

## Girls Football – Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> April (Lambley double header)

After a fantastic performance the previous night where the girls beat Stanhope, they travelled to Lambley still in contention to win the division. With time running out to get fixtures in, the girls had to play 2 matches on back to back both against Lambley in order to fulfil their fixtures.

The girls knew they need to ensure they didn't lose the first match in order to have any chance of catching Lambley for top spot and started brightly. The girls, kicking uphill in the first half, applied lots of pressure with Eve, Vanessa and Neve all going close in the early stages. However the breakthrough didn't take too long to arrive, with the ball working its way through to Eve inside the area and she slotted home well. As the half grew on Sacred Heart were controlling the game more and more and shortly before half time Ava scored to send Sacred Heart in at half-time 2-0 up.

Lambley started the second half brighter with the girls having to defend early on and Ciara in goal doing well. However, they felt their way back into the game and from a Lambley goal kick the ball landed at Neve's feet. From just inside her own half, she drove the ball into the corner of the goal for arguably the goal of the night to make it 3-0. Within 2 minutes of the restart Sacred Heart had added a 4<sup>th</sup> when good build up between Matilda, Nicole and Neve allowed the ball to find Vanessa who placed her shot into the goal to leave the score at 4-0. The game was to finish that way and set up a tense second game as both sides were now level on points.

The second game started much more evenly than the first. Both sides were looking to take the initiative and open the scoring. Mid-way through the half Lambley took the lead. The Sacred Heart girls didn't let this affect them though and set about trying to get level. Nicole had fired a few warning signs before she set about challenging Neve for goal of the night when she set the ball out of her feet and hit a stunning drive in off the post from distance. Sacred Heart were starting to do all the pressing but at half-time the scores remained 1-1.

In the opening minutes of the second half Lambley won a corner. From this the ball was driven across the box and took a ricochet off shins and ended up nestling in the Sacred Heart goal. The girls once again didn't let this bother them and worked incredibly hard to get back in the game. Their pressure was looking like they were going to be denied, with the Lambley keeper making save after save. However, in the dying minutes the ball worked its way to Nicole inside the box who took her time before slotting into the corner to make the scores level again at 2-2. Lambley pushed hard again after to try and find a winner but the girls held out for the draw with Saiorse doing well in goal.

While tables are to be confirmed by the close of this week, provisionally the results tonight will mean Sacred Heart have won their division. Once confirmed, this is a fantastic achievement for a group of girls who have showed on a number of occasions a superb attitude and enjoyed being able to play. As a result of winning the division they will progress into the play-offs beginning with a quarter final against other division winners or runners up.

Provisional Table. Subject to confirmation of results being updated.

	Pld	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Sacred Heart	6	4	1	1	25	6	19	15
Lambley	6	4	1	1	14	9	5	15
Richard Bonnington	6	3	0	3	12	15	-3	12
Stanhope	6	0	0	6	4	25	-21	6