**TABLE TENNIS**

 **RYAN HOE TROPHY – GREG DEFEATS HOLDER**

In the final of the annual Ryan Hoe Trophy played at Ralph Allen School, Greg Rowland from Saint Gregory’s defeated the 2016 and 2017 winner, Tommy Franklin-Adams of King Edwards School.

The opening group stages were closely contested. Good counter -attacking skills were on display particularly from Stan Cranch RAS and Harry Frith KES who fought an even match 12-10, 11-13, 12-10 in Stan’s favour. Five RAS pupils reached the quarter-finals and two, Jake Barrington and Harry Fairburn, won through to the semi-finals.

Despite heroic defending Jake lost out to Greg in the semi-finals in three straight sets. Similarly, Tommy with some strong hitting on both forehand and backhand, defeated Harry Fairburn, 11-3, 11-7, 11-7. In the final, although 10-6 down Greg’s consistency and brave attacking won through 13-11 in the first game. His lightning backhand attack dominated the next two games 11-8, 11-5. Greg and Tommy, along with many of the RAS players, have improved their play following the junior coaching sponsored by the Bath & District Table Tennis Association.

The competition is open to pupils in years 7 to 9 at Bath Secondary Schools in memory of Ryan, a former pupil at Ralph Allen, and attracted 19 contestants. The winner and runner-up trophies were presented by Ray Bennett (Bathampton Junior Table Tennis Club). Ray expressed thanks to Ralph Allen for hosting the event, to Brent and Jane Hoe and parents watching for their support.



