

With the Blyth Schools success in our first competitive season last year, the whole squad knew there was a lot of expectation surrounding the team's performance this season.

For many of the players it would be their final season and for the players who played last year a lot of emphasis was put on them to better the team's league position this season. We started the season with a large squad made of both sixth form and year 11 students. However some of the teams key players left school during the course of the year, which meant the players from the lower school would have to play a key role throughout the season. When called upon they didn't disappoint and along with the rest of team put in some fantastic performances.

With a slow start to the season, we knew we had it all to do if we wanted to achieve our ultimate goal of winning the league. After that however we went on an amazing run which saw us never get beat in the league again this season, and because of this we still had a chance of gaining promotion. With results going our way towards the end of the season we not only gained promotion but won the league, with a lot of praise going towards the defence, as we topped the league with the best defensive record.

With League success behind us we knew a league and cup double wasn't out of the question. However we were given a hard draw, which resulted in a tough tie against Division One outfit Monkseaton High School. Because of the bad weather we were forced to play this tie in the Easter Holidays. With a lot of players missing, we turned up for the match with only 12 fully fit players and no goalkeeper. The lads battled throughout the game and thanks to some great saves from the stand in keeper, managed to stay in the game till the very end. Unfortunately, with battling hard throughout the game the team became tired towards the end and because of this our chances of cup success came to an end. This took nothing away from the teams fantastic league success and consistently high standard of performances during the league campaign.

This achievement however could not have been possible if not for the commitment and determination of our manager Mr. Savory and assistant manager Mr. Beecroft. With coming close to gaining promotion last year Mr. Savory and Mr. Beecroft knew with the quality of team we had they could guide us to success this year and we didn't disappoint in bringing the league trophy to Blyth.

The whole squad and also the players who departed throughout the season can be very proud of their individual input which collectively resulted in the teams consistently good performances which ultimately helped us win the league.

Chris Watson