This week the 1st X1 moved into outright 3rd position on the GPS table with an outright victory against Newington College. Scots total of 260 proved to many for their opponents with Newington being dismissed for 129 and 103. In the first inning the pick of the bowlers was Captain of Cricket Johnathan Duff taking 5 wickets. He was well backed up by George Scott who took 3 wickets. In the 2nd innings, Lewis McMahon continued his outstanding GPS season (26 wickets) with the figures of 6/21.

Newington gained 1st Innings points after dismissing Scots for 87. Scots still had the opportunity to play for an outright win with most of the day left. Newington’s opening partnership of 51 put them in a strong position. Some great spin bowling from Ned Robinson (2/33) and Kurt Atkinson (3/21) halted Newington’s charge before a late declaration of 7/133 at tea. Needing a T20 like score of 160 off 20 overs, Scots maintained a run rate of 5 an over early before a string of wickets put the target out of reach. Promoted to opener Kurt Atkinson made a run a ball 34. Andrew Kellaway (20), Ned Robinson (24) and Angus McClennan (20) made contributions in the total of 7/107. This game highlighted the fighting qualities of this team and willingness to chase down a formidable total.

The end to this weeks game at Newington showed the determination and character of the boys. The previous week (Scots all out 137, Newington 2-93) left us with plenty of work to do. With only minimal numbers due to a number of late withdrawls, this week Newington expected to build a good total and get the required 6 wickets for the outright. However a very tight opening spell from Jack Taylor and Sandy Frend and some good overs from Vineberg put them a little behind for time. Then when they declared leaving Scots with 2 hours and 6 wickets to salvage the game, all the boys could do was dig in and try to hold on. In the end they did it quite comfortably thanks to a stone wall innings from Sebastian Reid who knew what was required and faced the bulk of the strike (82 balls) on the way to 16 not out. The other boys supported Sebastian well including Vineberg who went home with a few bruises to remember the match. All in all it was a fine effort to hold off the outright loss. A Player’s Character is sometimes best displayed under duress and this was in evidence by all the boys on Saturday.

The Scots team kept Iggies to a total of 35 runs after 10 overs. The last 10 overs saw Iggies reach a total of 131 runs. The Scots team
batted well after the first 10 overs with 70 runs and wickets in hand but failed to complete the run chase losing wickets towards the end of the innings. Newington was a surprise winner over Shore and this has kept the Scots teams hope of staying on top with Shore. The 4ths are looking forward to ending the season with 4 games to go out on a high note.

The 16A’s managed a win against Newington on the weekend after posting a huge 396 last week thanks largely in part to Jack Maddocks great innings. Scots bowled out the Newington side for 295 with standout bowling performances from Nick Kellaway (3/60) and Mitchell Short (4 for 98 off 20 overs).

The under 16Bs played Riverview on the weekend. Scots batted first with our new look batting order. After a solid start by Alec Leithhead and Andy there was a collapse until Hugo Tuckfield and Cristopher Wylie stabilised the innings with a good partnership. Scots all out 118 in the last over. A great effort. The bowling didn’t go quite as well. Riverview over took us with a few overs left. Stand out bowler were Ben Gillies with 3 wickets and Hugo Tuckfield with a tight 6 overs. A good effort by the boys. Improving week by week.

The best all round team performance of the season so far saw an excellent win for the 14Bs. Scots College won the toss and placed Riverview into bat. Excellent bowling from all the bowlers, along with tight fielding limited the scoring of Riverview with stand out performances from Jerry Yu and Zucchiati. Scots College were confident of reaching the target of 127 runs and managed to reach the total in just 20 overs with James Hooke retiring after 50 runs, hitting 3 sixes and 5 fours in an impressive innings. A confident Scots team who can hopefully build on their performance for the following fixtures.

The 13A’s also took on Riverview on the weekend. Scots were bowled out for 123 with good contributions from Will Lawrance (41) and Will Simpson (34). Unfortunately, Riverview were able to pass the Scots total for the loss of 5 wickets. Powys was the standout with the ball taking 3/19 off his 5 overs.

After winning the toss and electing to bat the 13B’s started well getting off to a great start with a very healthy run rate. However after the drinks break batsmen failed to value their wicket enough,
resulting in being bowled out in the 27th over for 108. After coming up against some good early batting Scots were shocked at drinks to discover that Riverview needed only 10 runs for victory. However coming back from the drinks break the boys rallied and after some inspirational bowling from Weston and Hird captured 5 wickets for 6 runs sending shivers amongst the Riverview camp. Unfortunately it wasn't enough to get over the line, but showed what can be achieved when the team is focused. Another week of improvement, looking forward to our first win this weekend.

After winning the toss, the Scots 13Ds decided to bat first, looking to put the opposition into the field during the hottest part of the day. Gallantly electing to face the first ball, Huw Evans played a good defensive game and allowed Tom Firth and Ben Smethills to score steadily. While the top order was successful in seeing out the new ball, the Riverview spinners and an impressive fielding performance steadily took its toll. With the support of a strong batting performance by John Menzies, Scots reached a total of 57. The Riverview batsmen started strongly and hit a number of boundaries, timing the bat on to the ball nicely. Opening bowler Michael Lambrou used the new ball well to take 3 wickets for 25 runs, and was unlucky not to be rewarded with a spectacular catch in the outfield - after diving and taking a high ball on the chest, Michael came up from the grass to find that the ball had just crossed the boundary in the air. Riverview finished a solid batting performance with a score of 7 for 84. The boys put in a good effort against a strong Riverview team. Tightening up in the field and trying to run faster between the wickets when batting will hopefully bring success in the future. Hopefully the boys will think about the coming game the way Harold Larwood used to: "I dreamed of cricket; I bowled imaginary balls in the dark; I sent the stumps spinning and heard them rattling"