



DITCHAM PARK SCHOOL

SPORTS SCHOLARSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

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I would like to take this opportunity to remind you about the Ditcham Park School Sports **Scholarship and Development** Programme.

This unique and dedicate programme is a fantastic opportunity for our talented sportsmen and women to develop further and help them reach their potential in their chosen sport. The Sports Development Programme is designed to inspire, develop, and support our sports scholars and other talented and enthusiastic pupils who want to enhance their skills.

I look forward to supporting our students through the programme and celebrating their future sporting accolades..



James Walton
Head of PE





Sports Scholarship

Sport plays an important part in our school life. The main sports at Ditcham are football, netball, rugby, hockey and cricket. Cross country running and athletics are our pupils' particular areas of strength. We also enjoy playing Basketball and have participated in fixtures as this sport gains popularity nationally. Ditcham is fortunate to have the Ditcham Park School Tennis Academy, run by LTA Performance Coach, James Vaughan. We have a very strong cohort of tennis players within our Juniors and Seniors and our academy has aspirations of becoming the leading tennis school in Hampshire. Ditcham also has a very active mountain biking club with our cyclists regularly riding out at the weekends and competing in the annual Ditcham Hill Climb - a nationally popular race in the summer.

We are enormously proud of the sporting achievements of current and past pupils. Among our current pupils we have a National Standard gymnast, sailor, motor sport racer, equestrian eventer and a Premiership Academy rugby player to name just a few of the outstanding levels of skill that our pupils demonstrate within school and beyond the classroom.





Among our talented former pupils we are proud of the achievements of Ellie who won a silver medal in the English Schools U17G 800m and then went on to run for England in a Home Nations International and Finn who was an U16 European Sailing Champion and is now a member of the UK Olympic Sailing Team.

Each year we expect to make one or two Sports Scholarship awards to applicants who demonstrate significant sporting ability and the potential to play or compete at county standard or above. The award attracts a fee remission of between 5 and 10 percent and carries with it the expectation of future progress and involvement in the sporting life of the school. The recipient of a Scholarship will also be expected to choose to study PE at GCSE.





Sports Development Programme

A key element of our Scholarship Programme is Sports Development which is designed to inspire, inform and develop our talented and ambitious sporty boys and girls. We have created a range of opportunities to excite and motivate our pupils to develop even higher aspirations and achievements.

This includes:

Sports Leaders Programme

We are excited to launch the Young Leaders Award this year which is a nationally recognised qualification designed to empower our pupils with key leadership skills. Through this programme, students will explore the core elements of effective leadership while building the confidence to coach, mentor, and inspire younger pupils both within school and in their chosen clubs or community groups. This opportunity not only supports personal development but also encourages pupils to become positive role models and active contributors to their wider communities.



Visiting Sports Professionals Programme

High achieving professional sportsmen and women are invited to school to meet and inspire our pupils by talking about their life in sport and their pathway to success.

Visits to Centres of Sporting Excellence

Visits are organised to inspire and inform our pupils. These will include local and national centres such as Surrey Sports Park where the professional netball team, Surrey Storm, train and the Harlequins Rugby Club also train. There is also a two-day trip to Loughborough University for a hockey tour that will help to inspire our teams and to experience sports at university level. For cricket, we visit Reed's School to have coaching with their Head Coach and former England player, Keith Medycott.

Individual Support & Development

Our PE team will provide support and advice with individualised training programmes.





Expectations

Sports Scholars and other pupils who are invited to join the Sports Development Programme are expected to:





- represent school teams whenever possible
- encourage and support team mates
- help run House sports events
- attend Open Mornings to promote and support school sport
- help to coach junior players and support with after school clubs





Visiting Sports Professional Sportsmen/Women Programme

Ruaridh McConnochie, Professional Rugby Player

We were delighted that Ruaridh McConnochie, Professional Rugby Player and GB Rugby Sevens silver medallist at the Rio Olympics in 2016, was our guest of honour at Founder's and Prize Giving Day.

Ruaridh kindly agreed to officially open the extension to our sports hall and met our Sports Scholars, our Sports Development Programme pupils, Sports Captains and winners of Junior Sports Day who helped him with his official task!



Adelle Tracey, International Athlete

Adelle met Pre-School, Junior and Senior pupils, held a running masterclass and talked about her training and career as a British middle-distance runner competing primarily in the 800 metres. She achieved her 800 metres best of 1:59.86 in the 2018 European Championships semi-finals and went on to finish fourth in the final.

Jack Davey, Professional Wheelchair Basketball Player

We were thrilled to welcome Jack Davey, an elite wheelchair basketball player and coach from The Exeter Otters, who spoke to our Year 7–11 students about his remarkable journey. Jack shared an inspiring message about resilience, determination, and the importance of challenging expectations, both in sport and in life. As captain of his regional team, Jack led with distinction and went on to compete at the highest level in Germany. He also spent four years training as part of the Great Britain performance pathway, developing as a professional athlete. In 2023, Jack was named Coach of the Year, recognising his outstanding contribution to the sport. Our students were captivated by his story and left feeling motivated to overcome challenges and pursue their goals.



Kate and Helen Richardson-Walsh, Olympic Hockey Gold Medalists

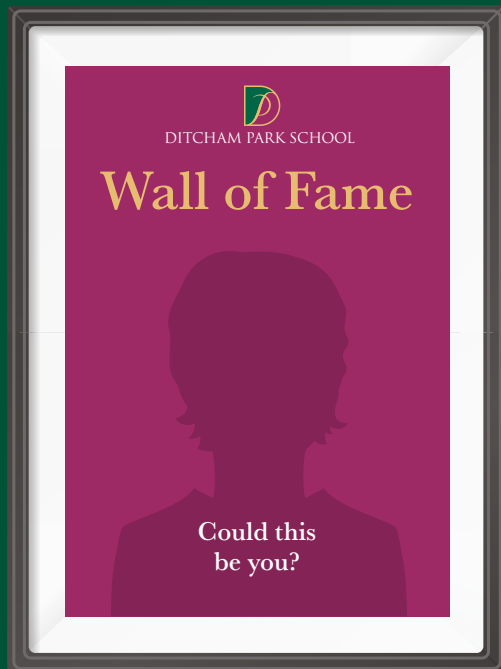
Kate and Helen visited Ditcham, where they spoke in both Junior and Senior assemblies and hosted a coaching session for Seniors.



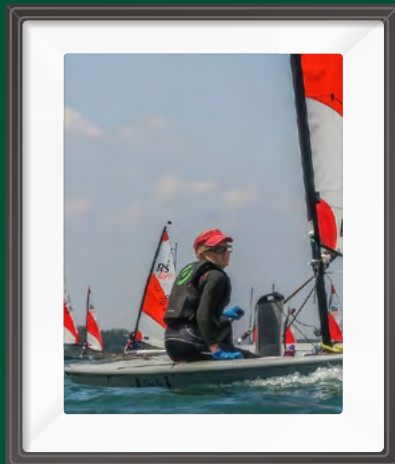
England and GB Captain Kate Richardson-Walsh made her international debut back in 1999 and has made over 350 appearances for her country, captaining her side since 2003 and is the most capped female player in her country's history.

Helen Richardson-Walsh won her first England cap in 1999 and made her Olympic debut at Sydney 2000 – becoming the youngest female hockey player to represent Team GB. Further appearances followed, winning bronze in 2012. In 2016, she helped the women's hockey team to an historic first gold at the Rio Olympics.

Kate was awarded an MBE in 2014 and in 2017, Helen was awarded an MBE.



We wish to celebrate and promote the achievements of former pupils who have reached International or National Standards in sport.



Holly Mitchell

Junior Sailing Champion in 2021 for the UK Feva class.



Xavier Ffinch-Mitchell

Selected to play for Hampshire Counties U17 squad in 2024.

Wilbur De La Haye



Selected to represent Team GBR for the Halloween Cup in Lake Garda Autumn 2025 and part of the British National Squad.

Seb Hopkins

Motor Sport
Champion 2021.



Sophie Paynter Hart

Sophie is a talented swimmer on the National Talent Pathway for Hampshire and Open Water Swimming for South East England. A top 10 competitor in the South East region for the 400m, 800m, and 1500m events, she continues to break lots of club records and has been invited by Swim England to compete at the Nationals this year.



Bella Lumb

Qualified in 2024 to represent Ditcham Park School in the National Schools Equestrian Association at Hickstead.



Assessment Process

- All candidates will be required to pass the Entrance Exams.
- Submit a sporting resume which explains which sport(s) the candidate takes part in and what level he/she has achieved so far.
- Provide a sporting reference from their school, club or coach which provides information and achievement in specific sports.



- Attend a half day of assessments and interviews:
 - Candidates will be required to undertake a series of basic motor-ability tests which are designed to test cardio-respiratory endurance, power, agility, co-ordination and endurance.
 - Candidates will also be assessed in two sports. The School's major sports are football, rugby and cricket for boys and netball, hockey, cricket and football for girls. It is also possible for candidates to offer athletics, tennis, and cycling.
 - The interview with the Headmaster and Head of Sport will be 15 minutes long and will involve questions about the candidate's sporting interests and achievements.





DITCHAM PARK SCHOOL

Where every child is known and valued

For more information about the
Sports Scholarship and Development Plan
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www.ditchampark.com