



LOUGHBOROUGH
Schools Sport

Sports

NEWS

MAY 2022



#LSFSport
#SportForAll



LOUGHBOROUGH
Schools Sport

All four Schools have enjoyed a busy and exciting year of sport to date. Since September, teams from Loughborough Schools Foundation have played over 1000 matches in 16 different disciplines. We have had a superb year across such a wide variety of sport. Our teams have been County Champions seven times and County Finalists 14 times; we have played at seven Regional Finals and finished Regional Champions five times. Six of our teams have reached the National Finals.

It has been wonderful to see how many of our pupils have stepped out to wear their school crest and represent one of our Foundation Schools. We continue to follow the achievements of so many of our pupils as they compete individually both in and out of School and achieve such superb results.

As we have returned to the normality of playing competitive sport after the last two years, it has been so exciting to watch our pupils relish the extra-curricular training sessions, matches, trips and tours and embrace the opportunity to try new things, whether that has been shooting, futsal, fencing, parkour, or kung fu to name a few of our new activities this year.

The opening of the Parkin Fitness Suite has been an opportunity to see staff and pupils from around the Foundation training alongside each other under careful guidance from Miss Benjamin, and this has fostered a superb training environment for all.

We look forward to seeing our pupils continue to grow, develop and enjoy the rest of the summer season.



Jo Hackett
Director of Sport,
Loughborough Schools Foundation
🐦 @LsfSport





SPORT REPORTS

Hockey

At Fairfield, the Boys' and Girls' hockey teams have performed well. We were delighted to host the IAPS (Independent Association for Preparatory Schools) Boys' Regional Finals for the first time and look forward to the opportunity to host the Girls' competition next year. The Girls' U11 team performed brilliantly, finishing as **Regional Runners-up in the IAPS competition** and attending the IAPS National Finals at Millfield School where they achieved a **bronze medal** in the bowl competition. They also finished as **In2Hockey County and Regional Champions**.

The girls at the High School were not to be outdone by the other Schools, and the U13s were **County Champions** and **Regional semi-finalists**. The U14s were **Tier 1 County Runners-up** and **Regional semi-finalists**, as were the U18s and the U15s who finished in the **semi-finals of the Independent Schools Hockey Cup**.

At the Grammar School, the results in hockey kept coming with the U12, U13 and U14 teams all becoming **Leicestershire County Champions**. The U12s went on to become the **Regional Final silver medallists**, alongside the U16s who were **Tier 3 Regional Finalists**. The

team of the year however are the U14 hockey team who were **County and Tier 2 Regional Champions** and finished as **bronze medallists at the Tier 2 National Finals**.



Netball

It has been an exciting netball term with Amherst U13 and U14 teams becoming **ISA (Independent Schools Association) Midlands Finalists**.

For Loughborough High School, the U12 and U14 teams were **County Finalists** and the U16 team went one further step by becoming **County Champions** and representing Leicestershire at the Regional Finals. The U15 team were **runners up** in the team **Leicestershire competition** and the U13s in the same competition, won through to the **quarter finals**.

At Fairfield, the U11 team played well and finished **third in the plate** at the **Regional IAPS Finals**, as well as every girl having the opportunity to represent the School. Amherst teams played in the ISA Regional Tournaments and showed huge development in their play. We look forward to hosting these competitions again next year. We were delighted to welcome several local schools for our invitational tournament and enjoyed superb performances from both our Amherst and Fairfield teams.



SPORT REPORTS

Dance

LSF have competed in our first dance competitions this year with Amherst School taking a team to the **ISA National Dance Competition**. Our pupils performed superbly, and the Key Stage 4 team finished **third** and achieved a **Highly Commended** score. We were delighted to return to the annual Dance Show and see over 100 pupils from both Amherst and the High School showcasing their talent and we look forward to growing this offer further in the coming years.

Finally, we must mention Rosie in Year 7 at Amherst who has successfully auditioned for a place at the prestigious **Hammond Dance and Performing Arts School** in Chester. We wish her all the very best of luck with this.



Football

The football teams across the four Schools have gone from strength to strength this year.

Starting from our youngest players, Fairfield's U11 Boys' teams made **two National Finals** this year: both the **IAPS** and the **ISFA** (Independent Schools Football Association), with trips to Millfield School and St George's Park, respectively. In preparation for the finals, they had a friendly match at Seagrave where they played against Leicester City's U10 team and won convincingly, showing the strength in this age group.

The Fairfield Girls' U11 team were not to be outdone and played brilliantly by winning the **ISFA Regional rounds** and qualifying for the **National Finals** at St George's Park after half-term. There have been record participation rates for both boys' and girls' football at the extra-curricular clubs.

At the High School, the combined Year 10 and 11 football team has finished **fifth** in the **Leicestershire Regional Futsal Finals**. The U13 have played a high number of fixtures and interest is growing enabling them to field A and B teams next year.

Amherst School have performed brilliantly at the **U13 futsal tournaments** and regularly field Boys' and Girls' U13 teams.

The Grammar School teams have had a very positive record for the 2021/22 season. The first XI finished **third** in the inaugural **ISFA Mercian League** and the second XI finished **second** in the same league for second teams.





SPORT REPORTS

Rugby

The rugby teams have had a busy year. Highlights are the U15 and U16 teams both reaching the **Leicestershire County Finals**, as well as the U16 team achieving a near perfect season. Over 250 boys from Loughborough Grammar School have represented the School. We were delighted to see the return to the rugby tour weekends with the Year 7s visiting Blackpool, and Year 9s, South Wales and this year the Year 10s visited Wakefield and Scarborough. A huge 'thank you' to the staff for co-ordinating these trips.



Girls' Cricket

In our first year of playing in the indoor cricket competitions we finished as **Leicestershire County Indoor Champions** at both U13 and U15 as well as **Regional Finalists** in both age groups.

We have enjoyed a return to outdoor cricket fixtures and have seen great performances from everyone. All players have learnt so much from the indoor training which the girls have transferred into their outdoor game.

We are delighted to celebrate the success of **Olivia** at the High School, who has been selected for the **Loughborough Lightning Cricket Elite Player Pathway**.



After school sessions at Park Road are giving the girls an opportunity to use the nets and help with transition into

hardball cricket and as such, we are thrilled to be developing a strong link with **Loughborough Town Cricket Club**.



SPORT REPORTS

Boys' Cricket

After two years of very little cricket, we are now in full swing with 10 teams regularly playing Saturday fixtures alongside several midweek fixtures for all age groups.

Preparations for the season started back in January with well attended winter nets in the sports hall. It was great to have **Harry Gurney** (England, Nottinghamshire and LGS alumnus) assist the teams with coaching over this period. The Year 7 and 10 boys played in the **County Indoor Cricket tournaments** with both teams losing narrowly in the final. Our Year 8s and 10s also enjoyed indoor fixtures at Trent College against the hosts and Repton School.

Over 130 boys have represented Loughborough Grammar School in the



first half of the Summer term. Joshua in Year 8 scored a **magnificent 131** v Trent College in the first Saturday fixture of the year and has gone on to make his first XI debut, taking four wickets against local rivals Nottingham High

School. Aryan, first XI Captain has also posted **two fifties** in the first two games. After school practises for all age groups are proving popular with the boys using the artificial net complex every evening during term time.

Cross Country and Athletics

In the range of competitions for cross-country, highlights were individual performances from Olly and Jake (LGS Year 7) who both went on to represent the **County**.

The LGS Year 7 team finished **second** in the **Leicestershire League Competition**.

Athletics has been going well this term with more pupils across the Senior Schools training and competing together. Highlights so far have been the LGS team winning meets at Worksop College and Nottingham High School. With individual **winning performances** from Johan in the 200m, Josh in the 800m and Tom in the 1500m. In the field events Will won the Shot Putt and Javelin and Seb won the High Jump. The Grammar School team have also progressed to the **Regional round of the National Schools Track and Field Cup** next half-term.

At the Area Athletics Championships hosted at Quorn, there were some superb individual performances and many Foundation pupils have qualified to represent the district at the **County Championships** after half-term. Of note was that at U15, eight out of 10 events were won by LSF pupils. And in the Boys' competition the Grammar School won 10 out of 12 events at U15 and six out of 10 events at U13.

Badminton

The High School U13 team played brilliantly and having won the **District tournament**, they reached the **County Finals** earlier this term. Meanwhile the U18 Grammar School badminton

team had an excellent tournament at the **Leicestershire County Finals**, they played 12 singles matches and six doubles matches, losing only one match in the entire tournament. This makes them **Leicestershire County Champions**.





SPORT REPORTS

Swimming and Triathlon

We are delighted that a Fairfield team has competed at the **National IAPS Triathlon** competition in Bath this year and Amherst pupils have competed at the **National ISA Triathlon** in Ipswich. For many this was their first triathlon and they finished in the middle of the National standings. It was a great starting point for all involved. We have the first round of the **East Midlands Junior Triathlon** series coming up and this will provide multiple racing opportunities across the summer in the Midlands.

In Swimming, Amherst have had three swimmers racing at **National School** level and Fairfield have enjoyed success at the **National IAPS Swim Championships**. Next week, we have the first Loughborough Schools Foundation swim team competing against Oundle School.

We have been pleased to develop Water Polo club this year and both Junior and Senior Triathlon clubs have grown in number with the Saturday and Sunday training sessions proving to be popular.



Basketball

The Grammar School U18 Basketball team represented the School at the Leicester Riders' Arena in the **Team Leicestershire Finals** having won several rounds to reach the Finals. They played brilliantly and finished Runners-up against very strong opposition, only losing by one point.

Our junior basketball teams have been training hard and the numbers attending the lunchtime clubs are high. We are growing this sport and looking forward to more fixtures later this term.



SPORT REPORTS

Modern Pentathlon and Biathlon

Congratulations go to Oliver in Year 7 at the Grammar School, who recently came **second** in the **British Laser Run** competition in Edinburgh. Oliver has now been invited to **represent GB** at a **Laser Run International** competition in Madeira in June and has been selected to compete for the **European Championships** in Athens in August.

Six pupils represented Loughborough Grammar School at the **National Tetrathlon Championships**. The pupils competed in swimming, fencing, laser gun shooting and running in three age categories, whilst all the boys competed recently in the **Modern Biathlon Championships** also held at Bath



University. This was the first time that any of them had competed in a Modern Tetrathlon event, and they all performed brilliantly well.

Amherst and Loughborough University Tennis Programme

Our students from Amherst School who are part of the LUNTA programme have all been training hard and their efforts have been rewarded with superb results. At the U18 Nationals, Luca Pow (Year 12) won the boys tournament and became the **U18 Boys National Champion**. On the girls side it was an all LUNTA final with Mimi Xu (Year 10) playing Talia Neilson-Gatenby (Year 11). In a close fought match Mimi took the win 6-4, 7-5 to become **U18 Girls National Champion**. Both Luca and Mimi have now been rewarded with a wildcard to both the Wimbledon Seniors qualification rounds and the Wimbledon Juniors main draw. In addition, Talia as runner-up receives a Wimbledon Juniors main draw wildcard. In the boys doubles competition our players partnered up and Luca and Henry (Year 11) took the win to become **U18 Doubles National Champions** whilst in the girls doubles competition

it was Given (Year 12), with her partner from the GB National Academy in Stirling, who got the better of Mimi & Talia winning 6-1, 2-6, 10-2. Both of these pairs now have the opportunity to play together again in the doubles competitions at Junior Wimbledon through wildcard entries.

At the U16 National Championships it was Henry Searle who won the final 6-4 6-4 to become the **U16 Boys Singles Champion**. He is now also rewarded with a Wildcard to Wimbledon Juniors Main Draw. Mimi backed up her U18s Nationals win with another successful week and title becoming the **U16 Girls Singles Champion** with a 6-3, 7-6 (5) win in the final. Mimi (with her partner from the GB National Academy in Stirling) is also the **U16 Girls Doubles Champion**.

Across the two weeks the Amherst tennis players won seven out of eight National Championships and won every competition entered by LUNTA, representing a clean sweep of titles. We look forward to following the progress of these players at the junior and senior qualifying for Wimbledon next month.

Meanwhile Ranah is preparing to play her first-round match in the main draw of Junior Roland Garros on Sunday. This is Ranah's third Junior Grand Slam event having competed in Wimbledon in 2021 and the US Open earlier this year. Ranah goes into the tournament currently ranked 40 in ITF World Juniors.



STAFF NEWS

We would like to pass on our congratulations to **Miss Clark** who has again been named as one of the **England Roses Netball** Contracted players for the 2022/23. We would also like to wish all our netball coaches **Miss Clark**, **Miss Panagarry** and **Miss Haynes** good luck as Loughborough Lightning progress to the **Netball Super League Grand Finals** with their semi-final live on Sky Sports on Friday 3 June.

Congratulations also to **Miss Grieve** and **Miss Millington** who have just been crowned **Tier 1 England Hockey National Cup Champions** playing for Beeston Ladies and winning the **National Cup Final** 3-1.



Congratulations also to **Mr Gidley** who has been selected for the **England Men's Cricket Over 50s Team** playing this summer, we look forward to following his progress in the coming matches.



Well done to **Mr Perham** who after winning the Dishley parkrun Amherst Take Over with a new course record, went to Lievin to compete in the **2022 European Triathlon Cup**. Mr Perham finished in nineteenth place moving him five places up the World Rankings.



We also wish **Miss Robb** good luck as she is in Basketball training for the Commonwealth Games to represent Scotland who have qualified for this competition for the first time.

In the coming weeks, we will be saying goodbye to some of our superb sports coaches.

Mr Toms leaves us after two years at the Foundation where he started as a Graduate Sports Assistant, and this year will have completed his Apprentice Teaching Qualification. Mr Toms leaves us to take on the role of Head of Rugby at New Hall School where we have no doubt, he will be very successful.

We also bid farewell at the end of the year to **Mr Connabeer** who will return to the University of Bournemouth to complete his degree. Mr Connabeer has been a huge asset to the team and has turned his hand to a wide variety of sports, trips and tours, we hope to see him again in the future.

At the end of the Spring term, we also said goodbye to **Miss Watson** and **Miss Ledesma** who both joined us this year to strengthen our hockey coaching programme. Miss Watson has returned to the full time GB hockey training programme and Miss Ledesma, whilst finishing her Masters degree, has travelled to Australia to play hockey for Hawthorne Hockey Club in Melbourne.

We look forward to following their progress and will share news of additional coaching staff joining the team soon.

Thank you to all our fantastic Foundation sports staff for a successful year and to our pupils who have participated successfully in teams, clubs and training and importantly, enjoyed having fun and being active.

For lots more sports news, follow us on twitter

High School
 @LboroHSSport

Fairfield
 @LboroFPSport

Grammar School
 @LboroGSSport

Amherst
 @LboroAMSport