



Welcome!

Welcome to the first edition of what is to become a termly newsletter that aims to keep you up to date with the vast array of activities that take place within the Sports Department at St Brendan's Sixth Form College.

With our pool of A-Level, BTEC Level 3 and Level 2 courses and the huge number of enrichment / CPD opportunities that we offer, this newsletter aims to highlight the key successes and news within the term and to help keep you up to date with all things sporty!

Sports Department News

Working alongside the Sport and Leisure Career Academy and Sports Union, the opportunities for students once again have grown and we have seen the launch of our Coach and Referee Academy – a CPD programme that is unique to St Brendan's Sixth Form College. Students can access a range of coaching and officiating badges throughout the year which follow the key themes of our partner schools and Sports Union plans. Following completion of the awards students can access a range of volunteering and paid opportunities to put their skills into practice in the working environment. To date we have students now employed by GOALS and volunteering in local schools and on college based programmes.

Aside from the Coach and Referee Academy, the experiences and opportunities for our students continue to grow. Our partnership with The Fitness Regiment has proved a hit with students. Visiting speakers continue to enhance the learning experience of our students in specific units and planned trips to London, sports events and St George's Park continue to enhance our delivery and the learning experience for our students. We were also delighted to learn of the recent announcement by 'Redbrick universities' that they do indeed recognise the strength and value of BTEC programmes meaning that our students really can fulfil their potential in whatever it is they want to do and that we can help them get there by ensuring they are on the most suitable course for their learning and assessment preferences. This year has also seen the introduction of our 'Student of the Month' awards which helps us to celebrate the successes of our students' efforts both in and out of college.



Congratulations to our record number of students being accepted onto HE sports (and non-sports) programmes, in particular Maddie Wheeler who has been accepted to Loughborough University on a Sport & Exercise Science Degree. Congratulations also to Cormac O'Callaghan for winning the prestigious 'South West Young Coach of the Year' at the West of England awards ceremony.

Sports & Leisure Career Academy

It has been an action packed first term in the Career Academy. Our Year 2 students have begun their Workskills programme in support of their studies. We have recruited twelve highly ambitious and diverse students on to Year 1 of the programme and have taken part in trips to London and Bristol Rugby as well as receiving Guru Lectures from Sophie at Rounders England and Kirsty from Somerset FA. A sports science talk from Matt Williams (Sports Physio Clinic) took place on January 7th and we have more partners than ever including Nuffield Health, Fitness First, The Fitness Regiment, Planet K2, Bristol Rovers and various specialists within the industry – exciting times to be involved in this prestigious enrichment activity!



For more information about Sport contact: VHa@stbrn.ac.uk

Student Management Team

The Student Management Team (SMT) is comprised of Year 1 and Year 2 students who share a passion for sport and getting people involved at a range of levels. You do not have to be a Sport & PE student to be a part of the programme, you just need a high level of drive and enthusiasm for helping others to participate, and a desire to develop your skills and get involved with a diverse range of projects. Students from all over college are involved including business, media and photography students who use the projects to develop their skills in a real-life environment which then enhances their portfolios for HE applications.



In trimester one of this year the SMT have been exceptionally busy building on the success of last year. So far, students have taken part in RFU Tag-Rugby, FA Referee and EHA Handball qualifications (via the Coach and Referee Academy), using their newly learned skills to work with our partner primary schools and host lunchtime events for our students. They have also organised a dodgeball tournament for Year 6 pupils from St Bernadette's and run an intra-college volleyball tournament. Next in planning is the hosting of the Wesport Regional Handball tournament, an inter-school's Tag-Rugby festival, an inter-college Team 19 and Netball Roadshow and of course our termly charity events. Participation is the number one focus of the SMT and it was on show in all its glory at the launch of the College Nativity Fun(d) Run in support of Cafod and The Teenage Cancer Trust on 19th December with staff and students from all over college dressing up and participating in what is set to be an annual event. We raised just under £400 in the process!

Total Pro Soccer News



After the success of our first year and an oversubscription of applications for the programme we had a strong belief that the foundations for a successful second year were in place - and boy have we been proved right!

Our coaching team of Paul Hughes (Head Coach), Tyler Sibbick, Ian Rossiter, Sophie Morgan (Ladies Coach) and Martin Horseell (GK Specialist coach), have been joined by Maisee Phillips (Physiotherapist) and Rayan Wilson of Back2Action (Strength and Conditioning and Performance Coach), to provide all of our players with a full academy experience whilst keeping the education ethos at the core of everything we do.

Moving up to Category 2 (one league off national) was always going to be a challenge but we have been amazed by the efforts of the Men's 1s who sit at the top of the league and are through to the 4th round of the national cup. The Ladies 1s, in their first year, are also excelling, winning their last two tournaments in style - a true testament to their hard work in training.

We are also excited to announce that Harvey Baker has recently signed a 1st team contract with Bitton AFC, and following a superb game vs Bristol Rovers Callum Buckley has been asked to trial for their professional academy programme. You really can achieve both your academic and footballing potential on this programme. Challenge yourself to **#FulfilYourAmbition** with us.

Dates for trials can be found on the college website and via our twitter pages
[@StBrnSportUnion](#)
[@totalprosoccer](#)

Sports Team News

In July 2013 the Sports Enrichment Team combined with the Sport & PE Team. Following this transition we re-launched our programme of activities and offer to students under our new name of the **Sports Union** with the strapline **Fulfilling your Ambition** as that is what we are all about. Whether you want to come and play something old or something new, to play with friends for fun or to take things more seriously by representing the college in your chosen sport, we have the package to suit you and to help you fulfil your potential! Last year was one of re-building and we did just that with a cup final appearance for our rugby team, a 58% win rate from Jan –Apr for netball and winning the football league with our Total Pro Academy team. With a successful pre-season under our belts and a huge effort in recruitment we currently have our netball and football first teams top of the league; our men's 1st XI are also through to the 4th round of the ECFA National Cup; Basketball are winning every tournament they enter, as are our ladies 1st XI football team, and our rugby team has been transformed with results becoming ever more positive. Through a methodical and strategic approach, St Brendan's really is the place to be for those wishing to combine their sporting potential with academic excellence.



Follow us [@StBrnSportUnion](#) for weekly updates of fixtures, results, SMT, Total Pro Soccer and our new Sports Team Academies for September 2015...
#FulfilYourAmbition