

## Beechen Cliff/Bath Rugby – ACE Programme

Beechen Cliff School and Bath Rugby work in close partnership to develop promising young rugby players in the Bath Rugby catchment area. The RFU ACE (formerly AASE) programme aims to provide an outstanding rugby and academic development programme for talented players to achieve their potential both on and off the pitch.



Since the programme was started in 2014, 26 players from Beechen Cliff have been offered professional contracts with Bath Rugby. Many others have progressed onto a high level of rugby at university whilst following their chosen career path. Others have continued their rugby adventures abroad, while some have returned to play leading roles at their home-town clubs

As part of the programme, Beechen Cliff enters a Sixth Form team into the RFU's National ACE League, playing fixtures against the ACE Partner Schools & Colleges of the other 12 Premiership Clubs. The ACE League therefore offers the highest available standard of schoolboy rugby in the UK. With Bath Rugby's support in areas such as coaching, strength and conditioning, match analysis, positional development, physiotherapy, nutrition and psychology, the players have the best opportunity to achieve their full potential. Meanwhile, the academic outcomes for those on the programme are outstanding, with players being equally well-supported to achieve their academic and career goals.



The programme is targeted primarily at 16-18 year old rugby players from within Bath Rugby's catchment of Somerset, Wiltshire and Dorset. Others come from further afield in the UK or from overseas. Some of the players, whose home is too far away to commute on a daily basis, board in the school's boarding house.

Players benefit from being part of the ACE programme in a number of different ways:

- They are part of the same local school, so they learn, train and play together which encourages team spirit, cohesion and lifelong friendships.
- They have access to a high quality academic 'A' Level programme in an exceptional school, as well as an equivalent vocational course at Level 3.
- Their rugby programme is managed and delivered by top quality coaching staff from both school and Bath Rugby.
- They have access to top quality training and playing facilities, both at school and at Farleigh House.
- Players follow individualised training programmes set by Bath Rugby Strength and Conditioning staff.
- Students have a minimum of 12 rugby-related hours a week, two terms of rugby competition and a summer term of rugby development.
- They have access to the best of off-field support from Bath Rugby Physiotherapy and medical professionals.
- They will be exposed to a highly competitive environment in which to test themselves. The programme runs 1<sup>st</sup> XV, 2<sup>nd</sup> XV and 3<sup>rd</sup> XV squads
- The 1<sup>st</sup> XV play in the ACE League, the highest standard of school rugby available. The 2<sup>nd</sup> XV play in a parallel ACE Development League, as well as playing the 1<sup>st</sup> XVs of the leading independent schools.
- The programme provides the best opportunity of progression towards the professional game and international age grade representative sides.

For further information please contact Andy Hall, Director of Rugby:

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**ACE Programme international Roll of Honour (2015-2023):**

George Worboys (England U18s)  
Fin Dewar (England 7s)  
Diego Periel (Spain U18s, U20s, 7s)  
Tom De Glanville (England U18s, U20s)  
Gabriel Hamer-Webb (England U20s)  
Orlando Bailey (England U18s, U20s)  
Nahum Merigan (England U18s, U20s)  
Will Hendy (England 7s)  
Chris Moore (Ireland U18s)  
Tom Jeanes (England U18s)  
Ethan Staddon (England U18s, U20s)  
Kieren Verden (England U18s)  
John Stewart (England U18s, U20s)  
Wil Partington (England Students)  
Connor Beer (Ireland U18s, Spain U20s)  
Oliver Cattell (Scotland U18s)  
Petre Urs (Romania U18s)  
Jasper Spandler (England U18s, U20s)  
Sean Cole (Poland)  
Billy Sela (England U18s)  
Guillermo Boland (Spain U18s, U20s)  
Mackenzie Graham (England U20s)  
Archie Maggs (England U20s)  
Rafferty Weston (England U18s)  
Connor Treacey (England U18s)



Jasper Spandler, Mackenzie Graham and Archie Maggs playing for England U20s XV, 2022

**Bath Rugby Contracts (2015-2023)**

2017 Reid Verden Partington

2018 De Glanville JeanesT Cattell Hutt

2019 Hamer-Webb Merigan Worboys

2020 Bailey Stewart Staddon Goss Read

2021 Spandler Graham Stanley Maggs

2022 JeanesW

2023 Short Weston Sela Cameron Crum Haythornthwaite



Gabriel Hamer-Webb, Kieren Verden, Miles Reid, Orlando Bailey, Tom de Glanville playing for Bath Rugby 1st XV