



Ackworth School
NON SIBI SED OMNIBUS

1779

In partnership with



**ACADEMY
ENGLAND**

Going

THE EXTRA MILE



ackworthschool.com

Go Ackworth Go further

Welcome

Ackworth School, in partnership with Paris Saint-Germain Academy England, is proud to offer an elite football development programme for boys and girls under the guidance of our Director of Football, John McDermott and Assistant Director of Football, Gary Childs, where players learn the techniques and philosophy of the Parisian club and have the chance to play the Paris Saint-Germain way!

With a development pathway, open to students from Year 7 (age 11+) onwards, players combine elite football training with a tailored academic programme suited to their age and ability. Students follow a core curriculum including GCSEs or a Pre-A Level course. In the Sixth Form, students choose between: A-Levels for a traditional academic route or the BTEC Extended National Diploma in Sport – a vocational qualification equivalent to three A-Levels.



John McDermott Director of Football

John is a very experienced and successful football coach and professional footballer who most recently was Assistant Manager at National League North side Buxton. He is an UEFA Category A licence holder, the highest practical coaching qualification offered by the football association.

As a player, he was a right-back from 1987 to 2007, spending his entire 20-year playing career at Grimsby Town and holds the club's all-time appearance record, having played 647 league games (754 games overall) for the Mariners. He is one of only 17 players in the history of English football to play more than 600 Football League matches for a single club.

In 2009 John was awarded the annual PFA Merit Award, in recognition of his record-breaking career at Grimsby Town, joining an elite group of footballers made up of the likes of Sir Bobby Charlton, Pele, Sir Alex Fergusson, David Beckham, Steven Gerrard, Emma Hayes and Sir Gareth Southgate.

“I am passionate about leading the Paris Saint-Germain Ackworth Football Academy through implementing ideas, sharing knowledge and helping young players prosper and grow both on and off the pitch.”

Gary Childs Assistant Director of Football

Gary has a wealth of experience both on and off the pitch and enjoyed a distinguished playing career with clubs including West Bromwich Albion — where he earned his England U21 caps — Walsall, Birmingham City, and Grimsby Town. Notably, his time at Walsall saw the club achieve its best-ever cup run, highlighting his contributions at the highest levels of the game.

Having worked with elite youth players for many years and with his extensive coaching expertise, Gary plays a key role in the development of our players in the Football Academy and creating footballing excellence.

“I’m delighted to be working with a fantastic team under the guidance of Paris Saint-Germain to nurture and develop young players. In this forward thinking environment, I’m passionate about helping students grow and reach their full potential.”



The programme

At PSG Academy Ackworth, our students benefit from unparalleled contact time each week with our school-based, UEFA Category A licensed Directors of Football. Through regular individual and group coaching sessions, competitive fixtures, supervised strength and conditioning training, and yoga, every player receives the tailored support they need to thrive.

Our programme blends Paris Saint-Germain’s world-class methodology with the nurturing environment of Ackworth School. Sessions follow PSG’s renowned playing philosophy, focusing on technical mastery, ball control, dribbling, passing, shooting, aerial play, combined with tactical understanding and peak physical preparation.

Players enjoy:

- **Elite coaching** from UEFA Category A licensed staff trained in PSG’s style of play.
- **Individual mentoring** and progress reports with personalised recommendations.
- **Competitive fixtures** in the ISFA, ESFA, and County Cups, as well as our U19s taking on professional club academies—maximising exposure to scouts.

Beyond the pitch, we take a holistic approach to development. Our workshops on nutrition, stress management, and game analysis, alongside leadership and teamwork training, ensure our players grow as confident individuals as well as athletes. Students can also work towards FA coaching or refereeing qualifications, gain sports-related work experience, and even take part in exclusive international events.

Recent Football Academy teams played include:

Leeds United	Doncaster Rovers	Sheffield Wednesday
South Shields	Bradford City	Tottenham Hotspur
Harrogate Town	Grimsby Town	Norwich City



Training and facilities

The home of PSG Academy Ackworth is a state-of-the-art £1.3 million 3G AstroTurf pitch, built in 2022 and located just 10 minutes from the school. This is where both training and matches take place, providing our players with professional standard playing conditions.

Within the school grounds, students also have access to a newly refurbished gymnasium, a purpose-built fitness suite, and an indoor swimming pool. Our facilities feature:

- A full range of cardio, resistance, and functional training equipment.
- Free weights and performance testing tools for year-round fitness monitoring.
- An on-site Lead Strength & Conditioning Coach to create tailored physical development plans.

All players complete regular fitness testing across the season, tracking their progress and ensuring they are in peak condition. Complementary sessions in yoga and mindfulness further support their physical and mental readiness for competition.

“Not only are we looking to produce good players but also good people.”

John McDermott, Director of Football

| Pathway to Success

The PSG Academy Ackworth experience prepares players for a variety of futures—whether aiming for professional football, pursuing higher education, or building a career in sports and beyond. Through the Player Development Programme, students train year-round, receive an official Nike PSG Academy kit, and benefit from small group learning for maximum impact.

We instil the core PSG values of teamwork, self-control, respect, and healthy living in everything we do. This approach ensures our players leave not only as skilled footballers but as resilient, disciplined, and well-rounded individuals.

By joining the PSG Academy Ackworth, players become part of a globally recognised football family, gaining access to professional training, personal growth opportunities and unforgettable experiences that extend beyond the pitch!

The Training Schedule

U16/U18

Monday	Practice at Frickley 3G
Tuesday	Practice at Frickley 3G
Wednesday	Match day for Academy
Thursday	Strength and conditioning training/yoga
Friday	Practice at school
Saturday	Practice at school

U12/U14/U15

Monday	Practice at school
Tuesday	Practice at school
Wednesday	Match day for Academy
Thursday	Strength and conditioning training/yoga
Friday	Practice at Frickley 3G
Saturday	Practice at school

| Sixth Form Subjects

Our Sixth Form offers a diverse range of A-Level or BTEC courses to study alongside being part of the Football Academy.

- Art and Design (Fine Art)
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Computing: Application Development
- Business Studies
- Design Technology
- Economics
- English Literature
- French
- Geography
- Government and Politics
- Health and Social Care
- History
- Maths
- Further Maths
- Music
- Performing Arts
- Physics
- Psychology
- Spanish
- Sport
- EPQ (Extended Project Qualification)



BTEC National Extended Diploma *in sport* (Edexcel)

This course develops many skills that are desirable both in Higher Education and in employment. We will encourage you to research topics, gather and synthesise information and present your findings in a clear and coherent way. By its very nature, the BTEC Sport course is 'hands-on' in its approach. It will provide you with a solid understanding in theory, before training you in the practical elements of working in the sports industry.

You will be taught by staff with personal experience and subject specialism in their field who will advance your knowledge and skills. You will learn in a friendly atmosphere, using a variety of assessment methods including exam, practical assessments, coursework assessments and presentations.

Mandatory modules:

- Anatomy and Physiology
- Fitness Training
- Programming for Health, Sport and Wellbeing
- Development and Provision of Sport and Physical Activity
- Investigating Business in the Sport and Active Leisure Industry
- Professional Development in the Sports Industry
- Sports Leadership
- Practical Sports Performance
- Coaching for Performance, Research methods in sport
- Skill acquisition in sport

Optional modules include

- Sports Psychology
- Research Project in Sport
- Sports Injury Management
- Sports Performance Management

“Ackworth is the perfect place for me to develop as a football player whilst completing my A-Levels.”

Andrew, Kenya



Admissions procedure/applying/fees

Admissions procedure

Our Admissions team is here to help your family on its education journey. Choosing the right school for your child's individual need and aspirations can positively influence their personal, and professional sense of achievement, happiness and fulfilment.

The admissions process is designed to ensure that the young persons concerned would benefit from the opportunities of an Ackworth education. An offer of a place at Ackworth depends on the completion of entrance assessments, a reference from the pupil's previous school, and there being a vacancy in the relevant year group.

In the case of entry into the Sixth Form, conditional offers are made on the basis of a reference from the pupil's current school and the achievement of appropriate grades at GCSE or equivalent.

How to apply

To apply for a place at Ackworth School you will need to complete the online registration form which can be found here:

<https://ackworthschool.com/admissions>

Membership of the Football Academy is subject to assessment of ability by the Director of Football. This can be in person or via video footage.

Fees, bursaries and scholarships

Details of our current fees can be found on the above page of our website. You will also find more information relating to bursaries and scholarships that we may be able to offer.

We're here to help with any questions you may have. You can contact our Admissions team at:

+44 (0)1977 233 621

Admissions@ackworthschool.com

“It's a great place to balance your school life and the Football Academy.”

Austin, Uganda





This is my
HAPPY SPACE



Ackworth School

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