



CLIFTON
COLLEGE



Clifton College Sport Review



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Acknowledgement

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Sir Clive Woodward for giving up so much of his time for the Sports Review.

Sport in action

We have produced this short film that highlights the broad offering at Clifton College and demonstrates the objective of this area of College life.



Introduction & Approach

The History of Sport at Clifton

Founded in 1862, Clifton College was a boys only school for 125 years before the introduction of girls into the 6th form, in 1987. Clifton has been a coeducational school for almost 36 years and there have been some significant changes over this time.

Clifton's physical activity and sports offering has significantly increased in recent years. Within the sports programme the College continues to focus on the traditional independent school sports of Cricket, Hockey, Netball, Rugby, and Tennis. The concept of school sport is evolving and last year the College decided to instruct a Sports Review to bring about positive change, and provide a sports programme that caters for Clifton's modern and diverse community.

Some years ago the coaching of all sports was provided solely by the teaching staff. With the developments that have taken place in school sport there has been a requirement to employ specialist coaches in many areas.

The Sports Review Process

Last year we instructed Sir Clive Woodward to conduct a Sports Review of Clifton College. Sir Clive is probably best-known for Winning the 2003 Rugby World Cup, however it is his experience as Director of Sport for Team GB at three Olympic Games and most recently setting up a High Performance Sports Academy that made him a superb candidate to advise the College on Sport. Sir Clive submitted a 40 page report to the school on his findings. Enclosed in this document is a summary of what he has suggested and some of the progress the College is already making. The most important aspect of this Review was to advise on a route forward for Clifton College Sport that will support a world-class education for its pupils and become the market leader within the independent sector.

The review used Clive's 3D Learning Process of:

- **DISCOVER – HINDSIGHT**
- **DISTIL – INSIGHT**
- **DO – FORESIGHT**

DISCOVER – Discover everything there is to know about sport at Clifton College and how it is currently delivered. As part of the Discovery phase an in-person Review was conducted by Sir Clive Woodward with all the key stakeholders at the College over the course of a week.

DISTIL – The discovery phase uncovered key points for every area of Clifton College Sport. These were then distilled into a list. These are the opportunities that were uncovered during discovery.

DO – The final phase of the Review was a list of recommendations the College could implement to improve the delivery of sport at Clifton College. These are the recommendations we have begun to put in place and are delighted to share with you in this document.



Strategy & Focus

The sports programme is a core element of the education offered at Clifton College. The key areas and developments which have been delivered to the pupils following the Review are:

1. Instil the Values of the College

The College Sport programme is an opportunity to bring the school values of Integrity, Spirit and Resilience to life. As we develop the curriculum across the sports programmes, reference will be made to the values and their associated behaviours to help develop the pupils in these areas.

2. Building Character

Sport has a key role in developing character. Pupils have the opportunity to explore and develop in a plethora of ways. The focus needs to be on how the College develops the individual and the team, and away from any win/ loss ratios. Winning is a positive by-product of developing the individual, and therefore nobody loses if young people are developing character as part of their sporting experience.

3. Performance and Participation

There is a fine balance that the College will keep at the forefront of its strategy. This is the balance between 'Sport for all' and high performance teams. There are Sports in the College where the aim is for the top teams in each year group to be performing amongst the top schools in the country. However, of equal importance is the vital role that Sport for all plays in the College.

For young people the benefits of sport go far beyond physical development. It is proven to help improve mental health and teach them both skills and characteristics for the future. Educating through sport can have benefits which stretch beyond school. Knowledge and skills from sport can be transferred to the workplace.

Sport enhances socialisation by bringing people together and by providing a bridge between different backgrounds and individual personalities; hence the importance we place on team sports. Sport also offers a unique way of developing a moral standing – as the values learned through participation transcend into all areas of life.

4. Developing Talent

Investing time and resources into Sport at a young age can improve both participation and performance. A critical mass of pupils will create a positive culture for sport and its benefits. Heads of Sport have a Cross College remit that supports both the Upper and the Prep School.

Keeping the engagement high at a young age is important for maintaining enthusiasm. In the future, Clifton College Prep School would like to explore more opportunities for mixed ability sports. Given the right environment and influence, every child has the opportunity to succeed at school sports. Winning is not the primary objective and those on the impressive Performance Sports Programme (PSP) will receive the development they need.



Key Areas of focus

The Chapters that Sir Clive's report focused on: 8 key areas

Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging

Since Sir Clive's Review we are pleased that we have already made significant progress in the areas he highlighted under EDIB. The Games policy has been updated to reflect an equal choice across Girls and Boys sports. We have had our first girls rugby and cricket fixtures on the 1st team pitch and the Close, respectively. There have been fixtures arranged in sports like Basketball, and the introduction of Girls football, volleyball and a multisport option. The upcoming cricket tour to South Africa is for a Girls and Boys team, and we are currently planning a combined Girls hockey and Boys rugby tour.

The Prep School has seen a significant rise in the interest in mixed sports such as cricket and continues to explore more opportunities for mixed sports, currently through netball, rowing, tennis, golf, basketball, hockey, and the inter-House sports tournaments.

Sports Schedule

Like many schools one of the challenges the College faces is the pressure on facilities and staffing when conducting sport for many year groups all at the same time. We are currently exploring Sir Clive's recommendation of splitting the game's periods across different year groups, which brings a number of benefits. Most importantly, it enables the sports specialists in the College an opportunity to work with significantly more pupils on a regular basis. In addition, it will reduce the strain on facilities and transport. The Upper School Deputies are currently exploring a new shape of the week for a September 2023 start and there will be more information on this at a later date.

Organisation and Staffing

The Organisation Chart for Sport has been completed with the help of Sir Clive. Mr Loughrey and Mrs Catchpole are Directors of Sport in the Upper and Prep School respectively. In addition, The College has employed a Head of Netball, Joelle Moreno, and Head of Cricket, Tim Hancock.

Facilities

The Chellaram Sports Centre will begin construction at Beggar's Bush this year and is an exciting development for the College. In particular, not only will it improve our current facilities, but it will provide opportunities for greater use of other sports such as Badminton and Climbing. The College is keen to explore opportunities for more facilities at the main College site including an astroturf pitch.





Competition

The College has already explored innovative ways to provide appropriate challenge when it comes to fixtures and competitions. Many of the performance teams are arranging fixtures with more challenging opposition, providing opportunities for pupils to consistently be stretched and challenged in their endeavours.

At the participation level, the College is exploring more local and appropriate competitions. Many sports are developing adapted games so that all pupils can continue to enjoy and explore the benefits of team sports. In addition, we are pleased to report we have had our first fixture in a number of new sports (e.g. girls football and basketball) and are keen to provide as many opportunities for pupils to represent the school as possible. There have been more fixtures and touring opportunities in other sports like sailing, golf and fencing.

Leveraging the community aspects of sport, the Heads of Sport are exploring more opportunities for the pupils to support each other and significant events. The Ryan Bresnahan 'a life for a cure' Memorial matches are a good example of this, and significant fixtures are being more widely advertised to the community.

Community Engagement and Partnerships

Providing opportunities for our pupils to support the local community is an excellent opportunity for them to develop as individuals. We are in the process of exploring more opportunities through Sport and many other areas of the school for our pupils to coach young people and work more in our local community. Our relationship with Bristol Bears continues to grow and develop; and we are keen to explore further partnerships with local academies and professional sports institutions across Bristol.

The Critical Curriculum

As part of the Co-curriculum the main objective of our sports programme is to develop the character of each pupil at Clifton College. Over the coming years, with the help of the pupils, we would like to develop a 'critical curriculum' that helps focus our offering on providing opportunities for pupils to develop character and maximise the opportunities they have ahead of them. With explicit reference to the characteristics and behaviours we are aiming to instil through sport, there will be more opportunities for pupils to develop in these areas. Also, pupils will have the opportunity to reflect on experiences with tutors to optimise the learning opportunities. The Heads of Sport are currently looking at spiral curriculums and training plans to explicitly reference characteristics.

The Performance Sport Programme

The Performance Sport Programme will align to the academic scholarship programme to help consistently develop these pupils and provide an opportunity for pupils to take responsibility for their own development. As per the academic scholarship programme the three principles of the programme are:

- **Growth:** A coherent programme of provision that increasingly challenges, extends and enriches our most talented sports people from Year 7 through to Year 13.
- **Opportunity:** A multitude of opportunities and experiences through the sports and PSP programmes through which each individual can find, explore and grow their potential.
- **Accountability:** An expectation that those on the PSP will take advantage of the opportunities afforded to them, increasingly becoming role models and ambassadors for the College both on and off the field of play. They will always strive to be a positive team player and act with integrity through all their endeavours.

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