



**MALTBYLEARNINGTRUST**

Exceptional Experiences. Successful Lives.



Wath  
Academy  
Sixth Form

# Football Scholarship

Specialise in football alongside  
A Level/Vocational Study



## Wath Academy Football: Our Vision

The Wath Academy Sixth Form Football Scholarship aims to ensure the delivery of world-class coaching which inspires every scholar to achieve footballing excellence. Our mission is to ensure the students develop in nine key areas that focuses their development both on and off the football pitch.

## The Programme

The Football Scholarship programme offered at Wath Academy Sixth Form is a specialist 16–18 football programme delivering exceptional experiences to aspiring talented footballers. It is a realistic pathway into semi-professional/professional football, whilst studying at a highly successful sixth form.

The scholarship is an elite football development programme that ensures all students access a first-class football experience in addition to their post-16 education. All players on the scholarship programme undertake A Levels or vocational subjects during the course, with further possibilities to acquire work-based qualifications, such as the FA Introduction to Coaching and The FA Referee Course.

Scholars access a high quality football provision, working with coaches who have previously and currently still work within the professional game.

The programme involves training on a daily basis with the scholarship coaching team. This provides players with a fantastic opportunity to further develop their football education and knowledge of the game.

*“Being part of the football scholarship has benefited me immensely, improving me as a footballer but also by helping me develop and grow as a person. Everything that the programme offers - such as the training sessions, games programme, video analysis, match preparation and the knowledge and experience of the coaches - is a great opportunity for anyone looking to challenge themselves.*

*Being a part of the programme is great for developing your footballing ability but the best part is joining a fantastic team to play alongside great players that will push you and create friendships that will last a lifetime.”*

“The scholarship is an elite football development programme that ensures all students access a first-class football experience in addition to their post-16 education.”





## Our Intent

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

## Facilities

Football scholars have access to high quality facilities on the Wath Academy campus to support each player in his/her individual development, performance and learning.

### Our facilities include:

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

## Competitions

Scholars compete in a variety of leagues and cups:

### Boys

- AoC Sport Yorkshire Men's Championship
- Sheffield and Hallamshire County FA South Yorkshire College Flexi League
- ESFA Boys Under 18 Schools' Trophy
- ESFA Boys Under 18 Schools' Cup for B Teams
- ESFA U18 Super League
- Rotherham Schools Cup
- South Yorkshire Cup

### Girls

- National Football Youth League
- ECFA Premier Women's League
- ESFA Girls Under 18 Schools' Trophy
- ESFA U18 Super League







*"I intend to go on to higher education in the USA where I have been offered a scholarship for football (soccer) as well as studying a major in accountancy at Missouri Valley College. This is a great opportunity in which I think is definitely a direct path for other footballers to attain an excellent football experience, whilst attaining a degree that can also set-up for a strong career in whatever you choose to pursue post-18 - in my case, the accountancy/finance sector.*

*I believe me being a part of the Football Scholarship programme has definitely helped me in so many ways. Primarily, my football ability and knowledge of the game has definitely increased by working with top coaches on a day-to-day basis. From the training sessions to the video analysis sessions and the matches, it is a real top experience for any 16–18 year old person who has an interest in the game and, more importantly, an interest in wanting to improve as a player and develop as a person.*

*I have been able to share my experiences with current Year 11 students. From me on my own coming onto the scholarship programme from St Pius X, we now have plenty of interest from current St Pius students. This suggests the real positive impact it has had not only on myself, but everybody on the programme."*

**Jamie McGinnes, 2020**

## The Offer

All those enrolled onto the scholarship programme undertake A Levels or applied qualifications alongside their football programme.

**The scholarship provides students with:**

- A football coaching programme delivered by UEFA A/B-licensed coaches
- Training five days a week, including match analysis, strength and conditioning, rehab and recovery and technical/tactical sessions
- Veo camera technology, recording all games
- PlayerTek GPS software throughout the programme
- Access to state-of-the-art training facilities, including an FA affiliated floodlit 3G pitch
- A comprehensive league and competition structure on Wednesday afternoons
- Scholarship pathways in America
- Opportunities to participate in overseas tours
- Work experience opportunities



# Coaches

Our football scholars have the opportunity to access some exceptional coaching from a highly skilled team. We are privileged to have experienced and knowledgeable football coaches that will guarantee student progression.



**Mr Elliott Flowers**  
Trust Leader of Football Development

UEFA A Licensed Coach. Prior to joining Wath, Mr Flowers worked for a variety of professional clubs including Chesterfield, Leeds United and Peterborough United. He has worked in both the elite male and female academy system. Mr Flowers holds both a BSc and MSc Sport Coaching degrees. In February 2022, he took the role of Trust Lead of Football Development, working across the Maltby Learning Trust to develop football across both our primary and secondary academies.



**Mr Ashley Thompson**  
Scholarship Lead Coach

UEFA B Licensed Coach. Mr Thompson is currently completing his UEFA A Licence. He currently works at Sheffield United as Women's U21 Head Coach. He has previously worked at Leeds United, York City and Guiseley Vixens. He holds a BSc Sport Coaching degree from Northumbria University.



**Mr Carl Kennedy**  
Lead Goalkeeping Coach

UEFA B Licensed Outfield and Goalkeeper Coach. Mr Kennedy is the current Sheffield United Women's First Team goalkeeper coach. He has previously worked at Everton Women and Leeds United, providing goalkeeping coaching across their academy pathways. He has also led the FA Women's High-Performance Centre for South Yorkshire and continues to work with the England Women's national squads at youth development phase level.



**Mr Harry Watson**  
Football Development Officer

FA Affiliated Coach. Mr Watson is currently completing his UEFA B License. He has coached for over six years, with previous roles at Hull City Academy, Barnsley Women and the FA Women's High-Performance Centre for South Yorkshire. He now works in the Sheffield United Women's Academy as Head of Goalkeeping and holds a BSc in Sport Coaching from Sheffield Hallam University.



**Mr James Habbergham**  
Strength and Conditioning Coach

Mr Habbergham has a BSc and Msc in Sports Science and Sport & Exercise Physiology from Leeds Beckett University. Mr Habbergham has a wealth of experience in elite sport, currently working as a strength and conditioning coach at Sheffield United academy. He also supports at the Leeds Talent Hub, working with several Olympic endurance athletes.



## Careers & Future Opportunities

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

- Professional/semi-professional football
- US scholarships
- Professional coaching
- Professional officiating
- Strength and conditioning
- Physio and rehabilitation
- Performance analysis
- Business/sport management
- University and higher education
- Apprenticeships



# Success Stories

## Jamie McGinnes

Wath Academy student Jamie McGinnes secured a playing scholarship with Missouri Valley College, located close to Kansas City.

Our first male footballer to study abroad, Jamie – an external student from St Pius X – chose Wath due to its unique combination of A Levels and a football scholarship. After a successful first year, he became deputy head boy and completed his work experience with the Wath Academy coaching team.

Jamie’s commitment and dedication secured a highly sought after college scholarship while studying business.

## Eva Butler

Eva Butler secured a place with Sheffield United Women U21 Academy after a successful trial during the first year of her Scholarship. She joined the sixth form from Thrybergh Academy and is now playing alongside players with the aim of breaking into the Barclays Women’s Championship.

*“The girls who play alongside me are brilliant. They are supportive and make the training and games so enjoyable, making it a fun learning environment that everyone wants to be a part of. A highlight was when we won the first futsal tournament. At first, everyone was slightly nervous. However, we were determined to try and beat everyone – and we did. The atmosphere and the sheer delight of winning was incredible because it felt like we had all done it for each other.*

*I have had the opportunity to complete my Level 1 Coaching badge and I am currently doing the Level 2 badge. The scholarship has kindly provided me with the funds to do this along with many of my team mates. I am so grateful that I was introduced to coaching through this scholarship because it is something that I want to now pursue in the future and inspire the next generation of girls to take part in the beautiful game.”*

**Daisy Turton, 2021**

## Jade Butcher

Maltby Learning Trust student Jade Butcher secured a playing scholarship with the University of West Georgia, competing in the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

Jade was a crucial member of our first girls’ cohort. While representing Wath, she also played with Barnsley’s first XI, alongside studying at one of our trust schools, Maltby Academy.

A role model to all current and future scholars, Jade showed outstanding qualities to combine her excellent football provision with academic studies. Jade will certainly inspire others in this possible post-18 route.

## Luke Laird and Sam White

Sheffield FC signed Luke Laird and Sam White after successful trials.

The exit routes for these two players were into semi-professional football. Both Luke and Sam impressed while playing at Wath Academy Sixth Form and gaining experiences in their youth set up. They then progressed to the reserves and first team, making numerous appearances.

## Daisy Turton and Jade Beck

Daisy Turton and Jade Beck have recently become Level 2 coaches, after passing their assessment.

Daisy and Jade, part of our first girls’ cohort, showed exceptional levels of leadership and coaching qualities. This resulted in them assisting, leading and developing a successful FA Wildcats programme, a scheme designed to introduce girls aged 5–12 into football, and potentially create the next generation of Wath scholars.

## Find Out More

For more information about the Football Scholarship, pick up a flyer or contact [football@wathacademy.com](mailto:football@wathacademy.com). You can also follow the dedicated @Wath\_Scholars Twitter account or [wath\\_scholars](#) Instagram.







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