

## **SPX 2nd XI vs Oakhill College 2nd XI @ Castle Hill – Saturday 4th January 2023**

*SPX 137 (Luke Austin 42, Luke Mooney 22, Victor Mosmann 20)*

*Defeated Oakhill College 94 (Luke Austin 4/10 , Chris Mander 2/1)*

A hardened and dry pitch yielded challenging conditions for St Pius 2nd XI; when captain Tom Roche won the toss and elected to bat for the first match post-holiday break against Oakhill College. A shaky start saw Pius struggling at 2/5 before Luke Austin led a courageous rebuild. Brave and considered shot play highlighted a series of middle order partnerships between Victor Mosmann, Luke Austin and Luke Mooney. Even so, the fall of regular wickets continued. The end of an uplifting cameo from Max Lynn (18) saw St Pius close their innings 10/137 (42.5).

Three wickets in the opening two overs were an exceptional start to Pius's bowling display with Max Lynn and Luke Austin putting Oakhill on the back foot early. Defiant batting, however, momentarily brought the home side back into the game. Nevertheless, persistent stump-to-stump bowling plans proved fruitful when Tom Carrol provided the much-needed breakthrough in the 21<sup>st</sup> over. From that point the pendulum swung with Chris Mander and Lucas Gleeson both picking up wickets before another double wicket over from Luke Austin closed out the game. Several positives and aspects for improvement lead into next week's match against St Augustine's; as St Pius look to maintain their winning streak and assert a strong finals position.

*Luke Austin, Chris Mander*