



RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION WOMEN

26 January 2010

Dear Player

Re: Advanced Apprenticeship in Sporting Excellence (AASE)

In September 2008 the Rugby Football Union for Women (RFUW), working with the Learning Skills Council (LSC) and the RFU, began the Advanced Apprenticeship in Sporting Excellence (AASE) programme at Hartpury College, Gloucestershire. In 2010 the RFUW has expanded the AASE programme, offering places at three higher education institutes:

- **Hartpury College**, Gloucestershire,
- **Moulton College**, Northamptonshire,
- **Oakland's College**, St Albans, Hertfordshire.

We are writing to let you know about the AASE programme and the exciting opportunities AASE offers in terms of your academic and sporting development.

AASE is a two year programme for 16 to 18 year old players who demonstrate the potential to achieve excellence in women's rugby and are ambitious at performing at the highest level. The programme is designed to provide a career path for young athletes by providing them with excellent training and skills development opportunities in their sport whilst encouraging athletes to remain in education.

The AASE programme comprises of:

- Integrated work based experience - the rugby development programme;
- Work based learning – Level 3 NVQ Achieving Excellence in Sport Performance; and
- Academic education (the technical certificate BTEC National Certificate / Diploma or AS / A2 level).

As part of the AASE programme, each apprentice will also undertake the 1st 4Sport Level 1 Coaching Award in Rugby which will underpin the work that each apprentice completes on the Level 3 NVQ Achieving Excellence in Sports Performance and is a formal and recognised qualification.

The AASE programme is delivered by professional rugby coaches and tutors and will allow athletes access to club / college specialist rugby resources, training and learning alongside other aspiring elite players. The AASE programmes will be delivered and managed by the host institutions in conjunction with the RFUW.

The AASE programme recognises that not all athletes will necessarily compete at the highest level, or may not be able to earn a living doing so, and so combines both academic theory with practical and vocational learning which will fully prepare students for both work and / or higher education. Students who have already completed the AASE programme within other sports have moved on to:

- Professional contracts or full time sports performers (professional or Lottery funded)
- University degrees

- Sports related careers
- Wider career opportunities.

In September 2010, the AASE programme will be offered at:

Hartpury College, Gloucestershire.

Number of NEW places available for September 2010:	10
Total number of AASE students in September 2010:	20
On site accommodation available:	Yes
A-Levels available:	Yes

Over the past 5 years Hartpury College, training base for Gloucester RFC, has developed the reputation as one of the country's leading 'Rugby College / University'. Based on the outskirts of Gloucester, the college offers both A-Levels and BTEC National diplomas for prospective students.

For more information regarding the AASE programme and the college, please visit:

[AASE @ Hartpury College](#)

[AASE @ Hartpury College - Areas of Study](#)

N.B. Hartpury College will be holding AASE open days for all potential students on **Friday 9th April 2010**. For more information please contact Barry Maddocks (Barry.Maddocks@Hartpury.ac.uk).

Moulton College, Northamptonshire

Number of NEW places available for September 2010:	13
Total number of AASE students in September 2010:	20
On site accommodation available:	Yes
A-Levels available:	Yes

Located in rural Northamptonshire, Moulton College is an RFU Beacon College that is recognised for its rugby development, player development programmes as well as its academic courses. As part of the AASE programme, Moulton College is offering the **BTEC National Diploma Sport (Performance & Excellence)** course.

Moulton College now offers a range on A-level courses in conjunction with nearby schools. Please see the attached information. More information regarding the college and the course can be found at;

[Moulton Rugby Academy - Course Content](#)

[BTEC National Diploma Sport \(Performance & Excellence\) @ Moulton College](#)

N.B. Moulton College will be holding an AASE open day for all potential students on **Tuesday 30th March 2010**.

For more information please contact Jon Phillips (Moulton College Director of Rugby) jon.phillips@moulton.ac.uk or Craig Jackson (Head of Sports Studies) jacksoncraig@moulton.ac.uk

Oaklands College, St Albans, Hertfordshire

Number of NEW places available for September 2010:	10
Total number of AASE students in September 2010:	10
On site accommodation available:	Yes (but very limited)
A-Levels available:	No.

In recent years Oaklands College has developed a strong formal relationship with Saracens RFC, making it one of the leading rugby colleges in the country. The college and the AASE programme have developed a number of players who have progressed professional playing contracts and to international men's rugby. Building on this success, the College now offers AASE to aspiring female players.

The academic programme offers learners a **BTEC National Diploma (equivalent to 3 A-Levels) or Certificate (equivalent to 2 A-Levels) in Sport Performance & Excellence**. In addition to this students, will undertake further study in Key Skills, Sports Leadership, First Aid in Sport and Nutrition.

Please note: due to the lack of available onsite accommodation at the college site, students who live locally or with good transport links to the college / St Albans may wish to consider applying.

Whilst the girls AASE programme will not replicate the boys AASE programme exactly, further information regarding the college and overview of the programme can be found by visiting: [Oaklands Rugby Academy \(boys\)](#)

For more information please contact Dave Hesketh (Rugby Programme Manager) Dave.Hesketh@oaklands.ac.uk

If this scheme is of interest to you and your parents / guardians and you would like to find out more information about the programme and the colleges involved please contact the key personnel listed above. There are academic and sporting entry requirements for each of the colleges. Please see the attached document regarding the selection criteria.

For further information regarding the AASE programme as a whole please visit the following sites:

- [AASE – Skills Active website](#)
- [AASE information for athletes](#)
- [AASE information for parents](#)

Alternatively please contact Kelly Rainey, RFUW Player Development Support Officer (kellyrainey@rfu.com).

Kind regards



Tom Stokes
Player Development Manager