



**MALTBYLEARNINGTRUST**

Exceptional Experiences. Successful Lives.



Wath  
Academy  
Sixth Form



## ACE Rugby Union Scholarship

Specialise in rugby alongside  
A Level/Vocational study

# Wath Academy Rugby Union Scholarship:

## Our Vision

The Wath Academy Sixth Form Rugby Union Scholarship, delivered in partnership with the Yorkshire Academy ACE Rugby programme, is committed to providing world-class coaching that inspires every scholar to reach their full potential and excel in the sport.

## The Programme

Wath Academy Sixth Form's Rugby Union Scholarship, in partnership with the Yorkshire Academy ACE Rugby programme, is a specialist 16–18 initiative designed to provide outstanding opportunities for ambitious and talented Rugby Union players. The programme offers a genuine pathway into semi-professional rugby while ensuring students thrive academically at one of the region's most successful Sixth Forms.

This elite development programme guarantees all scholars access to a high-performance rugby environment alongside their Post-16 education. Students enrolled on the Rugby Union Scholarship undertake A Levels or equivalent Vocational qualifications, with additional opportunities to gain work-based credentials such as the England Rugby Coaching Award.

Through daily training sessions led by experienced coaches with professional backgrounds, scholars benefit from top-tier rugby development. The programme is designed to advance players' technical abilities, tactical understanding, and overall knowledge of the game—ensuring a comprehensive rugby education that supports long-term success on and off the pitch.



“We are delighted to partner with Wath Academy as part of our ongoing mission to develop the best rugby talent in the South Yorkshire region. This initiative will not only raise the standard of rugby at the school level but also strengthen the future of the sport in Yorkshire.”



## Our Intent

- All Rugby Union Scholars develop an inner belief and ambition to fulfil their dreams
- All Rugby Union Scholars develop a lifelong passion for rugby
- All Rugby Union Scholars gain first-class continuing professional development opportunities
- All Rugby Union Scholars develop exceptional character
- All Rugby Union Scholars develop high levels of cultural and global awareness
- All Rugby Union Scholars become responsible citizens
- All Rugby Union Scholars gain an array of positive school memories
- All Rugby Union Scholars are given a chance to explore a variety of academic and professional exit routes
- All Rugby Union Scholars reach their full rugby capabilities

## Competitions

### Boys:

Academy ACE League | AOC League  
AOC Cup | Friendlies

### Girls:

AOC League | AOC Cup



## Facilities

Rugby union scholars have access to high quality facilities on the Wath Academy campus to support each player in their individual development, performance and learning.

### Our facilities include:

- State-of-the-art 3G pitch
- Two high-quality grass pitches
- Three indoor sports facilities
- Strength and conditioning studio
- Structured training programme
- Video analysis classroom
- Match preparation sessions
- Match analysis





International experience allowed students to test their skills against top teams from around the world

## Overseas Rugby Tours

Wath Academy's Rugby Union scholars had the exciting opportunity to compete in the prestigious Portugal Rugby Youth Festival, one of Europe's premier youth rugby tournaments. As part of the ACE Rugby programme, this international experience allowed students to test their skills against top teams from around the world, while gaining invaluable exposure to high-level competition. The tour not only supported their athletic development but also provided cultural enrichment and team bonding, making it a memorable highlight of their rugby journey at Wath Academy.



## The Offer

All those enrolled onto the scholarship programme undertake A Levels or Applied qualifications alongside their Rugby Union Programme:

**The scholarship provides students with:**

- A Rugby Union coaching programme delivered by experienced coaches and current professionals
- Training through the week, including match analysis, strength and conditioning, rehab and recovery and technical/tactical sessions
- Vero camera technology, recording games
- PlayerTek GPS software throughout the programme
- Access to state-of-the-art training facilities, including floodlit 3G pitch to support winter training
- A comprehensive league and competition structure on Wednesday afternoons
- Opportunities to participate in overseas tours
- Work experience opportunities



## Coaches

Our Rugby Union Scholars will have access to exceptional coaching from a highly skilled coaching team. We are privileged to have experienced and knowledgeable Rugby Union coaches that will guarantee student progression.



**Mr Ryan Burrows**  
Rugby Development Manager

Level 2 RFU Coach Mr Burrows is a Wath Academy alumnus and current professional rugby player at Coventry RFC. He has amassed over 300 professional games and has a wealth of experience and knowledge, having played at Rotherham Titans, Leeds Carnegie and Newcastle Falcons. In total, he has played over 17,000 minutes of professional rugby, scoring 40 tries. Mr Burrows currently works with Coventry U23s, while assisting with Coventry's RFC 1st XV.



**Mr Gary Bramhall**  
Head Coach

Mr Bramhall is a qualified Level 2 RFU Coach with over 10 years' experience of coaching age grade rugby. He is a dual code coach. In 2021, he helped Dearne Valley Bulldogs U13s to win their league undefeated. In 2023, as head coach, he led Rotherham Phoenix Colts to win their league, again undefeated. He is currently Wath Colts' head coach and works with Wath's XI team to help players transition from junior to men's rugby.



**Mr Simon Lines**  
Assistant Head Coach

Mr Lines has worked at Wath Academy for 13 years and has coached school teams extensively throughout that time, as well as assisting in junior representative rugby. He has played for Wath RUFC for numerous years, playing more games and captaining the club more than anyone in their history. Having successfully led the team as a player, Mr Lines took over as Wath RUFC Director of Rugby in 2015 and led the team to National Vase success at Twickenham in 2018.



## Careers & Future Opportunities

As part of the scholarship programme, students will open the door to many different career pathways, including:

- Professional/semi-professional rugby
- Professional coaching
- Professional officiating
- Strength and conditioning
- Physio and rehabilitation
- Performance analysis
- Business/sport management
- University and higher education
- Apprenticeship



# Success Stories

Our Rugby Union Scholarship at Wath Academy has produced some incredible success stories.

From representing regional and national teams to earning professional contracts, our scholars are thriving both on and off the field. The program continues to be a powerful pathway for young athletes to reach their full potential.



## Benjamin and Samuel Smith

Benjamin and Samuel Smith joined our school in Year 7 and progressed through the ranks to play for the rugby scholarship team in Year 11. Their impressive performances led to them being selected by the Yorkshire Rugby Academy at the end of Year 11. This achievement culminated in both brothers signing two-year England Academy Player (EAP) contracts.



## Jamie Gill

Jamie joined us in Year 12 from St Pius School, already a part of the Bradford Bulls scholarship programme. During his two years at Wath, Jamie not only gained a strong academic foundation but also developed significantly as a rugby player. His hard work paid off when he signed a professional contract with the Bradford Bulls and later went on to represent Ireland at both U19 and Senior levels.



## Alice Hopkinson

Alice joined us in Year 12 from Maltby Academy and became one of our first female rugby scholars. Alongside her academic studies at Wath, Alice made remarkable progress in rugby, earning a place in the Yorkshire U18 Girls team a year early. We're excited to follow Alice's journey as she continues to grow in the sport.



## Harry Homan and Finlay Davies

Harry Homan and Finlay Davies joined our Sixth Form specifically to take part in the rugby scholarship programme. Both have been standout performers throughout their time with us, which has led to them earning trials with Scotland Rugby.



## Find Out More

For more information about the Rugby Union Scholarship, contact [rugby@wathacademy.com](mailto:rugby@wathacademy.com)





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