

Football Around the Grounds – Saturday 15th May

1st XI:

Based on the results from the first two rounds we knew going into Villa it was going to be our toughest test so far. This was obvious with our slow start resulting in us finding ourselves 2-0 down very early on. The boys fought for something, but the half ended 2-0. Obviously, we were very disappointed with the way we started but we knew that all we could do was start early in the second half to close the gap. Going 3-0 didn't change our motivation and that became obvious with Flynn Wiseman scoring back-to-back bringing the game to 3-2. Against the run of play Villa found another, but Marist responded with Sam Keogan finishing of a David Bremner assist. The score line didn't change from here with Marist having numerous chances hitting the post and coming close to drawing the game but in the end the match finished 4-3 to Villa. An unfortunate result but the boys will work hard this week to make sure we take 3 points out of the game against Padua on Saturday.

2nd XI:

On a very soggy pitch the boys got off to good start with a goal in the first 5 minutes. Great intensity from Harry Lee won us the ball, which he laid off to Sean Wearne in space on the left. Sean then found James Atkins on the edge of the box who fired home. Like the pitch, the game then bogged down with both teams struggling to maintain possession. We finally strung some good passes together with Jack Sykes cutting through the Villa defence down the right. He found Charlie Wilkinson who weaved his way into the box and slotted the ball past the keeper for our second. The 2-goal buffer was short-lived with Villa managing to capitalise on a loose ball in our final third which was played through to their striker to knock past Marcus in goals. Due to injury, Marcus was substituted for Max Lane at half time whose prior keeping experience was limited to "break time"! Max made a few saves early in the second half, including a tremendous tap over of an on-target free kick. Unfortunately, we couldn't clear the resulting corner and the game was tied up at 2-2. The last ten minutes were tense with the deadlock finally broken when Sean found Elijah Foxover with a great through ball. Elijah cut the ball back to Harry who scored a well-deserved goal. A late disallowed goal (offside) scared all the MCA supporters but thankfully our defence held and we claimed a hard-fought win!

10A:

The 10As lost 2-0 over the weekend against a physical Villanova on a thick field. The boys showed great resilience by producing a better second half performance.

5A:

The Ashgrove 5A's started this game strongly against undefeated opposition. A cracking early strike from Cormac Deady took the visitors by surprise, and the boys persisted for a second despite a Villanova equaliser. Super-Sub Sam Blinkhoff came on to score the much-deserved winner.