



FALKNER HOUSE

Y5 rugby vs St Philips

30th January 2026

Y6

Some of sports' best lessons are learned through defeat, and for the Falkner House 'A' team today was that day! There was a false sense of a winning expectation from our boys, as history against St Philips had been favorable to us. However, from the first whistle it was very evident this was going to be a hard day at the office.

Rugby is very much about being proactive at key moments, and at no time did St Philips allow Falkner House the chance to gain any ascendancy. In the contact phase Falkner House complicated the game affecting any support play. This allowed St Philips to counter ruck on defense and clean out on attack with ease.

In the tackle situations our boys were hesitant to press on their opposition, losing the pre-tackle phase and allowing St Philips to dominate this area also. This meant that when tackling; or in the continuity phase, St Philips would always have players in support to control the game. While Falkner House repeatedly found their support players beyond the game line; effectively off side, and unable to offer any support or counter the ruck. Worst still lacking in numbers when on defense.

No matter how hard Falkner House tried, doubt had set in, and they were now focusing on aspects of how St Philips were playing and not their own game plan. By the end of the

game, Falkner House were no longer playing like a team, and rather than simplifying their decisions they over complicated them, and repeatedly ran themselves into areas of isolation, playing into St Philips game plan.

Hopefully a lesson has been learned, and a lot of this fixture can be highlighted in our next training session.

Y5

The Year 5 boys were absolutely fantastic today, putting in an excellent performance against St Philips, earning a well-deserved victory through teamwork, effort and positivity. Quite possibly the best all round team display I've seen in my time at Falkner House.

I was hugely impressed with how the boys played, particularly their ability to find the gap and break through defensive lines, providing strong support at the ruck and communicating constantly with one another in a positive and encouraging way.

Nicholas got the team off to a flying start with a first half hat trick of tries, while Tomasso was outstanding with his incredible layoffs and passes whilst being tackled, showing enormous strength. Jad and Alessandro played key roles defensively, making crucial tackles to shut down St Philips attacks. Alexander led superbly throughout, pulling the strings and showing real leadership on the pitch.

An absolutely excellent show all round from every member of the team, one you can all be very proud of!