Academy of Sport

TRESHAM COLLEGE
Academy of Sport



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What is the Academy of Sport?

Unlock your potential at Tresham Academy of Sport

At Tresham Academy of Sport, we offer an elite, performance-driven sports and education programme designed to help you excel both on the field and in the classroom. Our unique approach blends high-quality academic study with expert training in your chosen sport, empowering student-athletes to thrive in every aspect of their development.

Under the guidance of our experienced, world-class coaches and industry-qualified tutors, you'll benefit from tailored support and mentorship that nurtures your talent, sharpens your skills, and prepares you for a successful future—whether in professional sport, higher education, or the wider sports industry.

Alongside intensive training, you will work towards a nationally recognised, industry-relevant qualification in Sport, equipping you with the knowledge, discipline, and experience needed to progress with confidence.

Join a community of driven, like-minded athletes and take the next step in your sporting and academic journey.



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Our philosophy

Our programme is carefully designed to support a healthy balance between academic excellence and athletic ambition. Recognising the demands of high-level sport, we provide the structure, flexibility, and expert guidance student-athletes need to excel both in their studies and in competition.

To support your development and wellbeing, players benefit from access to our in-house academy sports therapist, tailored gym sessions, and in-depth game analysis using our state-of-the-art Veo camera system

At Tresham Academy of Sport, we don't just develop athletes—we nurture well-rounded individuals equipped to succeed on and off the field, ready to meet the challenges of sport, education, and life beyond.

Education, training & qualifications

Our Academies:

- Men's Football Academy
- Women's Football Academy
- Volleyball Academy
- Netball Academy

Our Study Programmes:

- Level 2 in Sport Coaching & Development
- Level 3 in Sport Coaching & Development
- Foundation Degree in Sports Coaching
- BSc (Hons) Applied Sport Science and Coaching

We Also Offer Part-Time Evening Courses:

- Level 2 Gym Instructor



Here are just some of our 2025 to 2026 highlights

- Women's Volleyball team reach the National Cup Quarter Finals for the third year in a row, narrowly losing to the eventual national finalists
- Men's Under-19 Football Academy reach the National Cup Quarter finals
- Netball Academy finish third for the second year in a row at the AoC East Midlands Regional Tournament
- Men's Football Academy Under 23s have their most successful season with some fantastic wins over the likes of West Ham United F.C.
- Women's Football finish third at the AoC East Midlands regional tournament, narrowing losing to the eventual winners in the semi-finals
- Our Football Academy toured Barcelona and our Volleyball Academy visited Norfolk, providing students with valuable, competitive, developmental and team-building experiences



Meet the coaches



Jack Champelovier

Sports Academy Lead

Jack joined Tresham Academy of Sport in September 2012, shortly after graduating from the University of Northampton. A former schoolboy professional footballer at Northampton Town FC, Jack brings a unique insight into the challenges faced by academy players striving for a career in sport, particularly those who, like himself, did not progress to the professional level.

Jack is a UEFA-qualified coach and remains actively involved in grassroots football, supporting his daughter on her own football journey.

In April 2022, Jack took over the day-to-day running of the Sports Academy and has since overseen significant growth, including the introduction of the U23s Football Academy and the Netball Academy. With a deep passion for sport and a professional sporting background, Jack is committed to upholding the highest standards for both the academy and its athletes.

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Richard Scott

Football Academy Co-Head Coach

Richard Scott is a former professional footballer with over 250 Football League appearances, having represented Birmingham City FC, Shrewsbury Town FC, and Peterborough United FC. Following his retirement from professional football, Richard turned his focus to nurturing the next generation of players, earning his UEFA B Licence and developing a reputation for his expertise in player development.

In 2008, he joined Tresham Football Academy as one of our elite football coaches. Since then, Richard has played a pivotal role in our success, helping the academy secure four ECFA East Midlands titles, a National Championship, and guiding two players to the ECFA National Team. Under his mentorship, three players have progressed to professional football, highlighting his commitment to helping young talent reach their full potential both on and off the pitch.

Richard is also known for his fun, approachable personality and is a firm favourite among players within the academy. He maintains strong relationships with players long after they have left, with many continuing to keep in contact, reflecting the lasting impact of his guidance and support.

Steve Walker

Football Academy Co-Head Coach

Steve has been a cornerstone of our Academy since joining in 2009, bringing over a decade of invaluable experience and expertise to our coaching team.

A UEFA B licensed coach, Steve's career is rooted in success, having worked across multiple levels of the non-league football pyramid. Most notably, he was a key part of the Spalding United setup that secured a league title and promotion from Step 4 to Step 3—a testament to his tactical acumen and leadership.

In addition to his achievements, Steve has managed and assisted a range of non-league teams, offering our Academy a unique perspective honed by years of first-hand experience. His strong connections within the local football scene have proven instrumental in helping young players transition into first team opportunities at various clubs, bridging the gap between youth and senior football.

Known for his engaging coaching style and approachable demeanour, Steve is a firm favourite among players. His dedication to developing talent and fostering a positive environment makes him an invaluable member of our team and a driving force behind our Academy's continued success.





Hannah Northall

Women's Football Academy Head Coach

Hannah Northall has been a driving force behind the growth and success of our Women's Football Academy since joining the program in 2021. Having recently completed her UEFA Coaching Badges, Hannah brings a wealth of experience to the role, both as a coach and a former player.

As a former Coventry City Ladies player, Hannah competed at the highest levels, facing renowned teams such as Liverpool and Arsenal. Her first-hand knowledge of the game has been instrumental in elevating our Academy programme, which has gone from strength to strength under her leadership.

Hannah's passion, expertise, and commitment continue to inspire and shape the next generation of talented female footballers.

Tresham Academy staff have over 75 years experience in coaching

Niall Shackleton

Goalkeeper Coach

We are delighted to welcome Niall to the academy this season as our new Goalkeeper Coach.

Already a UEFA-licensed coach, Niall brings both youthful energy and a wealth of experience to our coaching team. Having previously worked as a goalkeeper coach with A-Class Goalkeepers, alongside former Premier League goalkeeper Asmir Begović, he now brings his specialist knowledge and experience to our academy.

Niall's appointment is also a fantastic success story for the programme. As a former student himself, he has experienced first-hand the journey our young players take and has now returned to help inspire and develop the next generation.

During his time on the programme, Niall earned international honours representing the England Colleges Football Association National Team, demonstrating his talent and commitment at the highest level of the college game.

Now continuing to ply his trade in non-league football, Niall combines his playing experience with his coaching expertise to provide our goalkeepers with specialist support and development.

We are incredibly proud to welcome one of our own back to the programme and are delighted to have Niall on board for the season ahead.





Grainne Pollak

Netball Head Coach

Gráinne, known to most as G, joins the Tresham Sport team with a genuine passion for netball and player development. A self-confessed netball enthusiast, she is heavily involved in the sport across Northamptonshire and can usually be found playing, coaching, or supporting from the sidelines.

An England Netball Level 1 Coach, G is currently working towards her Level 2 coaching qualification and is committed to creating a positive and inclusive environment where players can develop their skills, confidence, and love for the game.

Alongside her role within the Academy, G coaches at Northants Storm Netball Club, supporting players of varying ages and abilities. She brings a wealth of experience from both her coaching and playing career, combining current competitive playing knowledge with a strong understanding of athlete development.

G is passionate about helping players fulfil their potential, encouraging them to challenge themselves, improve their performance, and grow both on and off the court. Her enthusiasm, energy, and dedication to the sport make her a valuable addition to the Tresham Netball Academy, and she is excited to support the next generation of netball players on their sporting journey.

Matt Lambert

Volleyball Head Coach

Since joining the College in 2008 as a Sport Lecturer, Matt has been an integral part of our team, combining his love for teaching with his passion for sport. It was through his leadership of the College's sports programme that his enthusiasm for volleyball truly took off. As a Level 2 Volleyball Coach, Matt has achieved remarkable success.

He led the women's volleyball team to two triumphs at the AoC East Midlands Regional Tournament, earning spots at the prestigious AoC National Championships where they secured 5th and 7th place finishes. His coaching excellence extended to the men's team, guiding them to victory in the College Regional Finals in 2019-20.

Our success stories



"One of the most technically gifted players we have ever had on the programme."

Dominik Wysocki

We had long been aware of Dominik's exceptional talent from his time in local junior football, and we were thrilled when he chose to join our programme despite having numerous opportunities elsewhere. One of the most technically gifted and remarkably quick players we have ever worked with, Dominik consistently stood out from the crowd.

Our coaches immediately leveraged their professional networks to showcase Dominik's abilities to top clubs. This attracted interest from scouts representing Leicester City FC, Peterborough United FC, Walsall FC, and Port Vale FC. Dominik earned trials with three of these clubs and came incredibly close to securing a professional contract.

In his second season, Dominik was nominated by Paul Curtis as one of five players to attend the England Colleges National Team trials. Out of 400 hopefuls, he was one of three Tresham players to reach the final 30, ultimately being selected for the final squad.

Since then, Dominik has represented Australia Under-17s, Italy Under-18s, and Chelsea FC Under-18s at Cobham—further testament to his extraordinary potential and rising profile in the game.





Dion Sembie Ferris

Dion is undoubtedly one of the most talented players we have had the privilege to work with. With lightning speed, exceptional movement, and an incredible work rate, he quickly attracted interest from professional clubs.

This led to a trial at West Ham United FC and, following his release, a trial at Colchester United FC, who subsequently offered him a two-year professional contract. Dion's breakthrough season included winning the Football League Youth Cup and making his first-team professional debut. He famously created the winning goal on the final day of the season—broadcast live on Sky Sports—that secured Colchester's place in League One.

Since then, Dion has played for Peterborough Sports in the National League North and recently signed with Scunthorpe United in the National League.

Ade Yusuff

Ade joined Tresham Football Academy in September 2012 after being released from Stevenage Borough FC From the moment he arrived, his exceptional pace, power, and finishing ability quickly drew attention from professional coaches.

His impressive performances earned him a six-week trial with Ipswich Town FC, where he competed for a professional contract. Although he was not offered a deal at Ipswich FC, Ade's talent was noticed by Dagenham & Redbridge FC during a friendly match. Subsequently, he was offered a two-year professional contract with the club, and he made an immediate impact by scoring twice on his Football League debut.





Natalie Short

Natalie Short is an exceptional athlete who joined Tresham College's Foundation Degree programme after initially studying Level 2 Uniformed Public Services and subsequently completing Level 3 in Public Services. She quickly became a standout performer in the Volleyball program, demonstrating excellent motivation, determination, work rate, and a tremendously powerful spike. During her time at Tresham, Natalie was twice the runner-up in the AoC Regional Volleyball Tournament.

In 2023, she and her teammates won the Regional Tournament, earning the title of East Midlands Champions and qualifying for the national finals, finishing in an impressive 6th place in the entire country. Since graduating, Natalie has pursued a successful career as a Teaching Learning Assistant in a primary school and continues to excel athletically by playing in the national volleyball league for Northampton Volleyball Club.

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Evan D'Cruze

Evan D'Cruze joined Tresham in 2021 on the Level 3 Sport course and has recently completed his Level 5 in Sports Coaching. His growth—technically, tactically, physically, and mentally—has been exceptional, making him one of our top volleyball prospects.

As Men's captain, Evan led the team to multiple 2nd-place finishes at four regional tournaments and played a key role in our mixed team competing in the Midlands Mixed Volleyball League. Named our 2025 Men's Coaches Player of the Year, he now plays for Northampton Volleyball Club with the goal of breaking into their National League squad.

Evan will continue his academic and athletic journey at Nottingham Trent University, aiming to complete his degree and compete for their university team.





Amalie Baker

Amalie began playing netball at the age of six and has progressed through several clubs, including Northants JMs, Northants Storm, and Market Harborough's regional team. She gained experience in both youth and adult leagues, returning to regional competition last year with Northants JMs.

Since joining Tresham in September 2023, Amalie has become a key player in our first-ever netball squad. Named co-captain in 2024, she led the team to their best-ever league, finishing 3rd in the AoC East Midlands regional league and tournament. Her leadership and performance earned her both the Coach's Player and Players' Player of the Year awards.

Amy Bissett

Amy's journey is a great example of how passion and dedication can quickly turn potential into performance. Originally a dancer, she took up netball at Lodge Park Academy and was soon named to the school's all-star squad.

After joining Tresham to study Sport, Amy quickly stood out as a versatile and talented player, excelling as a shooter. In her first season, she was named co-captain and awarded Coach's Player of the Year. In her second year, she helped lead the team to third-place finishes in both the league and regional tournament.

Capping off a brilliant season, Amy was recently selected to join the Northants JMs Senior Regional team.



Men's Football Academy

Established in 2007, Tresham Football Academy was one of the pioneers of the football-and-education model in the UK — combining elite coaching with strong academic pathways. Since then, the academy has built a proud legacy of excellence, crowned AoC Sport National Champions (2018–19) and ECFA East Midlands Champions on four occasions. Many of our players have progressed into professional football, signing with clubs such as Colchester United FC and Dagenham & Redbridge FC.

Under-19 Football Academy

Our Men's Football Academy continues to deliver three high-quality training sessions each week, blending technical skill development with tactical game understanding. Players benefit from Veo video analysis, allowing for in-depth performance review and decision-making refinement, all supported by our outstanding on-site facilities.

Training and fixtures are fully integrated with student timetables, with competitive matches taking place in the England Colleges Football Association league every Wednesday afternoon. Complementing their football training, dedicated gym sessions help build strength, power, and resilience, with expert guidance from our Academy Sports Therapist to ensure every athlete trains effectively, reduces injury risk, and reaches their full potential.

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Under-23 Football Academy

In 2024, we proudly expanded our provision with the launch of the Men's Under-23 Academy, a programme designed to give talented players the perfect opportunity to continue both their academic journey and their football development at a high level.

The Under-23 Academy provides a clear and professional pathway for players who want to bridge the gap between college-level football and senior opportunities, while studying towards a recognised higher education qualification. Competing in the prestigious National Football Youth League, players are challenged every week against top academies from across the country, testing themselves in a highly competitive environment that mirrors the demands of the professional game.

Alongside their football development, players combine their sporting ambitions with academic study, choosing from two exciting routes:

- A Foundation Degree in Sports Coaching, designed to develop practical coaching expertise and prepare students for careers in sport, fitness, and education.
- Or the brand-new BSc (Hons) in Applied Sports Science and Coaching, delivered at Tresham College in partnership with the University of Bedfordshire, providing a deeper academic challenge with a strong focus on performance, analysis, and applied practice in sport

This unique balance of elite-level football and higher education ensures that players not only maximise their potential on the pitch but also gain valuable qualifications to support a future career in sport — whether that be in coaching, performance analysis, sports science, or progressing further into postgraduate study.

The Men's Under-23 Academy represents the next step in our player pathway, creating genuine opportunities for progression in football while investing in long-term personal and professional success.



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find out more



Women's football academy

Where education meets football excellence

The Tresham Women's Football Programme has rapidly established itself as a leading force in college women's football. Our team competes at the highest levels within the ECFA East Midlands League, consistently challenging for top honours and demonstrating outstanding skill and determination.

With multiple league runner-up finishes and a commitment to player development, we provide an elite environment where talented athletes can thrive. Our programme proudly supports players like Alex O'Neill, who progressed to sign professionally with Leicester City FC.

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Our Women's Football Academy offers a unique blend of three high-quality training sessions each week, designed to enhance both technical skills and tactical understanding. Players benefit from detailed Veo video analysis of their games, allowing them to review performances, identify strengths, and target areas for improvement. Alongside pitch-based work, our women-only gym sessions provide a supportive environment to build strength, fitness, and injury resilience, guided by our new Academy Sports Therapist to ensure safe, effective training tailored to each player's needs.



“What stands out most is how personal everything feels – you’re never just a number.”



Molly Stent

I chose Tresham because of how welcoming it felt from the moment I stepped in. At the Open Day, I was instantly made to feel like more than just a visitor – I was introduced to the sports staff and, when I mentioned I played football, I was connected with Hannah, the women’s football coach. Despite it being busy, she took time to show me around and get to know me, which made a big difference.

The Football Academy has such a positive, inclusive atmosphere. Everyone supports each other, no matter their ability, and it’s a great mix of fun and focus. Hannah is incredibly supportive, always willing to give one-on-one guidance during training and genuinely cares about your journey as a player. There’s even injury support and game analysis, which has really helped my development.

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find out more



Volleyball Academy

Pathway to a elite volleyball experience

At Tresham Volleyball Academy, our athletes compete at the highest levels of college sport, consistently demonstrating skill, passion, and teamwork. As multiple-time AoC East Midlands Regional Champions and two-time National Cup quarter-finalists, our teams have a proud history of success on both regional and national stages.

We regularly compete in the East Midlands League, the National Volleyball Cup, and a variety of prestigious national and regional competitions—where we don't just participate, we strive to win. Our players have even advanced to compete in England's National Volleyball League, highlighting the calibre of talent developed within our programme.

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One of the highlights in recent years was our team's thrilling victory against a touring side from Argentina—an unforgettable experience that underscores our commitment to challenging ourselves against top international competition. We have more exciting events like this planned for the coming year to broaden our players' horizons and raise the standard of play.

Our success is driven by outstanding coaching, with years of experience in developing winning teams and nurturing individual talent.
At Tresham, we don't just play volleyball - we create champions.





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“Training sessions include a focus on technical and tactical development alongside physical conditioning.”

Natalie Short

Natalie Short is an outstanding athlete who began her journey at Tresham College after completing Level 2 and Level 3 qualifications in Uniformed Public Services. She then progressed onto the Foundation Degree in Sports Coaching programme, quickly establishing herself as a key player in the Volleyball Academy.

Natalie’s exceptional motivation, determination, and work ethic, combined with her powerful spike, made her a standout performer. Throughout her time at Tresham, she consistently excelled, finishing twice as runner-up in the AoC Regional Volleyball Tournament. In 2023, Natalie and her team clinched the East Midlands Regional Championship, securing their place at the national finals. There, they won three matches and achieved an impressive 6th place nationally.

Since graduating, Natalie has built a successful career as a Teaching Learning Assistant in a primary school, while continuing to showcase her athletic talent by competing in the National Volleyball League with Northampton Volleyball Club.

Natalie’s journey exemplifies the opportunities Tresham College provides to dedicated and talented athletes, supporting both academic and sporting success.



Netball Academy

Train harder, play harder, acheive more

At Tresham Netball Academy, players have the unique opportunity to combine their passion for netball with academic pursuits. Students can enrol in a Level 1, Level 2, or Level 3 BTEC in Sports Coaching and Development. Alongside their studies, they train twice a week and compete in the AoC East Midlands League on Wednesdays, catering to individuals aged 16 to 21. Additionally, players have the chance to trial for the England Colleges Netball Team and participate in trips to watch professional netball games.

Upon completing their studies, students can either progress to university or continue their education at Tresham College by pursuing a Foundation Degree in Sports Coaching. This comprehensive programme not only enhances their athletic skills but also provides a solid foundation for future career opportunities in sports.



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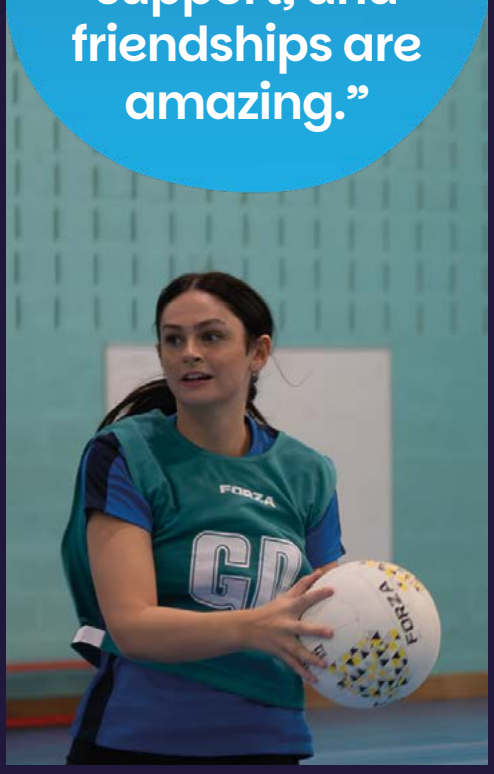
“Joining the Academy has been the best decision I’ve made — the coaching, support, and friendships are amazing.”



Larnie Clark

Larnie Clark is a rising star who has truly flourished within the Tresham Netball Academy. From day one, her talent and leadership shone through, earning her the role of co-captain in her very first year—a testament to her drive and dedication.

Balancing intense training sessions twice a week with competitive league matches, Larnie thrives both on and off the court while successfully managing her academic commitments. Her passion for netball is matched only by her commitment to growth, making her an essential force within the team.

Larnie passionately recommends Tresham College to all aspiring netballers, praising the academy’s exceptional opportunities, expert coaching, and a supportive environment that nurtures both sporting excellence and personal development.

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TRESHAM COLLEGE
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Are you ready to join the next generation of football, netball, and volleyball talent?

Meet our Head Coaches and discover first-hand what makes Tresham Academy of Sport truly exceptional.

To book your place at an upcoming open trial or to arrange a chat with a Head Coach, simply email us at sportsacademy@bedford.ac.uk with your name and phone number. We'll respond promptly to guide you through the next steps.

Tresham College

General enquiries

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Course enquiries

T: 0345 658 8990

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