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Northampton School *for Boys* thrash St Joseph's of Ipswich to continue flying start in this season's SOCS Daily Mail Schools Trophy

- A top start for Northampton School *for Boys* has brought four wins in September
- Their latest win came against St Joseph's of Ipswich, coming out on top 37-5
- Head coach Mark Lee was full of praise for his side following the match
- Whitgift found winning form again by coming back to beat Warwick 27-26

Northampton School *for Boys* are the leading team from the state sector so far in this season's SOCS Daily Mail Schools Trophy.

A flying start has brought four wins in September culminating in a 37-5 win over St Joseph's of Ipswich in this national competition sponsored by the school management system, SOCS.

This latest win prompted head coach Mark Lee to say his team had played some of the best rugby since the school reached the final of the national knockout final in 2013 when they lost to Dulwich.

St Joe's scored first only for NSB to score 37 unanswered points including six tries – one each from Henry O'Donnell, Ben Rivans, Adam Sellars, Dom Shaw, Dan Couldrake and Sam Donald.

Lee added: 'It was a good win because St Joe's are always a big team and we played some very good rugby.'

NSB have been among the leading teams from the state sector over the past decade. Their most notable old boy is Courtney Lawes, the England and Northampton lock.

A former Saint in Paul Grayson continues to help coach at the school where his sons are among the pupils.

His eldest son, Jamie, who joined Northampton full time last season, was in the team who won the national vase in 2016.

Besides St Joseph's, NSB have also accounted for Loughborough Endowed, Solihull and another leading state rugby school in St Thomas Rich's of Gloucester.

The wins put NSB in fourth place in the Trophy merit table which is led by champions Wellington, who have won five games, Sedbergh (four games) and QEGS Wakefield (three).

Whitgift, who have failed narrowly to beat Wellington and Sedbergh this season, found winning form again by staging a memorable comeback to pip Warwick, 27-26, after they had conceded 19 points in the first seven minutes.

A try by No. 8 Harry Dugmore and a Joe Parkes conversion completed a hectic match to give Whitgift consolation after those two defeats.

Parkes kicked 12 points in all including improving tries by Ade Lipede and Ollie Norris. Chris Wilkins, Whitgift's head coach, said: 'It was a very poor start but we showed a lot of character to comeback. It was quite a game.'