



# FOOTBALL ACADEMY

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ABBOTSHOLME  
AN EDUCATION FOR LIFE

# At Abbotsholme School, in partnership with IOF Football Academy, we offer more than just football - we offer a future.

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Set in the heart of the UK, our unique programme combines elite-level football coaching with a personalised, first-class education.

At Abbotsholme and IOF, academic ambition and sporting excellence go hand in hand, empowering young players to grow mentally, physically, and personally. With tailored support both in the classroom and on the pitch, every student is equipped with the tools to reach their full potential and succeed in whatever path they choose.

With outstanding facilities, a progressive sporting ethos, and a strong emphasis on academic excellence, Abbotsholme and IOF provide the perfect foundation for students to pursue their footballing ambitions - whether that leads to a professional contract or a successful career beyond the game.



Scan to  
discover  
Abbotsholme







*"At Abbotsholme, education and football go hand in hand. We believe young players thrive when their development is balanced - not just on the pitch, but in the classroom."*

*A strong academic foundation builds resilience, sharpens thinking, and opens doors, whether they pursue a professional footballing career or take a different path."*

JAMIE BENNETT - IOF DIRECTOR

*'Over 100 players  
signed to  
professional clubs'*

## ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

We provide a diverse and enriching curriculum, offering pupils a wide array of exceptional experiences and opportunities unique to our school.

Each pupil's journey is supported with tailored guidance, enabling every individual to thrive and succeed.



## STATE OF THE ART FACILITIES

Abbotsholme School campus boasts a strong foundation of existing top-tier sports facilities, including a full-size 3G pitch, FIFA-graded grass pitches, an indoor futsal hall, and a cutting-edge strength and conditioning center.

## INDIVIDUALISED ATTENTION

With smaller class sizes, every pupil benefits from personalised guidance and tailored support, helping them thrive in both their academic studies and football development.

Our teachers and coaches are dedicated to helping each student succeed - on the pitch and in the classroom.



## HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT

Abbotsholme is renowned for its holistic approach to education, developing well-rounded, character-driven individuals equipped with the values and skills needed for life beyond school.

Pupils particularly enjoy the supportive relationships they build, reflecting our strong pastoral care and nurturing community.

*"This programme has opened my child's eyes to what they can achieve. Watching them enjoy football while growing in confidence and focus has been incredible. It's clear they're building skills for life, not just sport."*

PARENT OF YEAR 10 PUPIL



## BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Our vibrant extra-curricular programme combines our unique campus with exceptional facilities - a working farm, 5-star equestrian centre, theatre, music department, sports centre, and extensive outdoor education opportunities - giving pupils unrivalled opportunities to explore, grow, and thrive beyond the classroom.



*"This programme has given me a real sense of direction. Knowing I can build a future in football, doing something I love, has made me more focused and motivated in the classroom too. It all feels connected now."*

CURRENT ACADEMY PUPIL



## PROVEN TRACK RECORD

With over 100 players signed to professional clubs - including Aston Villa, Manchester United, and England - our programme has a history of turning talent into success.

More than 1,000 of our students have secured USA soccer scholarships, taking their game and education to the next level.



## ELITE FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT

Our UEFA A & B qualified coaches, with professional academy experience, deliver up to 12 hours of expert training each week.

Our programme mirrors English Premier League EPPP Category One academies, developing tactically intelligent, technically sharp, and mentally resilient footballers ready for the professional game.

## TOTAL PLAYER DEVELOPMENT

Our integrated sports science and psychology programme is built into the curriculum to maximise player development.

From enhancing physical fitness, preventing injuries, and boosting on-pitch performance, to developing mental resilience, focus, and motivation - we prepare every athlete for success.

## CUSTOM CAREER PATH PROGRESSION

While supporting aspiring professional players, the academy also opens doors to diverse football careers - including coaching, performance analysis, media, sports marketing, and physiotherapy - through elite training, national-level competition, and mentorship, with strong links to top UK universities, US college scholarships, and professional scouting networks.



## WHO IS THE IOF FOOTBALL PROGRAMME FOR?

Whether you aspire to play professionally or build a career within the football industry, the IOF Football Programme supports every player's individual development to reach their full potential.

It offers full-time day and boarding options, along with a dedicated Foundation Year to prepare players for the demands of elite-level training and higher education.

### FULL TIME RESIDENTIAL & DAY PUPIL PROGRAMME

A comprehensive programme that seamlessly combines elite football training with a top-tier UK education, offering a full range of GCSE and A-level courses highly regarded by both UK and US universities and colleges.

### FOUNDATION YEAR PROGRAMME (AGES 16-19)

Perfect for students seeking focused development in both football and education, before committing to further higher education or professional pathways.



*"At IOF Football Academy, we stand apart because our training and full time programmes are delivered exclusively by seasoned industry professionals. From grassroots to elite pathways, every session is informed by years of experience at the highest level - from partnerships with leading football brands and Premier League clubs, to coaching and scouting at clubs like Manchester United and Aston Villa."*

RUSS HULLETT - IOF DIRECTOR



# SAMPLE TIMETABLE:

	AM	PM	HOURS
MONDAY	Small Group Coaching (Technical & Tactical)		01:30
TUESDAY		Individual Development: Analysis, Technical Work, S&C (*IAG) - before team coaching <b>IOF Mavericks FC Team Coaching (Tactical Periodisation)</b>	2:00 - 3:00
WEDNESDAY	Small Group & 1-on-1 Coaching (Futsal/SSGs/Decision Making)		02:30
THURSDAY		Individual Training (*IAG): before team coaching <b>IOF Mavericks FC Team Coaching (Tactical Periodisation)</b>	1:30 - 2:00
FRIDAY	Individual Learning Plans (Flexible; academic & football reviews, gym/strength & sonditioning where needed.)	Flexible Plan	02:00
SATURDAY	<b>Match Day</b>		Total: 12:00 - 16:00
SUNDAY	Rest Day		
<i>*Additional Hours</i>	(IAG) Information, Advice, Guidance Additional Hours as required	Trips to Pro Academies, International School Holiday Camps (Included in Fees), Annual Norway Academy Tour	

# Graduates of the IOF Academy at Abbotsholme are equipped with a wealth of opportunities across the football industry, offering both personal and professional growth.

While becoming a professional footballer remains a goal for many, we recognise that the journey to the elite level is highly competitive, and only a small percentage reach the top tiers of the game.

Our programme is designed not only to support those with ambitions of playing professionally but also to [open doors](#) to a wide range of rewarding careers within the sport. Through elite training, expert coaching, and a holistic approach to player development, students gain valuable experience that extends well beyond the pitch.

Whether it's coaching, performance analysis, media and broadcasting, sports marketing, or physiotherapy, our students graduate with the skills, qualifications, and confidence to excel across multiple football and sports related-pathways. The academy also provides access to [national-level competition](#), [professional scouting networks](#), and [mentorship from industry professionals](#).

We also offer pathways to top UK universities, such as [Loughborough](#) and [Birmingham](#), and US scholarships, with [over 1,000 students securing places](#) at prestigious American colleges to further both their academic and athletic ambitions.

## FURTHER EDUCATION ROUTES:

*The academy guides students into top UK universities, including Loughborough and Birmingham, to study diverse sports-related courses:*

- Sports with Business
- Sports Psychology
- Sports Journalism
- Sports Science
- Physiotherapy
- Coaching Qualifications
- Nutrition & Dietetics
- Occupational Therapy

## FUTURE CAREER ROUTES:

- Professional Athlete
- Sports Management
- Coaching & Scouting
- Sports Journalism
- Physiotherapist
- Sports Psychologist
- Performance Analyst
- Sports Agent
- Sports Nutritionist
- Sports Marketing & Advertising
- Sports Development Officer



# PATHWAY TO U.S.A COLLEGE SOCCER SCHOLARSHIP

## INITIAL ASSESSMENT

We begin by evaluating your skills, academics, and athletic potential to determine your eligibility for different college divisions and scholarship opportunities.

## ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY PLANNING

Each governing body (NCAA, NAIA, NJCAA) has its own academic and athletic eligibility standards. We'll guide you through the specific requirements, from transcript submission to standardised test scores, ensuring you're academically eligible to compete.

## ELITE FOOTBALL TRAINING

With English Premier League and English Football League coaches

## SAT PREPARATION & TESTING

Structured academic support, including tailored study plans and expert tutoring, to ensure players are fully prepared to excel on the SATs and meet college admission requirements.

## SHOWCASE EVENTS & VIDEO PROFILES

With our support, players can showcase their skills through personalized highlight reels or live scouting events. We'll guide you in creating a standout video profile and, where possible, invite college coaches to attend.

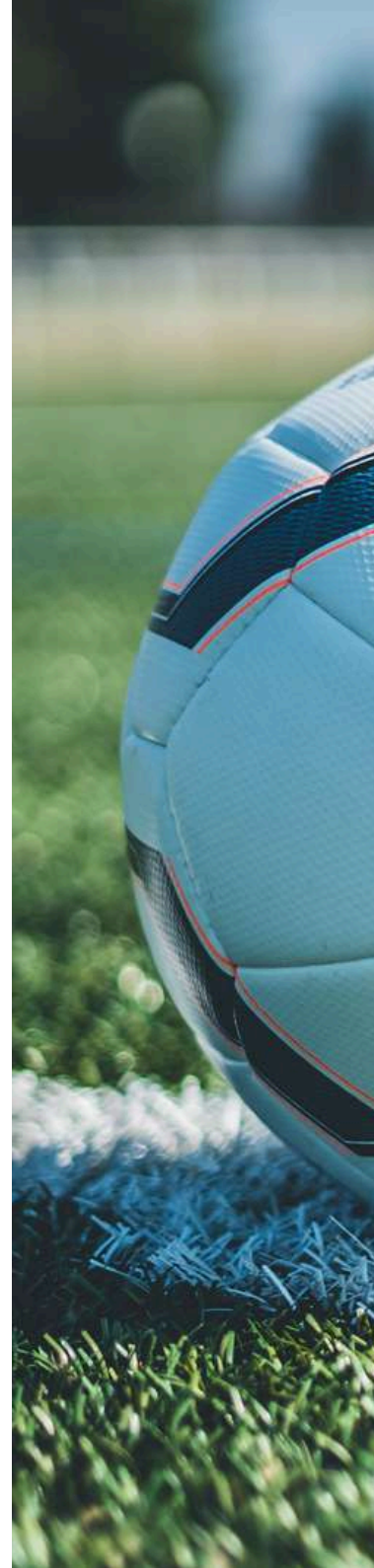
## APPLICATION & VISA GUIDANCE

Once we've found the right fit, we assist with college applications and provide guidance for the student visa process. Our team supports you through every detail, ensuring that you're ready to transition smoothly to life in the U.S.

## SCHOLARSHIP PLACEMENT & ONGOING SUPPORT

Players receive continuous guidance and resources from IOF, ensuring they thrive academically, athletically, and personally throughout their scholarship journey.

FUTURE PATHWAYS



## ELITE FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT

Pupils receive daily coaching from UEFA A and B qualified staff, play showcase games against professional academies, and benefit from English Premier League partner club connections. Mirroring the UK's top Category 1 academies under the EPPP, with the same number of training hours, this is the ultimate pathway to maximise football potential.

## ACTIVE PUPIL & PARENT ENGAGEMENT

Ongoing dialogue with parents, video analysis reviews, integrated individual and team feedback, showcase events, review meetings, and termly in-depth reports track each player's progress across all four corners of the FA model.

*'Students train the same hours as professional academies under the EPPP'*



## USA SOCCER SCHOLARSHIP PATHWAY

At IOF Football Academy, we guide aspiring international players through the journey of joining U.S. college soccer programs in the NCAA, NAIA, or NJCAA, with **over 1,000 scholarships** successfully secured. Our programs also include SAT test preparation and a comprehensive USA college tour.

## ANNUAL NORWAY TOUR\*

Leveraging our Academy Director's experience as ex-Head Coach of Lillehammer FK, we secure elite friendlies against pro clubs, guest coaching, and facility access on our annual tour.

## ANNUAL USA COLLEGE SHOWCASE TRIP\*

Our annual Showcase Trip gives players the chance to test themselves against elite opposition - US College teams and MLS Next Gen squads - with matches played directly in front of college recruiters and scouts.

*\*supplementary cost*



*'Over 1000 USA Soccer Scholarships secured'*



## FACILITIES & LOCATION:

Set within 140 acres of breathtaking countryside, Abbotsholme provides IOF Academy with state-of-the-art facilities in an inspiring environment. Its prime central UK location on the Staffordshire-Derbyshire border - less than 30 minutes from St George's Park National Football Centre, places it at the heart of a region rich in footballing talent and heritage.

- *Full-size 3G pitch*
- *FIFA graded grass pitches*
- *Indoor futsal hall*
- *Cutting-edge strength and conditioning centre*



# ASPIRE, *Achieve*

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