

Exeter Chiefs Rugby Academy Newsletter



Welcome to the 2025-26 season. We trust you all enjoyed a brilliant summer and are gearing up for a new season.

Things have been busy on and off the field at the Exeter Chiefs Rugby Academy; the opening of the new Exeter College Centre For Rugby, international representations and supporting the Women's Rugby World Cup activities in Exeter to name just a few.

We're excited to welcome several new faces to the staff team this season. Each brings valuable experience and energy to help support our players and the Academy as a whole:

- **Aaron Jarvis - Development Academy Coach**

We're thrilled to welcome Aaron Jarvis to the team. A former Welsh international, Aaron brings a wealth of top level playing and coaching experience. Having earned caps for Wales and played professionally for teams including the Ospreys, Bath and Dragons, he now turns his focus to developing the next generation of rugby talent.

- **Ali Hepher - Performance Coach**

With a background in professional rugby, including a tenure as Head Coach at Exeter Chiefs, Ali brings a wealth of experience in elite performance, player development and high performance culture. His expertise will be invaluable in guiding our players both on and off the field as they strive for excellence.

- **Mal Roberts - Foundation Coach (South)**

With a strong background in player development and coaching at both club and County levels, Mal brings valuable experience and a passion for developing young talent. His addition will further strengthen our rugby programme in Cornwall as we continue to support players in reaching their full potential.

- **Ben Hawley - Foundation Coach (North)**

Ben brings extensive experience, known for his tactical insight and dedication to developing players' skills and teamwork. His expertise will play a key role in advancing our rugby programme and supporting the growth of our teams.

- **Ana Green - Physiotherapist (Development / Foundation)**

Newly qualified Ana brings fresh knowledge, energy and a strong passion for supporting athlete recovery and performance. Ana will be working closely with players to manage injuries, aid rehabilitation and promote overall physical wellbeing.

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Exeter College News

New Facilities Opened at Exeter College

Exeter College has officially opened its cutting edge new facilities, featuring a state of the art gym, modern changing rooms and high-quality classrooms. The new space will serve as the home for the Exeter Chiefs Rugby Academy, as well as the College's male and female rugby teams.



John Laramy, Principal and Chief Executive of Exeter College together with Exeter Chiefs Chairman Tony Rowe CBE, Hon LLD cutting the ribbon at the brand new college playing facility at Flowerpots Playing Fields.



Exeter Chiefs Supporters club proudly sponsoring the facility with its new scoreboard.

Richard Cresswell of the Supporter Club pictured with College Students.

Exeter College News Cont.

A stunning drone view of our state of the art new facilities, designed not only for excellence but also to serve local community clubs year round rain or shine.



Q Acoustics Powers Performance at Exeter College's Centre for Rugby

We are thankful to leading British audio specialist Q Acoustics who are the official audio partner, providing the high-performance sound system for the newly refurbished gym at the Centre for Rugby.

The system features four moisture-resistant Q Acoustics QI65EW on-wall speakers, powered by a high-performance amplifier and paired with a powerful Q SUB120 12-inch subwoofer for deep, room-filling bass. All connections use premium cabling from QED, Q Acoustics' award-winning sister brand renowned for its high-fidelity audio accessories



Truro College News

As the 2025/26 season begins, the partnership between Exeter Chiefs Rugby Academy and Truro College continues to grow in both strength and significance.

The rich history of players progressing from the College through the Academy and into the senior and international ranks is well documented. With dedicated staff helping to develop future stars, it is an exciting time for both the male and female sides of the game. Exeter Chiefs support the College with five full-time staff across specialist coaching, strength & conditioning, and physiotherapy.

Mal Roberts has joined the Chiefs staff at the College to lead the development of young Cornish players coming through the Foundation Phase. This phase identifies male talent between the ages of 15 and 16 and guides them into the College programme. With Mal's extensive playing and coaching background - as an RFU Coach Educator, and through his coaching experience with the British Army and Cornwall Seniors - he is also lending his considerable knowledge to the girls' programme at Truro College.

His work is helping to expand the women's rugby pathway, linking it with the Exeter Chiefs U23 Women's programme and creating future opportunities that mirror those available to the boys.

Learners benefit from outstanding sports facilities, including a £500,000 investment in a state-of-the-art 4G rugby pitch at Truro and Penwith College. They also receive professional coaching and development through the Exeter Chiefs Academy - giving the South West's future sporting talent the best possible chance of achieving their goals of becoming elite athletes.

Truro College has a proud tradition of being one of the country's top rugby schools and is once again representing the club in the RFU ACE League. This elite competition allows students to test themselves against the best players and teams nationwide.

As alumni continue to make their mark on the fields of Europe and England - including with the Cornish Pirates, who provide a playing home for many former students - there is great excitement for the current cohort of Truro College and Exeter Chiefs Academy players as they continue the proud tradition and legacy of success



International Representation

On the field, Academy players continued to gain valuable international experience at the U20 Rugby World Cup. Representing their nations were (L–R) Nick Lilley (England), Jed Findlay (Scotland) and Louie Gulley (England), with Luke Evans representing Wales.



Ollie Batson capped off a fantastic summer by signing his first Rookie contract and representing England U18s on tour in South Africa.

George Newman also celebrated a major milestone, signing his first Rookie deal and taking the next step in his rugby journey.



Academy U18

RFU Malvern Festival

The future of Exeter Chiefs Rugby was on full display as both the U18 and U17 Academy squads took part in the RFU age grade festival held at Malvern College in July. The festival provided a high quality development platform, pitting the Chiefs against elite opposition from across the country. The U18s took to the field on Monday 28th July, facing off against Harlequins and RGC in two fiercely contested fixtures. On Tuesday 29th July, the U17s followed suit in games against Harlequins, Bath A and Scarlets continuing the club's commitment to exposing young talent to competitive, high-performance rugby.



Highlights of the festival can be viewed on the [Exeter Chiefs Academy You Tube channel](#)

PREM Next Gen U18 Academy League - Rounds 1 and 2

Exeter Chiefs U18s kicked off their Academy League campaign with a high scoring encounter against Northampton Saints on Friday 15th August at Franklin's Gardens. Despite a strong second half fightback from the Chiefs, it was Saints who took the spoils with a 64–51 victory. Northampton dominated the first half with seven tries, but Exeter responded with determination and attacking flair after the break to close the gap.

Exeter Chiefs U18s delivered a statement performance in their second Academy League outing, running in 10 tries to claim a convincing win (62-7) over Sale Sharks at the Exeter College Centre for Rugby. The young Chiefs impressed with their attacking intent, physicality, and cohesion across the park.

Academy U18 League 2025/26

The 2025/26 U18 Academy League offers a larger fixture list with the National League starting in August. This provides a great opportunity and experience to play against the northern academies also.

15.08.2025 Northampton (A) - 64-51 L
22.08.2025 Sale (H) - 62-7 W
25.10.2025 Gloucester (H)
03.01.2026 Bristol (A)
10.01.2026 Bath (H)

17.01.2026 Harlequins (A)
31.01.2026 Yorkshire (H)
07.02.2026 Leicester (A)
Finals Day 21/22 February 2026

Other Events...

Willowbrook School - Exeter Chiefs Foundation

On a sunny July afternoon, Academy staff were proud to support a fantastic community event at Willowbrook School in Exeter, hosted by the Exeter Chiefs Foundation. The occasion marked a major milestone; the serving of the Foundation's 6,000th meal.

The Foundation provided a delicious spread including burgers, hotdogs, pasties, and jacket potatoes, much to the delight of pupils, their families and staff. Our Academy staff got stuck in by running a range of rugby themed games and activities, keeping the children active, entertained and smiling.

It was a brilliant event that brought together food, fun and sport and showcased the powerful impact of community partnerships in action.

Women's Rugby World Cup

On 28th August, Academy staff and several of our talented Truro College women's players were delighted to take part in a special event at Exeter Quay, celebrating Exeter's selection as one of the host cities for the Women's Rugby World Cup.

As part of the festivities, our players led a range of rugby themed activities for children, helping to share the spirit of the game and inspire the next generation of players. The event created a fun, inclusive atmosphere and highlighted the growing excitement around women's rugby in the region.

It was a proud moment for the Academy and a great opportunity to be involved in a global celebration of the sport right in the heart of Exeter.



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Academy Socials



YouTube

