

## S4/6 Festival

The Lynch Sports Centre in Dundee was once again bustling with the senior school pupils who attended the S4/6 Festival on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. It was a change from the original date but the enthusiasm and spirit was just the same as always! Everyone was working hard at playing, refereeing, scoring and encouraging everyone else to do their job.

There were 14 teams in the two halls and with full size courts there was no hiding place when the whistle signaled the start of play. The girls had 8 teams and they were split into two pools for round-robin format with 20 minute games. The purple and white of Marr College was distinctive as usual but Carnoustie High School with their red shirts made a comfortable debut to the Festival. Queensferry High School returned after several year's absence and Gordon Schools completed the lineup.

Some games were close and some were a bit one-sided but the groups sorted themselves out for the afternoon. The top two in each morning pool went into Pool 1 for the afternoon and the bottom two teams were in pool 2. Marr had two in each pool and Carnoustie were also split with one team in each pool. Queensferry completed the top pool and Gordon Schools filled the last place in pool 2.



The boy's competition was for six teams and they played each other in the morning to decide the afternoon order of play. Marr College had a senior team and a younger side that were skillful and unable to reach the top of the net so defended valiantly and scored some noticeable victories! Gordon Schools head one side each and Belmont House from Glasgow were making their first appearance in Dundee had two sides that played with a smile! Marr A and Queensferry were the top sides and the teams to beat!



The girl's afternoon saw some really close and competitive games which were 25 minutes long and it was a tough afternoon as the girls tired. It came down to the final games in each pool to decide the winners! Marr D edged out their C team 33/28 to win pool 2 but it was even closer in Pool 1. It was only 2 points that separated the Marr A side from Queensferry and it was the Lothian side that came out on top to snatch the title from the Ayrshire side winning 27/25.

The boy's competition was just as close and exciting with every side except one winning games. Gordon Schools from Huntly had their best ever finish with 13 points and coming in third. The final game saw the top two sides Marr A and Queensferry battling it out for top spot. It was Marr who triumphed with a run of points in the middle of the set to win 29/22 and retain the trophy.

Congratulations to all who took part as the standard of play and sportsmanship again improved with dig, set, hit a huge feature of the day. There was a variety of tactics and formations and problem solving in every competition. I enjoyed the day immensely and thanks to all the staff and Iain Cook for their help and efforts to prepare the sides and travel with them, especially the 6.30am start, and smiling throughout the day.