



DANES HILL SCHOOL  
SPORT





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# SPORT AT DANES HILL SCHOOL

At Danes Hill, we aspire to be the epitome of sporting excellence in Prep schools, guided by a simple yet powerful vision. We are committed to cultivating a culture of passion, determination, and achievement through an inspiring and leading co-educational model, believing in the potential of every pupil to excel in sport.

Our unwavering commitment to providing the support and resources necessary for each child to soar to great heights. Every pupil, regardless of ability, will have the opportunity to participate in a range of sports, and develop their technique as well as teamwork, resilience, and leadership skills. With dedicated coaches and teachers to inspire and empower, our pupils will foster belief in their ability to achieve anything they

set their minds to. We will strive for excellence in all aspects of our sporting programme, from training sessions through to national competitions. Our facilities are second to none, providing a platform for our talented athletes to shine.

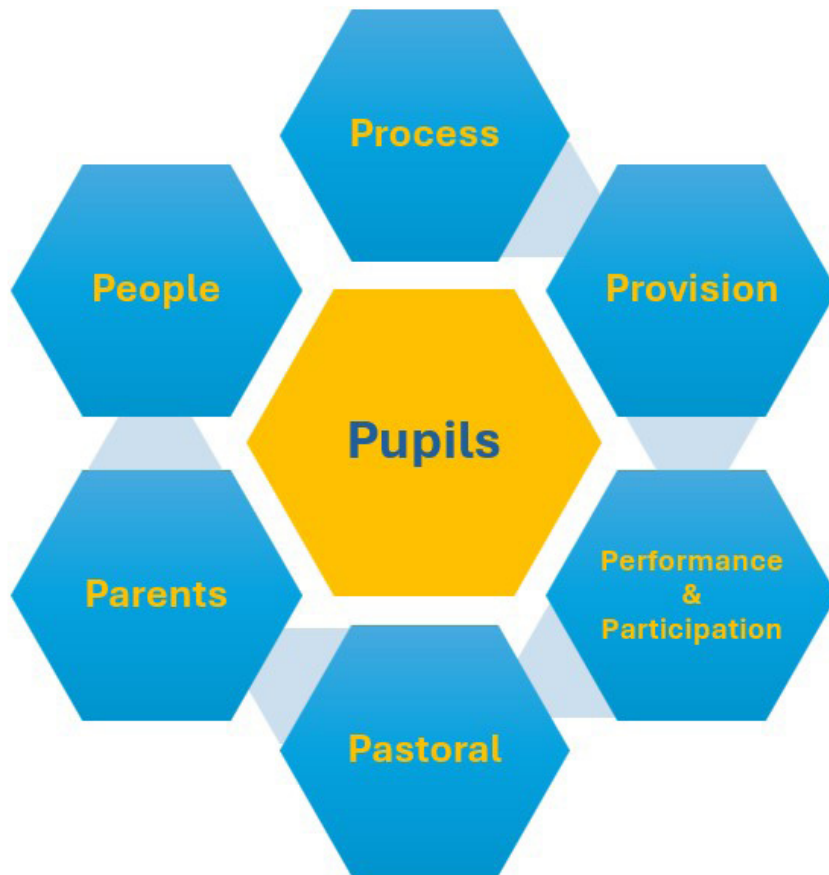
Through hard work, passion, and unwavering dedication, we will become a shining example of Prep school sport in the country.





# HOW WILL WE ACHIEVE THIS?

We are committed to ensuring Danes Hill's sport is outstanding and set ambitious aspirations. Getting there will require dedication and a mindset focused on continuous improvement. We break this down into the following P's.



By focusing only on results in competitions, it is easy to miss the processes that need to take place to achieve success. Here at Danes Hill, yes, we are driven by success in competitions, but we also focus on the process. We will put pupils into positions that challenge them but also allows them to flourish, at all levels, whether that is within competitions or Games lessons.



FOOTBALL, ATHLETICS AND CRICKET AT DANES HILL



# PROVISION

At Danes Hill, we are keen to open pathways for pupils to pursue the sports they want to explore. As a key player in the Prep School sporting circuit, we will continue to field teams in the established termly sporting calendar, including football, hockey, netball, rugby, and other sports, in addition to enabling those in individual sports to regularly represent their school in sports including cross-country, swimming, golf and skiing.

A key part of our provision is the flexibility for pupils to follow their sporting path by extending their involvement beyond a termly or half-termly cycle, and the flexibility to engage in co-ed sport outside the traditional gender

split. We want our girls to have the opportunity to play rugby, we want our top boys' hockey players to be able to play across two terms, we want our athletes to have the training time to flourish in their chosen sporting arena.

Each week we will be running a fundamentals/technical morning training session for all pupils in Years 5-8 who are outside of A squads. These sessions will focus on technical skills and building the confidence and competence of pupils.

Our Talented Athletes Performance Programme - "TAPP" - continues to support our scholars and selected pupil athletes to understand the

principles of performance and the physicality required to achieve in sport. We are committed to this provision that is a market-leader in Prep school sport.

We will be taking Danes Hill sport on the road. From trips to professional sporting matches, to a graduated programme of residential visits, we want sport to open our pupils' eyes. We are establishing a coordinated touring programme that will provide an enhanced educational experience through sport. From regionally-based micro tours to long-haul overseas tours, we are committed to widening our pupils' cultural and sporting horizons.



NETBALL, BADMINTON AND GOLF AT DANES HILL





CROSS COUNTRY, NETBALL AND RUGBY AT DANES HILL

## PERFORMANCE & PARTICIPATION

In Years 5-8, each year group will have squad training for those playing in tournaments and A squads throughout the academic year. Selected pupils will have

access to our Talented Athlete Programme from Years 6-8.

We offer many sports and activities where pupils can participate which

fall outside of our core sports, but nonetheless have a valuable place in our programme to offer breadth and recreation. These include climbing, badminton, and fencing.

## PASTORAL/PUPIL-FOCUSED

As sport coaches we often develop a strong bond with pupils. We want to utilise this to develop the pupils holistically and support them, not only with their sporting performance, but also their general well-being.

One morning a week, the Sport department will make themselves available and visible during

break, to provide an opportunity to discuss areas such as team selection, any concerns pupils may have, things they are doing well and areas they can work on. By doing this, we are striving for everyone to have that key 1:1 time with a coach.

Each member of the Sport department will be attached to a

Year group and House to ensure good visibility and awareness of the wider life of the school. As Director of Sport, Chris Shaw, is a part of the school's safeguarding team.





DANES HILL SCHOOL



# PARENTS

We understand the vital role you play as parents – all of those hours in the garden, on the road and standing, in all weathers, on the side of pitches supporting your charges. Going forward, we will

be sharing this vision with you in a series of forums and want to do that with a series of face-to-face workshops and meetings.

Developing that golden triangle of

athlete (pupil) – parent – coach will be a key objective going forward. It is important that we are all on the same page with our ambitious plans and want to hear from you.



FOOTBALL, GYMNASTICS AND GOLF AT DANES HILL

# PEOPLE (STAFFING)

To reflect the co-ed programme we deliver, the Sport department is moving away from a boy-girl split, to be one unified team. Instead, we plan to have a 'Head of' for each sport who will oversee the coaching provision and administration for both the girls' and boys' teams. Each Head of a Sport will drive their area within the school in line with the Sport department's strategic plan set by

the Director of Sport and Assistant Director of Sport.

To deliver this ambitious programme, we need talented staff. We are committed to recruiting excellent teachers and coaches, to augment our brilliant existing team, many of whom have played sport to regional or national level before starting their teaching careers.

The Sport department has many

fresh faces, all highly skilled within their area. We have some wonderful further additions, such as Heads of Hockey, Netball and Cricket, who will be in place either for the summer term or new academic year. To showcase our talented group of coaches, we have shared some profiles of our staff from the Sport Department.



# CHRIS SHAW

Director of Sport



I previously worked at Chelsea Football Academy before starting my journey into teaching. Over the last decade I have worked as a Director of Sport within independent schools. My role as Director of Sport is the strategy, leadership, and management of the sports programme. A personal highlight for me was playing football for England Amateurs in the UEFA Regions Cup against Italy, Scotland, and Ireland. I enjoy playing several sports and have

been lucky enough to be part of many teams that have created lifelong bonds and friendships. fresh faces, all highly skilled within their area. We have some wonderful further additions, such as Heads of Hockey, Netball and Cricket, who will be in place either for the summer term or new academic year. To showcase our talented group of coaches, we have shared some profiles of our staff from the Sport Department.

# KEATON BATES

Assistant Director of Sport



I have 13 years' experience working in the Prep sector. I have been Head of Football, Cricket, and Rugby prior to my role as Assistant Director of Sport. I am proud of the way in which I teach

and how I develop and nurture pupils to achieve success. In my youth I played County level rugby and football in the Combined Counties league.

# ANDREW MURFIN

Deputy Head Organisation & Co Curriculum Games Teacher



As a footballer I played for Leeds United, Scunthorpe United and Burton Albion before going to Loughborough University where I represented Great Britain at 3 World Student Games (Palma, Korea, Beijing). After football, I took to endurance events where I have represented Jersey at 5k, 10k and half-marathons and completed multiple triathlons. I continue to run, swim and cycle on a regular basis, and play golf when

time allows. I have been a Director of Sport in three independent senior schools and have coached across a range of sports. I hold a UEFA B-license coaching award in football, am a level 2 hockey coach, and have other coaching awards in cricket, rugby, and athletics. My ethos is "train hard, play easy" and look forward to instilling a love for sport and a work ethic that pupils can take with them into all spheres of life.







# DIMIL PATEL

## Head of Cricket



I look forward to starting as Head of Cricket in September 2024. I have a huge passion for sport, and it has always played a large part throughout my life. I grew up playing a wide variety of sports which includes playing academy football for Reading FC and county cricket for Surrey. I am currently one of the lead coaches for the Surrey U11 County Cricket

programme, which involves developing young players through extensive winter training to taking them in the summer for fixtures against other counties. Away from cricket, I work for Football Escapes where I deliver football camps at luxury resorts around the world with ex-professional Premier League footballers.

# EMILY HEARSUM

## Head of Netball



I have 20 years of experience teaching Physical Education and I am enthusiastic about the opportunity that the Head of Netball position at Danes Hill presents. I am particularly passionate about netball and tennis, and have been fortunate to coach my U11 netball team to national IAPS finals on multiple occasions.

Bringing the curriculum to life and making it exciting with tours and elite player workshops will be a focus. I strive for a culture of excellence will be a focus and ensuring there are opportunities for all. I look forward to meeting the Danes Hill community soon.

# RICKY SKENE

## Head of PE and TAPP Lead



I enjoyed a successful junior career in ice hockey, representing England from U12 through to U20's level. Transitioning seamlessly into senior sport, I embarked on an illustrious 16-year professional ice hockey journey. Highlights were winning eight championships, six of which were when playing for our most local team, the Guildford Flames. This included volunteering to help; Ice Hockey UK as Head

of Athlete Support, as a strength and conditioning consultant for England Ice Hockey and finally as strength and conditioning coach for the Harlequin's RFU Academy U15-18's. Recognising a passion for athletic development and promoting a healthy lifestyle through participating in sport, I have developed a varied Physical Education programme at Danes Hill.





# JOSEPH BARTLEY

Head of Swimming

With a lifelong passion for swimming starting at the age of 5, I am here at Danes Hill to inspire and nurture a love for swimming in our children. I am thrilled to be part of your child's swimming journey, guiding them with enthusiasm and expertise. My favourite moment in

my swimming journey is achieving second place in 200m freestyle at British Nationals. Due to that swim, I was selected into the GB Youth Squad where I was invited to represent GB in places such as Dubai, Canada, and Sweden.



# GEORGE JOHNSTONE

Head of Hockey

At my current school, I primarily coached the girls' hockey, netball, and cricket teams, also coaching football and rugby. Hockey is where I specialise, as a 1st team player at Reading Hockey Club, playing in the National Premier League, and as a level 2 coach, coaching school, County hockey with Berkshire, and regional hockey at Reading's Talent Academy. I have recently

led a tour to Valencia, and giving the children a fantastic experience through hockey and all sports is something I want to continue at Danes Hill. I look forward to starting my Danes Hill journey this Easter.



# GABRIEL MORGAN

Teacher of PE and Games

I studied Sport Science and Psychology at the University of Stellenbosch in South Africa before moving to England in 2020. While working as a Sports graduate assistant in another school, I realised my passion for teaching and completed my PGCE in Physical Education. I have been a dancer for many years and was lucky enough to represent my

country competitively. Hockey has also been a passion of mine from an early age and I have been able to play and umpire at an elite level. I have a deep-rooted love for sports, and I believe in its power to teach us many important life skills and values, which I strive to develop and promote through my teaching.









# BEN FOX

## Sports Graduate

I joined Danes Hill in September 2023, having recently graduated from the University of Exeter with a degree in Economics. Growing up I had a passion for sport, especially hockey. Currently, I am playing for Wimbledon HC and

training with Great Britain U23s with the ambition of becoming a senior international. Over the last few years, I have really enjoyed passing this experience on within several different coaching roles.



# CHARLOTTE ALNER

## Sports Graduate

Before joining Danes Hill, I completed my Master's in Sport and Exercise Psychology at the University of Portsmouth, where I played football for the university's first team in the BUCS premier division. My highlight of university football was becoming club captain in my final year and captaining the Women's Futsal

team to a league title. I am currently playing for Maidstone United women's team, and I am looking forward to seeing where my football journey takes me.



# CAYLIN PARFITT

## Maths and Games Teacher

I joined Danes Hill from a busy secondary school along the south coast as a dedicated mathematics teacher. However, my interests do not only lie in the classroom, as I have a huge passion for sports and fostering both academic and physical development among the pupils. My sporting background is diverse, encompassing various disciplines in my youth such as

tennis, table tennis, swimming, and gymnastics all to competition level. However, it was in cricket and football that I discovered my true passion, drawn to the camaraderie and competitive spirit of team sports. As a result, my experiences in both individual and team-based activities have equipped me with a well-rounded perspective that I bring to the classroom and sports field alike.



# JOSEPH TURNER

Head of Year 4 & Games Teacher

With a foundation in Sports Science and Nutrition and a Master's in Applied Sport Psychology from St Mary's University, I embarked on an enriching journey that led me to teaching. My adventures around New Zealand, playing football and immersing myself in the stunning landscapes, complemented my role as a personal trainer. Prior to teaching, I honed my skills as a sports performance trainer and

strength and conditioning coach, working with young elite athletes to unlock their full potential. My semi-professional football career, which began at 15 and included representing clubs such as Tonbridge Angels and playing for England Universities against Scotland and Wales, has deeply influenced my approach to education and mentorship.



# IBE AKOH

Deputy Head Pastoral  
Games Teacher

I am a dedicated follower of sport and experienced coach, having worked across rugby, football, and athletics. In my role as Head of Football at St Paul's Juniors I focused on making sessions challenging, engaging and goal oriented. I have also led various multi-sport groups, emphasising the importance of fun and clarity in sporting objectives for children of all ability levels. My approach

blends enjoyment with purpose, aiming to instill a love for sports while encouraging teamwork and understanding among young athletes. I run the Football Fundamentals clubs with children in Years 2 and 3, where there is a particular emphasis on our core values of having Passion for the game and Respect for your teammates and opponents.





# ADAM DOUTHWAITE

Head of Year 6 & Games Teacher

Sports have been central to my life, with countless hours spent kicking, throwing, or hitting a ball. My football journey started in primary school at the FA's Centre of Excellence, moving through youth into senior football including stints at Liverpool, Stockport County and Bolton Wanderers. I was also lucky enough to compete at a national standard in rugby and athletics. My football playing career took me to New Zealand, where I celebrated back-to-back victories in the Oceanic Champions League and participated in the World Club Cup before an injury in Australia

curtailed my on-field pursuits. Not one to be sidelined, I leveraged my UEFA B licence, gained at Bolton, to shape the next generation of talent as the Director of Chelsea Ladies Academy, whilst simultaneously earning my degree. Despite physical constraints, my competitive spirit thrives in golf, athletics, and Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu. The transition from player to coach was transformative, embedding in me a philosophy that prioritises resilience, holistic development, and a growth mindset, to equip individuals with the tools for success in sports and life alike.



# WILL EVANS

MFL & Games Teacher

I have taught for 15 years and in that time delivered games and PE lessons to children in all year groups. Although my specialist subject is French, I love getting to see children in a "non-classroom" environment where they are often hugely different people. My specialist sport is hockey which I have played for over 30 years and

continue to do so when work and family commitments permit. I am a huge sports fan and watch rugby, football, tennis, and cricket- in fact, any sport at all. Team sports have allowed me to form lifetime friendships and to switch off from the relentless nature of everyday life.













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