

St John's 2 Gotherington 3

The football team travelled to Gotherington for the first game of the season, with 5 players (Chris Johnson, Manny Upton, Brandon Howells, Jakub Boukhetala and Bleslin Vimal Roy) making their debuts for St John's. Gotherington dominated the first half and only superb goalkeeping from Charlie Dean kept them out. Very much against the run of play, Lleyton Desmond-Dickerson fired St John's ahead on the stroke of half-time, and when Manny swept in a second just after the restart, a victory against the odds looked on the cards. However, a superb strike pulled one back for Gotherington and an equaliser soon followed. Kornel Debski defended superbly to keep St John's in the game and Jakub's fantastic wing play gave Gotherington plenty to think about at the other end, but in the last minute Gotherington struck again to snatch the win. All in all, a very encouraging first performance!

Christchurch 1 St John's 2

Charlie Gray returned to the side for the visit to Christchurch and his flair proved to be the difference between the teams. He put St John's ahead before Christchurch levelled with a header from a corner and struck again with a cool finish to restore the lead. Christchurch pressed hard for an equaliser, but stout defending enabled the team to hold on for a well-earned victory, with Alfie Collins and Szymon Palewski working hard in midfield. Callum Price and George Clayton both made encouraging debuts for the school and Charlie Dean produced another excellent performance in goal.

St John's 3 Gardners Lane 0

A superb Charlie Gray hat-trick propelled St John's to victory against Gardners Lane but the win was not as comfortable as the scoreline suggests. As always, Charlie Dean was superb in goal and this, coupled with excellent defending from George Clayton (Player of the Match) and Kornel Debski, ensured a clean sheet. Zack Newbold made a promising debut while Jakub Boukhetela and Chris Johnson were tigerish in midfield, creating the chances for Charlie to take his tally to 5 in 2 games.

St John's 1 Gotherington 2

Despite a valiant effort, St John's again lost out by a single goal to a strong Gotherington team, although the team would have snatched a draw if a last-minute effort had found the net rather than the side-netting. St John's, with debutant Nathan Long in midfield, dominated the first half but could not find their way through a resolute Gotherington defence. Two quick goals conceded after half-time put St John's on the back foot but they rallied and Jakub Boukhetala showed superb composure to slot home after racing clear. Unfortunately, despite creating further pressure, the team could not find an equaliser, but the players can be proud of their efforts in another fine performance.

Christ Church 2 - St John's 2

St John's produced another determined performance against a Christ Church team which came into the game on the back of a 7-3 win. The first half was even and goalless, although only a superb save from Player of the Match Charlie D prevented Christ Church from taking the lead, but the deadlock was broken after half-time when Charlie G blasted St John's ahead. The home team rallied and equalised but the visitors were creating more chances. Jakub B struck a superb volley with only minutes remaining to seemingly secure the three points. Unfortunately, a last-minute goal denied St John's the win their play perhaps deserved. The school team must now win against Gardner's Lane if they are to progress to the next stage of the competition.

Gardners Lane 2 - St John's 4

Laurie Clark and Lonnie Roach made debuts for St John's, who had to fight back from a goal down in an even game against an excellent Gardners Lane team. The team were rather fortunate to be level at half-time, Manny Upton's shot being deflected into the net after good work from Callum Price, but two goals in as many second-half minutes turned the game in favour of St John's. A superb turn from Charlie Gray allowed him to race clear and slot home and Manny Upton added his second and St John's third. Gardners Lane refused to give up and hit back with a well-taken free kick, but Charlie secured the points when he fired into the far corner from a tight angle.