

## **International College 3 Sherborne School 1**

We were given an early opportunity to gain our revenge for the previous defeat by Sherborne School. Fortunately, it was a warmer but still rather windy afternoon.

In the first five minutes, Sherborne proved to be the faster and stronger team. They also exploited the strong wind by striking a lot of high balls into the middle of our defence, as well as stringing together a series of accurate passes down the wings. Whilst our defence did creak, it managed to repel these attacks.

Then Lyuben made a fast break down the middle of the pitch, but a weak pass was intercepted by Sherborne. Marko picked up the loose ball only to shoot wide from long range. Andrei launched a solo attack and managed to sneak the ball under the goalkeeper. 1-0.

This goal was very much against the run of play and goaded Sherborne into a flurry of powerful attacks. It was only Nikita's agility in goal that kept the score sheet blank. However, their persistence was eventually rewarded. 1-1.

The game now settled into a steady pattern with each team launching attacks and then being driven back into defence. Ben, Etienne and Mikhail were strong in the midfield, whilst Ken, Jonny, Jack and Yes scurried around the goal area forcing the attacks into the sidelines. Eventually, Marko managed to squeeze in another long range shot. Half time: 2-1.

With the wind now behind us, we made a strong start to the second half. Curiously, it was Ken, emerging from the defence, who chased the ball half the length of the pitch and nearly scored our third goal. Our forwards then put together a number of purposeful attacks. Andrei just shot wide, whilst Lyuben was only stopped by a crunching tackle by the goalkeeper. This seemed to exhaust our players, whilst Sherborne were re-energized and came close to scoring on a number of occasions. Ben, Etienne, Yes and Ahmed in particular, found themselves covering a lot of territory. Again, against the run of play, Andrei and Marko launched an attack. Marko launched a massive pass and Andrei chipped in the ball. 3-1.

Sherborne were stung into attack and only good saves by Mikhail protected our lead. Just as the final whistle was to be blown, we conceded a penalty. The Sherborne centre forward settled to his task and struck the ball. Mikhail, reacting instinctively, dived to his right and clasped the ball to his chest.

Victory! 3-1