

BANDON GRAMMAR SCHOOL

RUGBY 2019-2020

New Season: All of our pupils are strongly encouraged to take part in school sports, in this case, rugby. Boys and girls are most welcome at training, practices and match squads.

The 2018-2019 season saw further development in our rugby programme with a full fixture list for each age group. We participated in the McCarthy Cup, Junior Cup and Shield, Bowen Shield and Senior Cup competitions. The player base continued to grow and all squads enjoyed their rugby having successful seasons. Our U14 and U15 squads show tremendous promise and had a most successful trip to Wales before Easter. We hope to see rugby for girls develop more next season as we have many dedicated players and hopefully more school and club teams will emerge to play. The seniors had an exceptional run winning the inaugural Regis Sonnes Cup against CBC Monkstown before Christmas and reaching the semi-final of the Munster Cup against PBC. Losing by a point in a thrilling game has only whetted the appetite for more! The Junior boys reached the Cup quarter-final and Shield final. 7 boys are selected for Munster Camp training this summer. Special congratulations to **Jack Crowley** on selection for both Munster U19 and Ireland U19 v France helping Ireland to a super win.

Munster Rugby recognises the school as in the '**Non Exempt Full Rugby School Programme**' often known as 'A' category for recognition and competition. An extended fixture list and full participation in all available competitions is planned by our excellent coaching team. The IRFU and Munster Branch IRFU Age Grade Rugby Policy is to ensure as many players as possible have opportunities to participate in rugby and progress to the adult game ultimately. Next season, the Junior and Senior cups will commence in October with group league games to qualify for the knock out competition post-Christmas. Junior panels will be selected from Second to Fourth year players and Senior panel from Fourth to Sixth year. Details of the 28 player panel will be available on the first week of September. In line with IRFU and Munster Rugby, players placed on Junior and Senior Cup panels by the school may not play with their clubs while the relevant school team remains in competition. In these cases, the players are registered **only** with their schools. Where players are not provided with regular rugby and not placed on the relevant Junior or Senior competitive panels, then such players may be released to play with clubs. IRFU rules on Age Grade Rugby may be consulted at www.irishrugby.ie.

Our neighbouring clubs are partners in the game with the school and we plan to remain in close contact. We will continue the good work started by them with young players and encourage those players to return later to their clubs to make a contribution to the game.

On behalf of the school, players and parents we wish to thank all of our coaches, strength and conditioning coaches, physiotherapists and Mr Human, Director of Coaching for all they continue to do in generating such enthusiasm for the game.

Training sessions for established Junior and Senior squads will commence in early August. The training schedule for all squads and the fixture list for initial matches will be published on our website before the start of the new school year.

Looking forward to an enjoyable and successful season.



George Bradfield
Director of Rugby



Ian Coombes
Principal