



March 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

On Tuesday afternoon we held a football match between our Year 8s and Year 9s in memory of Tom Balkham. Tom was a much loved member of Year 9 and an integral part of the school football team.

The match started with a perfectly observed minute's silence and a presentation of a wreath in memory of Tom. Mr Sutton had organised the match and prepared the two teams.

The energy, passion and determination all the players displayed was a fitting tribute to Tom. Although the match was fiercely contested and every player gave 100% it was played in a respectful and supportive manner. Mr MacDonald expertly refereed the match and was also able to keep his cards firmly in his pocket; challenges were always fully committed but rarely fell foul of the rules.

The scoreline was not important but the match ended in a 6-4 victory to the Year 9s. There were some amazing goals and truly fantastic performances but it would be inappropriate to name individual players as none of this really matters; the match was all about remembering Tom.

Even though the rain was relentless, the match was really well supported as staff, students and their families came together to pay their respects and watch an activity that Tom loved. I am sure that everyone in attendance felt very proud of the players that took part.

It has been a very sad and challenging time for Tom's family and the wider school community. The kindness and support that we have given each other during this period has been a source of considerable comfort. We will be presenting Tom's family with the memorial book after the Easter holiday.

Thank you to everyone who supported Tuesday's event and all of the other efforts, to celebrate the life of a wonderful young man.

Best Wishes

Mr R Ellis
Headteacher

Seaford Learning Trust

Mr R Ellis, Headteacher

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