

The March to Twickenham Continues – King’s U15 Through to National Cup Semi Final!

U15 Natwest Vase Quarter Final

King’s School Grantham 24 – 5 Pate’s Grammar School

Kings School Grantham are now just one win away from a National final at Twickenham having made it to the semi-finals by beating Pate’s Grammar School from Cheltenham.

With a large crowd in attendance, the atmosphere was a mix of tension and excitement for King’s playing against a team they had never played against before. King’s kicked off into a strong wind but started strongly, pinning Pate’s back into their own half through great defence and accurate tactical kicking. King’s line speed caused problems early on for the visiting team forcing them back towards their own try line. This paid off when Pate’s mishandled on their own try line allowing T. Mussell to drop on the ball for an opportunistic try. King’s maintained the pressure, working hard through their forwards to make precious metres. Pate’s defended manfully but finally yielded when R. Sheard forced his way over to make the score 10-0 to King’s. Pate’s rallied after this and some poor kicking from King’s allowed Pate’s into scoring range soon after the try. Pate’s used their driving lineout to great effect and were rewarded with a try of their own seconds before the half time break. 10-5 to King’s at the half.

King’s vast army of supporters roared the boys on as the 2nd half began as King’s looked to take advantage of the wind at their backs. The game was played almost entirely in Pate’s half of the pitch, although possession was evenly split. King’s defence dominated with T. Mussell and J. Simpson leading by example with some huge tackles, driving back the Pate’s attack. Pate’s defence was equally resolute as King’s tried multiple times to get over the line through their driving maul to no avail. The resistance was finally broken as J. Simpson crashed over from close range after excellent work by the forwards. King’s scored a similar try a moment later through G. Conron to make the score 24-5 to King’s with B. Taylor, who had an excellent game throughout, nailing both conversions this half in difficult conditions. Pate’s then proceeded to throw the proverbial kitchen sink at King’s, refusing to give up. The game ended with a sustained period of Pate’s dominance, but they were unable to unlock the defence. King’s held on to win, sparking jubilant scenes at the full time whistle. Now only one game from a potential final at Twickenham, King’s will travel to Northampton School for Boys for what is sure to be another semi-final thrilling encounter.