



AGES 16 - 19

# FOOTBALL EDUCATION PROGRAMME

2026 ENTRY PROSPECTUS

In partnership with



# WELCOME



*The Chester FC Football Education Programme offers a powerful platform for young people inspired by the game to pursue their personal and professional goals.*

*Based within a proud community club setting, we create an environment where hard work, ambition, and high standards are part of everyday life. Supported by a passionate team of coaches and tutors - and underpinned by the value and identity of Chester FC - students are empowered to grow on and off the pitch. Whether your aim is to progress into football, university, or a future career in sport, this is where your journey begins. All that's left is to explore this prospectus and choose your pathway.*

Jim Green, CEO, Chester FC Community Trust



## COURSE OVERVIEW

### LEVEL 3 EXTENDED DIPLOMA IN SPORT DEVELOPMENT & COACHING (2 YEARS)

Equivalent to 3 A-Levels



Delivered by Access Sport College



100% coursework-based



Study modules including:



Coaching Skills



Careers in Sport



Anatomy & Physiology



Sports Psychology



Health & Wellbeing

## CHOOSE YOUR PATHWAY



### ELITE FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT

Train full-time in a professional environment designed to prepare talented young players for senior football, with a proven pathway to the Chester FC first team squad.



### COACHING & SPORT DEVELOPMENT

Turn your passion for the game into a career with this unique programme, helping you build the skills and experience for a range of roles within sport, alongside training and playing as you continue your own football development.

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Aged  
16-19

4 GCSEs at grade  
4-9 ideally including  
English & Maths\*

Applicants for the Elite Football Development pathway will be asked to submit a football CV to assess their suitability and invited to trial

\*Students who do not have GCSE English or Maths at Grade 4 can complete this alongside the Level 3 Extended Diploma

# ELITE FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT PATHWAY



Represent Chester FC in the FA Youth Cup against clubs from the EFL and EPL



Weekly fixtures in the National League U19 Alliance & North West Youth Alliance



Strength & conditioning and analysis support



UEFA-qualified coaching team



Up to 4 training sessions per week

Our Elite Football Development programme is designed to prepare young players for senior football, with a proven pathway to the Chester FC first team. Players train full-time with two games per week in a professional environment focused on holistic player development, where players are supported to develop technically, tactically and physically, and become well-rounded individuals. The programme promotes football excellence with UEFA qualified coaches, S&C support, performance analysis, while ensuring players achieve academically, readying them for the next step of their journey whether that is progressing to the first team squad, or onto alternative football and educational pathways.

## TRAINING & MATCHDAYS

**Training Venue:** King George V Community Sports Hub

**Matchday:** Wednesdays & Sundays (Home and Away Fixtures)

**League:** National League U19 Alliance & North West Youth Alliance

# COACHING AND SPORT DEVELOPMENT PATHWAY



Football development programme with two training sessions per week & regular fixtures



Individual learning plan geared towards your chosen career in sport



Undertake coaching placements with Chester FC Community Trust

**TheFA**

Complete FA coaching qualifications



Gain work experience in a real football business

Aimed at young people who aspire to turn their passion for the game into a career, our Coaching & Sport Development pathway offers a unique learning environment that enables students to reach their potential on and off the pitch. Blending classroom learning, practical skills, coaching qualifications, work placements, and a football development programme, students receive tailored support to develop the knowledge and experience needed for future careers as coaches, teachers, sports scientists, and analysts.



# THE EDUCATION

Students on the Chester FC Football Education Programme work towards a **Level 3 Extended Diploma in Sport Development & Coaching**, delivered by our education partner Access Sport.

The two-year programme is equivalent to three A-Levels, ensuring opportunities for students to progress onto university, USA scholarships, apprenticeships and employment.

Our unique learning environment means students will learn within a live football business and alongside players and staff from the Chester FC first team and other departments, gaining a valuable insight into how a football club operates, and how to build a successful career in a competitive industry.



## SAMPLE COURSE MODULES

Careers in sport	Health & wellbeing	Coaching skills
Sports development	Self-employment in sport	Sports psychology
Anatomy & Physiology	Fitness testing	Research project

## WHY JOIN THE CHESTER FC FOOTBALL EDUCATION PROGRAMME?

Based at King George V Community Sports Hub with top class facilities

Gain a recognised qualification that allows you to progress to university, USA scholarships or employment

Career-focused pathways with work experience opportunities at Chester FC

Study and train full-time in a professional club environment

Expert support from tutors and coaches to achieve academic and footballing success

### OUR AIM

To inspire and develop young people to excel on and off the pitch by delivering a quality education and football development programme that creates future players and supports progression into careers in football or university, contributing to the long-term success and sustainability of the club.

## OUR OBJECTIVES

- 1 Deliver Outstanding Education:** Provide a comprehensive Level 3 qualification that equips students with the knowledge, skills, and academic credentials for university, careers within sport, or vocational pathways.
- 2 Develop Elite Football Talent:** Produce technically and tactically outstanding players capable of progressing into the Chester FC first team, or moving up the football pyramid, generating future transfer value to reinvest in the club's structure and success.
- 3 Enhance Career and Life Skills:** Foster key transferable skills such as teamwork, leadership, and communication, and offer meaningful enrichment experiences that support employability and personal growth.
- 4 Promote Holistic Wellbeing:** Support the physical and mental wellbeing of every student through a pastoral care system, access to strength and conditioning, and guidance from experienced mentors.
- 5 Pathways to Progression:** Provide clear, supported progression routes into university, USA scholarships, careers in football and sport, and potential opportunities with the Chester FC first team or partner clubs.
- 6 Instil Chester FC Values:** Develop students who are positive role models and ambassadors for the Chester FC culture and values, teaching young people to be respectful, hardworking, disciplined, and take personal responsibility.

# PROGRESSION OPPORTUNITIES



**UK UNIVERSITY OR HIGHER EDUCATION**



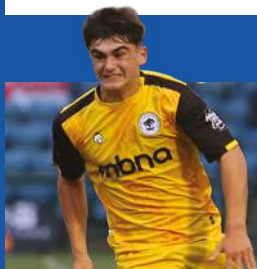
**USA FOOTBALL SCHOLARSHIPS**



**EMPLOYMENT WITHIN THE FOOTBALL,  
SPORT, HEALTH AND FITNESS SECTORS**



**APPRENTICESHIPS**



**PROGRESSION INTO CHESTER FC FIRST  
TEAM OR SEMI-PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL**

# FURTHER OPPORTUNITIES

Being based within a live football business provides students with unrivalled opportunities for work experience at Chester FC and Chester FC Community Trust.

With placements across a range of disciplines including community coaching, physio, media, event management and more, students will gain an insight into the day to day running of a football club.

There are also opportunities for students to participate in fully-funded international tours, with a range of career focused and player development trips on offer for students each year.





# STUDENT EXPERIENCE



*Since starting the course my confidence has grown and I've thrived in every aspect.*

*The course has given me a lot of opportunities for the future and opened up a lot of doors for me, thanks to the tutors and everybody involved being so supportive and encouraging. I highly recommend this course for anybody interested in sport.*

Kingsley, Coaching & Sport Development student



# HOW TO APPLY

1

Register your interest and apply now  
[accesssport.ac.uk/chester-f-c](https://accesssport.ac.uk/chester-f-c)



2

Attend a Chester Football Education Open Evening

3

Attend an interview with a member of our team

4

Receive and accept a conditional offer

5

Enrol on GCSE results day





---

# CONTACT US

**Website:** [community.chesterfc.com](http://community.chesterfc.com)

**Email:** [community@chesterfc.com](mailto:community@chesterfc.com)

**Phone:** 01244 560580

**X:** @CFC\_CommTrust | @AccessSportColl

**Instagram:** @cfccommunitytrust | @accesssportcollege