has taken on the key role of organising major tournaments for our school. We truly appreciate the time, coordination, and behind-the-scenes effort it takes to ensure our teams are prepared, supported, and able to compete across the country.

This term, four teams travelled away for tournament week, with rugby also competing locally. These experiences are invaluable for our students, and it wouldn't be possible without strong organisation and support.

- Senior A Basketball – Regional Tournament in Napier
- Premier Badminton – NZSS Championships in Porirua
- Hockey 1st XI – Lower North Island Founders Cup in the Wairarapa
- 1st XI Senior Football – Jim Wishart Tournament in Christchurch

Football Report:

The Jim Wishart Tournament is one of the premier secondary school football events in New Zealand. The last time St Bernard's College competed in this Christchurch-based tournament, the team lifted the trophy after defeating Paraparaumu in the final. This year, after months of hard work and fundraising – with special thanks to Johnny Austin and Mairead Conway for their support – the squad flew south ready to test themselves against some of the best.

Despite a tough season (one win and one draw), the boys arrived with optimism and determination. The strongest team to watch was Onslow College, a Premier Division side and clear tournament favourites.

Group Stage:

Day 1 saw narrow losses to St Andrew's (0–2) and Whanganui Collegiate (0–6), the latter a fiery contest marked by two red cards. The squad regrouped on Day 2 with impressive wins against Nayland College (5–3) and Buller (6–1). On Day 3, the final pool match against hosts Rolleston College ended in a 0–2 defeat. The group stage closed with two wins and three losses, placing SBC in the 9th–16th playoff bracket.

Knockout Stage:

The quarter-final against Waimea College proved to be one of the games of the season. Twice coming from behind, the lads secured a 2–2 draw. With our goalkeeper sent off late, Jayden McLean bravely stepped up to wear the gloves for the penalty shootout. Calm finishing from Josh, Ashtun, Harper, and Tommy gave us the edge, while Jayden's crucial saves sealed a dramatic victory and progression to the next round.

Day 4 brought a controlled 2–1 win over Hillmorton High, highlighted by a strong defensive display and the milestone of Ashtun reaching his 50th cap for St Bernard's College. This set up a final clash with Rolleston once more. In windy conditions reminiscent of Wellington, the team battled hard, equalising in the second half after an early setback. Despite their determination, a moment of brilliance from a Rolleston player sealed a 1–2 defeat.

Final Standing:

SBC finished 10th overall, recording 4 wins, 4 losses, 19 goals conceded, 16 scored, and 3 red cards. More importantly, the squad displayed immense resilience, teamwork, and spirit both on and off the field. The trip was full of laughter, hard battles, and proud moments, with the players representing the school with respect and pride.

In a twist of fate, St Andrew's – the very side that had beaten us 2–0 in the group stage – went on to defeat Onslow College in the tournament final. It left our lads with a lingering sense of "what if?" but also a deep pride knowing they had shared the pitch with the champions and pushed themselves to their limits. (cont.)

Player Highlights:

- Jayden McLean – Stepped up as stand-in goalkeeper during the Waimea penalty shootout, pulling off crucial saves that secured progression.
- Josh – Delivered with vital goals during the tournament, showcasing composure under pressure.
- Ashtun – Reached his 50th cap for SBC against Hillmorton, an outstanding achievement and a testament to his commitment.
- Tommy – Slotted home a memorable penalty with trademark composure and confidence.
- Rylie (Year 10) – Continued to impress in his first tournament appearance, proving he has a bright future ahead.

Terry Lynch
Head Coach

Thank You to the teams Major Sponsor – Dynamite IT Solutions

A heartfelt thank you to Fraser and the team at Dynamite IT Solutions for their generous sponsorship of jackets, pants and bags for our travelling team.

The players felt proud wearing the SBC colours and gear, it added a real sense of unity and professionalism as they represented the college at their respective tournaments.

Your support makes a tangible difference, and we are truly grateful for your contribution to the success and pride of our teams.



Badminton Report:

Competing in the Premier Division against some of the best schools in the country was never going to be an easy ask, and it proved to be a real test of depth, experience, and consistency at this top level.

While we may have lacked the depth of larger, more established badminton schools, our boys did us proud. They held their own against some of the tournament's strongest teams, including those who went on to win.

They showed grit, determination, and sportsmanship throughout, often surprising their opponents and even winning matches we weren't expected to win. At times, we were more than just competitive, we gave top teams a real run for their money.

Beyond the scores, our players made new friendships, built respect with others, and even turned heads, with some opponents asking where our school was located. They put SBC on the map.

This tournament was not just about results, it was about growth, experience, and pride in representing the College at the highest level. Badminton is a sport that blends individual brilliance with teamwork in doubles, requiring strategy, focus, and mental strength. Our students showcased all of that and more.

Overall, a fantastic experience, one that will hopefully inspire our players and strengthen our programme moving forward.

Hockey 1st XI Report: - Wairarapa (Founders Cup)

St Bernard's participated in the Founders Cup, part of the Tier 3 national secondary school tournaments hosted by Hockey Wairarapa. This was the first time St. Bernard's has sent a hockey team to tournament for some years. Held from 25 to 30 August, the tournament featured teams who play in the top premier competitions in their regions. The team played multiple matches over the week, gaining valuable experience and exposure to some high calibre oppositions. The tournament was a highlight of the season, with several players stepping up in key moments and demonstrating leadership under pressure. Our goalie from St. Patricks Silverstream – Travis Pinchin – was nominated by opposing teams as our player of the tournament, with nominations also being given to Liam Taylor and Tom McIntyre.



Yr13's: Calum Faulkner, Riel Curato, Liam Taylor, Kurtis Hyman-Nyberg

Basketball Senior Report:

Regionals is a stepping stone to the National Qualifying Tournament and two Senior B players, Seb and Tyller, joined the team to represent us in Napier. The tournament was another mixed bag for the team. The boys battled through a difficult pool, with every game being a close one that the team stayed in until the 4th quarter, impressive considering we had two national qualifying team from our pool. Day 3 of the tournament, several players were dealing with nagging injuries as well as a bug that had begun to make its way through the team. Despite this, the boys finished the tournament with two comfortable wins, with the five year 13 players able to finish their time together with victories. The St Bernard's Basketball programme is in a great position to continue to build over the next few years.

I want to acknowledge the year 13 leavers, Te Ao, Mabei, Nic, Akol, and Cadan for their contributions to this team and to St Bernard's Basketball. I would especially like to thank Jordan T and Jordan D for their support as assistant coaches, Michelle for her incredible support as team manager, Hannah for taking the reins from Michelle at regionals, and finally, Wendy, for all her constant support.

Joshua Cody
Director of Basketball



Year 13's: Cadan Nixon, Nic Ernst, Akol Ater, Te Ao Campbell-Evans, Mabe Makoii



Thank you to everyone involved!

AIMS Games

The AIMS Games, held annually in Tauranga, is the largest intermediate sports event in Australasia, with over 14,000 competitors from 431 schools, including international teams. A big thank you to the organisers for running such a massive and well-coordinated event.

We're incredibly proud of our SBC athletes. With just 180 intermediate students, they continue to punch above their weight, competing with pride and determination on a national stage.

Basketball

AIMS Games Champions – 10 Games, 10 Wins, 1 Unforgettable Journey

Our Intermediate Basketball team entered this year's AIMS Games with the benefit of experience and a strong foundation, thanks to the returning management team of Coaches Jason Love and Mitch Bialy, along with Manager Chontel Foley. This trio knew exactly what was required to prepare the team, and they left no stone unturned.

Over 2.5 terms of preparation, training twice a week, and competing in both our SBC Basketball League and the Wellington League, the team steadily built their skills, chemistry, and belief. But what stood out most was the positive culture the coaches and manager built, one of unity, respect, and relentless drive. That culture became the foundation of something truly special.

And the results? 10 games. 10 wins. Undefeated champions. From the buzzer-beater semi-final that went viral, to a dominant final performance, this team made a statement on the national stage.

What made it even more special was how they brought their whānau and community with them every step of the way. From fundraising efforts before the tournament to helping around the accommodation during the event, this was more than just a sports trip, it was a shared journey of pride, commitment, and connection.

This incredible campaign brought massive excitement and pride not just to the team, but to the entire St Bernard's College community.

This team didn't just win a title, they represented the heart of St Bernard's College.

He angitu mā te kotahitanga, te moemoeā me te mahi ū
Success through unity, vision, and hard work



Football

The AIMS football team of 2025 impressed me both on and off the field, with exhilarating highs and heartbreaking lows. Going into the tournament we had played two pre-season games with the highlight of beating HIBS AIMS team 4-1 in front of our school. The comprehensive win against HIBS gave myself and the team large amounts of confidence as we traveled up to Tauranga.

After finishing third in the group stage to a last minute leveler against Royal Oak intermediate, we were disappointingly placed in the second division moving into the knockout stages. The boys showed great resilience and determination as they didn't let this stop them from going out and showing schools from all over the country what we are capable of. We ended up placing 3rd in division 2 and 35 out of 74 overall.

I was lucky enough to coach an amazing group of young men and I am very excited for them to represent SBC football for years to come.

Jonty Taylor
Coach (Yr13)



Rugby Sevens

This year's AIMS Games Rugby 7s team headed up to Tauranga with plenty of energy and excitement. For most of the boys it was their first time at the tournament, with only one having been before, so it was all a new experience.

We built up to AIMS games with a tournament in Whanganui and local games against Bishop Viard and Maidstone Intermediate. Captains Azzy and Zak did a great job leading the team, both on and off the field.

Our pool was always going to be tough – it included two teams that went on to make the semifinals (and one who eventually won the whole thing). Results-wise, we didn't get as many wins as we'd hoped for, but the boys never gave up and showed heaps of heart and determination in every game.

Away from the field, the team really clicked. Whether it was swimming at the pools and hot pools, rugby at the beach, trying the driving range and sliding down the skate ramp, or cheering on other SBC teams, the boys had plenty of laughs and fun together.

A massive thanks to Nick Risdon for coaching, and to all the parents who kept the boys fed and supported on the sidelines. The positive energy around the team was huge and helped make the week an awesome experience.

Anna Ellis
Manager



Mountain Biking

Year 7 student Jagger Lawn competed at the AIMS Games for the first time this year, and he did not disappoint. Mountain biking takes serious strength, fitness, and technical skill, and Jagger brought all of that to the course.

Over two days, he took on two tough events:

- Cross Country – An impressive 6th place out of 78 riders
- Enduro – Placed 32nd out of 72 riders

With the solid support of his whānau and a strong debut behind him, something tells us this is just the beginning.

Watch this space — Jager is only going to get better from here!



Badminton

For the second year in a row, Jonah Ah-Young represented St Bernard's College at the AIMS Games badminton competition, wrapping up his final round of intermediate competition with experience, grit, and composure.

Jonah, who also plays in our Premier Badminton Team, came into the tournament more prepared than ever and showed real growth on and off the court.

He played 7 matches, finishing with 4 wins and 3 narrow losses, including two close games that went right down to the wire. Well done, Jonah, your future in badminton is looking bright!



AIMS Sportsmanship Team Awards



Basketball: Isaiah-John Simpson



Rugby Sevens: Levi Wrathall & Ezra Timoteo



Football: Mahaki Brown

WHAT TO LOOK FORWARD TO

SPORTS PHOTOS

Wednesday 8th October in the school Gym. Look sharp, well presented and bring any medals or trophies you won through the year!!

SPORTS AWARDS

Wednesday 22nd October at 7pm in the school Gym. Join us as we celebrate the individual achievements of our athletes across all codes.

It's a night to reflect on a fantastic year of sport at SBC, everyone is warmly welcome!

JUNIOR TOURNAMENTS:

Term 4 is all about our Junior students as our Seniors prepare for exams! Keep an eye out for: League 9's, Rip Rugby, Ki O Rahi, Kilikiti, Volleyball, 3x3 Basketball, Golf, Tennis, Futsal, Touch, Bowls and Softball!

The fun never ENDS

Special mention to Vishal Patel (@07vishalp, Year 13), Manuel Herrera (@manny.flickies, Year 11), and Gus Counsell (@captured_by_gus, Year 9), three talented and dedicated budding photographers and videographers. Working alongside our Sports Office, they capture sporting moments from around the grounds and share them on our Instagram and Facebook pages. We truly appreciate their creativity, commitment, and the valuable contribution they make to promoting sport at St Bernard's.

Make sure you're following our socials to stay updated with all the latest news, results, and highlights.

Instagram & Facebook: @sbc183sport

Kind regards

Wendy Tukapua

Director of Sport
St Bernard's College

LOVE GOD, LOVE SELF, LOVE OTHERS



THANK YOU!

Each year, we ask our players and their families to find Individual Sponsors to help them get to the Summer/Winter and AIMS Games Tournaments. Thanks to your generosity, our families are supported, and in some cases, our teams are even able to receive extra gear.

We truly appreciate your support, THANK YOU!



8 PLAYER EXPECTATIONS

WHAT DO WE TEACH OUR PLAYERS IN SBC SPORT?



Love Self	Love Others
Being Coachable Listen and respond with positive action. Be enthusiastic, ask questions.	Communication If you cannot attend, let your manager know and let coaches know if you need extra help.
Work Ethic Bring your best all the time, do extra if required. Persevere through and show resilience when needed.	Being On-Time For your teammates, coaches, and managers.
School Pride Support our teams, wear uniform correctly, clean and tidy - for yourself and those that have gone before you.	Respect For your teammates, coaches, managers, officials, opposition, supporters and other's property.
Be Prepared Come with everything a good sportsperson needs for your sport.	Help Out "Team bag, before your own bag". Make sure you help-out and clean up before leaving a training or game.

In doing all these and being grateful, shows the love of God