

IVYBRIDGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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Information Sheet for Prospective Rugby Players – 2010-2012

Ivybridge Community College has a growing reputation for promoting players onto professional contracts. There are no guarantees of this! It is merely the environment and expertise that we provide.

Players have to enjoy the process of working hard, making sacrifices, being disciplined and being part of a highly successful programme, their aspirations and long-term goals will be challenging to achieve.

Academy

Ivybridge Community College is proud to host the U18 Exeter Chiefs England Rugby Academy (ECERA).

- Not all players are part of this Academy.
- All players are given the opportunity to work towards gaining full Academy status.
- Players do not need to be part of the Academy to play for the First XV.
- All players within the senior structure are given ample opportunities to improve.

Players can enter the Rugby Programme without an official invitation into the Academy and are given the opportunity to earn the right to be included in the Senior Academy. The Ivybridge philosophy is to promote players onto a higher level of Rugby when their work rate and attitude allows.

The Academy Manager produces a report on the Academy Players three times a year. The report will be discussed with the player and the Manager will outline his expectations for the player's development. During the year there will be regular meetings to discuss goal and target-setting – the player is expected and encouraged to contribute his thoughts on his progress – it is a two-way process.

Advance Apprenticeship in Sporting Excellence (AASE)

Successful completion of this two-year AASE course results in an NVQ Level 3 Achieving Excellence in Sports Performance. The course runs in conjunction with the BTEC National Diploma in Sport. These qualifications are recognised for access to Further Education and can only be achieved with consistent hard work throughout the course. There are no guarantees of professional contracts but advice and guidance on a career path is offered to our Rugby Students throughout their time at the College.

It is the individual who sets his own attitude and then anything is possible.

Fixtures

The fixture list at Ivybridge Community College is extensive and demanding and we believe that by testing the players at the highest level they will improve. The College has an outstanding reputation for producing players who reach the very top in the game. The College has a terrific ethos and believes that if the student has the correct attitude then anything is possible.

Training

The Training Week involves a combination of skills and team training. Our matches are generally played on Wednesdays and the training fits around the match and post-match requirements. We train every lunch-time and only occasionally after College hours.

One-on-one skills sessions with coaches can be included in the week, although these may have to be outside of College hours if not achieved within the College day. We endeavour to fit the training programme around the academic requirements of both the A Level and National Diploma/AASE NVQ Level students.

Players must recognise the importance of developing their personal organisational and time-keeping skills. Each player is issued with a Training Diary and is encouraged to use this alongside his personal Academic Planner. The Training Diary must be completed on a daily basis and will be checked weekly.

Fitness

The fitness regime each player undertakes is overseen by trained staff. We constantly assess the requirements of the players and adapt their training schedules to their needs depending on the season, fixture schedule/game time, injuries and rehabilitation work. We expect the player to work diligently on the programmes that we set and we monitor and mentor throughout the whole process.

Those students taking A Levels may have to fit some of their gym sessions in before or after College hours. All students will need to follow a gym competency education process to ensure safety in the gym which takes around 2-3 hours and costs £10, and will be arranged for early in the academic year.

What expenses are involved?

The coach travel costs incurred on away match days are met by the College. Students are expected to purchase any extra meal requirements.

AASE League Festivals

Three per season. Depending on their location these may involve an overnight stay; costs will be kept to a minimum by staying at a Youth hostel if possible. (approximately £15-20)

Tournaments

We do not stay in expensive hotels. Where possible we stay at hostels and self-cater. This teaches the players responsibility and keeps the costs low. We would expect to play in at least two tournaments a season. (approximately £20-30 per night)

Sevens Tournaments

Fylde (£65), Portsmouth (£20) and Rosslyn Park (£30) are featured in the current season, (estimated costs).

From 2010 we anticipate an annual trip to Ireland to play either Blackrock College or another respected Irish College side. Students are asked to contribute for return flights to Dublin, accommodation and food costs. It is possible that some players would be selected to play in the majority of these events.

Optional Kit

There will be a kit cost of between £150 and £180 for a full playing kit, under and over protection garments and kit bag (price to be confirmed). This is **not** compulsory.

A Level Students

It is not compulsory for Rugby Players to be part of the AASE course and if you are a student intending to complete A levels then please do not hesitate to contact me and I can advise on the best way to approach this. The Ivybridge Community College staff and the Rugby Academy work closely together to provide the best possible education and Rugby Programme for all players.

How to Apply

To apply for a place at Ivybridge Community College please contact the Tertiary Education Office, Tel.01752 691000 – a member of the Tertiary staff will advise you of the process and requirements.

I am happy to meet prospective players and their parents to discuss your rugby aspirations and answer any questions you may have. I can give you a tour of the facilities and outline the ethos behind the development of an Ivybridge Community College Rugby Player.

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OR
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Rugby Administrator
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College Overview

Ivybridge Community College is a large and successful Secondary School that has funded specialisms in Sport, Science, Language and is a leading edge Training School. It is situated on the southern slopes of Dartmoor just a few miles from the coast in an area of outstanding beauty that stretches from the coast to the moor, and draws students from a feeder area covering over 100 square miles of the South Hams. There are a total of thirteen partner primary schools. The College, which is a very popular and successful institution offers a range of outstanding facilities and opportunities to students from 11-18, is over-subscribed in most Year groups.

Education

The College has gained its fourth consecutive outstanding OFSTED report which can be viewed at www.ofsted.gov.uk.

Other successes include:

- High performing non-selective Devon School at GCSE (79% 5 A* - C 2008)
- One of only 500 high performing schools to receive an award for sustained improvement from the Specialist Sports Trust
- High Performing Specialist School
- High performing Specialist Lead School for Gifted and Talented
- Five Funded Specialism's in Sport, Science with Math's, Languages, Training School and Leading Edge
- Chartermark/Investors in People Awards Fifth successful submission
- 400 students receive awards in Annual Ceremony
- International links
- International School Status
- International Baccalaureate World School Status
- Student exchanges
- British Council Fellowships

Rugby

Rugby is a major part of the Colleges culture along with many other elite sports including Weightlifting, Netball, Soccer, Basketball, Athletics, Dance and Gymnastics. The facilities at Ivybridge include all-weather training areas, sprint and 400m tracks, impressive gyms and weights rooms.

We have engaged in various Rugby tours and play in an annual match with Blackrock College, Dublin, we have also visited France to play Bordeaux. The major tours for rugby have been three trips to Japan playing in the Sanix World Youth Tournament representing England.

In 2002 the College was designated as host to a quarter of the RFU South West England Rugby Academy and then from 2004 SWERA was split between Truro College and Ivybridge Community College. In 2008 the Academy Licence was put out for tender and Exeter Chiefs were granted the Licence. The name changed to Exeter Chiefs England Rugby Academy and is still based at Ivybridge Community College and Truro. The College maintains successful links with many clubs in the region including Plymouth Albion and The Cornish Pirates.

The College is proud of the achievements of its past players and strives to promote players to higher levels of Rugby. To date, nine students have represented England, two have represented Scotland and two have represented Wales, all at junior levels. Steffon Armitage has also represented England at Senior International level and Stuart Hooper was in the England International squad versus the Barbarians.

You will find former students of Ivybridge Community College playing Rugby all around the world. Players have, and still do represent teams from Premiership through the National and County leagues.

The College's Rugby development is continuing and hard work will see both the Rugby Squad and individuals at the College reach new heights of achievement. The fixture list is one that other schools can only envy. Annual fixtures against the top sides in England, Ireland and Wales ensure that a variety and level is not only maintained but constantly sought.

2008 saw Ivybridge win the newly formed Elite AASE League Southern Division. In 2009 the RFU backed League is set to be even more competitive. This season wins to date over St Peter's (39-0), Twyford (24-0), Truro College (59-7), Filton (21-3), Colstons (29-6) and Exeter College (39-3) have been recorded.

The College is continually striving to find ways of challenging its Rugby playing students and adding to the fast growing reputation of being a leader in the game. We believe that exposing the students to new, yet tough experiences will stand them in good stead for the future in their endeavours both on and off the field.

Press Release June 2009

On 5 June 2009, Five ex-Ivybridge Community College students represented England Rugby teams on different parts of the globe.

Steffon Armitage played for the England senior team in their win over Argentina at Old Trafford, Manchester. The robust flanker is easing his way into the international arena and showed what a force he can be when competing for the ball on the floor and is picking some great support lines. Steffon also played against the Baa Baas at Twickenham last week. Stuart Hooper played for the England Saxons in America in the annual Churchill Cup competition. This follows a solid year since his transfer from Leeds to Bath. Stuart played in most games for the south west club in the Premiership and Heineken cup competitions in 2008/09. The hard working back row/lock had the honour to captain the Saxons side also. Three others are in Tokyo, Japan with the England U20 side. Dan Williams, lock, started the game while Dave Lewis came on as scrum half replacement after forty-seven minutes. Both players are currently at Gloucester. Dave Lewis has had a mixed bag of luck this season, putting in several appearances for the club before breaking his ankle in a Guinness Premiership game. The U20 World Cup comes at an ideal time for him to regain some match fitness.

Ben Moon, prop, of Exeter Chiefs also came on as a replacement after forty minutes. Ben played every minute of every game in the U20 home nations championship recently and will undoubtedly start in the upcoming world cup games.

Playing in Japan is not a new experience for the three as they have travelled there before with Ivybridge Community College to play in the Sanix World Youth Tournament in 2006.

