

BATH RUGBY CONTRACT SIGNINGS

Beechen Cliff School is pleased to celebrate the news that Year 13 students Nahum Merigan and Gabriel Hamer-Webb have signed their first long-term senior academy contracts with Bath Rugby. The club announced the signings on Friday, alongside the news that former Beechen Cliff student Miles Reid has had his contract extended and has been promoted into the Senior Squad for the 2019/2020 season.

Commenting on the good news, Head Master Andrew Davies said: "I know that all the staff and pupils at Beechen Cliff are incredibly proud of our rugby players. Gabriel, Nahum and their team-mates are such powerful role-models to the younger boys in the school; both on the pitch and around school. As a keen Bath Rugby supporter, I look forward to seeing them running out onto the Rec in the near future, representing their city, school and families. The school is fully committed to its partnership with Bath Rugby and looks forward to seeing many more Beechen Cliff pupils follow this pathway into professional sport"



Bath Rugby Academy Manager, Andy Rock indicated that contracts were a "commitment from both the Club and from each of them as individuals. It is an opportunity for us to support them to become first team players with Bath Rugby and to help each of them realise their potential. Our ambition to develop a senior squad with 50% home-grown players is clear". He added that these players all have "key attributes that can see them emerge as Premiership players in the years to come."

Gabriel, formerly a talented footballer before converting fully to rugby at 15, has been at Beechen Cliff since year 7. He is winger with an impressive try-scoring record and a huge appetite for the physical aspects of the game. Nahum, originally from the Taunton area, joined the school two years ago in order to fulfil his rugby potential and is a boarder in the school's boarding house. He is a ball carrying No8 capable of busting defences with his power, combined with subtle off-loading skills.

Both are graduates of the RFU AASE (Achieving Sporting And Sporting Excellence) programme that the school runs in partnership with Bath Rugby which is now in its fourth year, as was Miles Reid. There are now nine graduates of the AASE Programme amongst the ranks of Bath Rugby professional players. Gabriel and Nahum have both been stalwarts of the school's 1st XV, who have had a very successful season in the RFU National AASE League, competing against the AASE partners of all the other Premiership clubs. They were unbeaten in the league phase of the competition, before losing in an agonisingly close Final

Commenting on his signing, Nahum said: "I am excited to be embarking on my professional career with Bath Rugby. Bath has been my club since I joined the Pathway programme as a 13 year old. I have had incredible backing from Beechen Cliff, its teaching staff and rugby coaches. Bath Rugby supports the rugby programme with very talented coaches; they have devoted many hours to my development and I have learnt so much from them. I know what I need to do in the next few months in order to bridge the gap between AASE rugby and the professional game and I am fully committed to this."

Gabriel added: "We have both been very lucky to be part of a very talented squad of players here at Beechen. We all drive each other towards high standards in training and in matches. The team culture and work ethic we all share has been the foundation of what we have achieved this year. I will take this with me into my professional career. It will undoubtedly be a massive challenge, but I am really looking



forward to giving it my best shot. Having grown up and gone to school in Bath, it means a great deal to me personally to be continuing my rugby journey with Bath Rugby”.

Director of Rugby, Sean Turner, concluded: I am delighted for Gabriel and Nahum. They have worked so hard to earn these contracts and the recognition is fully deserved. The talent stream of rugby players coming through the school and its rugby programme is very encouraging and I am sure that in the years to come there will be many more Beechen Cliff graduates into the professional ranks.”