**East Midlands Regional Schools Tournament Jan 25th 2014**

Derbyshire were the hosts for this year’s annual East Midlands Regional Netball Tournament. Teams from Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire ventured to Repton School on a sunny but brisk Saturday morning. Two teams from each of the U14, U16 and U19 age groups represented their county after having qualified as winners and runners up at their respective county tournament.

Standard of play was excellent throughout the morning’s event with teams exhibiting effective attacking and defensive strategies and demonstrating some high quality netball. Weather conditions were ideal for most of the morning and the teams competed with gutsy determination, all eager for success.

Almost as soon as the last of the group games were completed, ominous dark storm clouds loomed towards the courts, so the semi-finals and play offs for the teams quickly went ahead to determine the finalists for each age group.

In the U16 semi-final, Trent faced Repton. With a convincing 10-3 win, Repton went through to the final to meet Oundle. On the half time whistle, crashing thunder, flashes of lightning and a hail storm forced the second half of the game to be abandoned. The decision was made by the tournament referees that all the finals be restarted and played in the school’s sports hall.

Repton dominated the game and held on to the lead throughout to become tournament U16 champions with the final result of 9-6 at full time.

Trophies for the winning schools were presented by international player and East Midlands Regional Manager Olivia Murphy.

Trent U16 team was nominated as best defence for conceding the lowest number of goals throughout the tournament.

Congratulations to all school teams who took part. We would like to thank Derbyshire Netball, Nicky Dalton and Repton School for all their support in helping to make the event such a success.