November 2025 - College Update



Dear Colleagues,

Welcome back after your half term break. Much is happening within our sector that will bring much change to provision for our learners in the years to come with the proposed intention to introduce 'V' Levels along with the current 'A' Level and 'T' Level provision. There are certainly interesting times ahead for us all as we also look at how we can maintain our rugby provision and access for all students to take part.

I am sure you will all join me in celebrating the excellent start to the season and in particular with the excellent festival series that has got underway with two great regional festival programmes and the November series being organised currently. May I express a huge thanks to the local organisers who are doing a wonderful job at holding these events and introducing many new players to the game.

The Rugby Ambassador programme during 2024/25 was a huge success. Please look out in the next newsletter for the wonderful day this seasons Rugby Ambassadors of the year will experience at the Engalnd v Fiji game. It is good news to see this programme continue to develop in partnership with the AoC Sport Student Leadership Programme and this year 51 learners have signed up to date.

May I request that you all support England Colleges by submitting your results quickly after every game. This data is absolutely vital to us in our ongoing discussion that take place with the RFU with regard to funding to support the game in the sector.

Finally may I wish you all a very good half term of rugby as we lead up to the Christmas break.

Best Wishes

Martin Tucker
ECRFU Chair
(Principal, Truro and Penwith College)

England Colleges Festival Programme 2025/26

Below is a summary of the College festivals that have taken place to date this academic year. The number of both girls and boys attending are fantastic. England colleges wish to thank the regional coordinators who are working extremely hard to make these festivals a huge success for the college sector and providing such wonderful opportunities for all of our learners to get involved in the game. .

September:

Region	Who for?	Coordinator	Number of attendees	Venue
North East	Boys	Rob Green	60	Billingham
North East	Girls	Rob Green	47	Billingham
South East	Boys	Lucy Callingham	67	Horsham
South East	Girls	Lucy Callingham	19	Horsham
South West	Boys	Glenn Channing	30	Ivy Bridge
South West	Girls	Kylie Fouracres	30	Ivy Bridge
West Midlands	Girls	Ben Parfitt	29	Stourbridge
West Midland	Boys	Darren Knott	38	Stourbridge
Yorkshire S	Boys	Daniel Wilson	74	Doncaster
Yorkshire N	Girls	Matthew Whiteley	10	Old Brods
			404 total!	

October:

Region	Who for?	Coordinator	Number of attendees	Venue
North East	Boys	Rob Green	67	Billingham
North East	Girls	Rob Green	44	Billingham
North West	Boys and Girls	Jim Mcowen	110 (61 girls)	Preston Grasshoppers
South East	Boys	Lucy Callingham	29	Horsham
South East	Girls	Lucy Callingham	16	Horsham
South West	Boys	Glenn Channing	23	Ivy Bridge
South West	Girls	Kylie Fouracres	25	Ivy Bridge
West Midlands	Girls	Ben Parfitt	70	Stourbridge
West Midland	Boys	Darren Knott	27	Stourbridge
East Midlands	Girls	Jamie	19	Leicester Forest
East	Boys	Gareth Streeter	40	Hills Road College
East	Girls	Adrian Medd	30	Hills Road College
Yorkshire S	Boys	Daniel Wilson	49	Doncaster
Yorkshire N	Girls	Matthew Whiteley	19	Old Brods
			Total 568!!	

Glenn added some posts onto the ECRFU Instagram page, with photos from the events, and I posted the below post on the internal RFU viva about the October events (NB I posted this before all the numbers were in – hence the much lower number than 568!):

On Wednesday 15th October, 10 **regional college festivals** took place across centralised venues in England.

The aim of these events is to provide opportunities for year 12 and 13 boys and girls from colleges (U18s), to participate in high quality, fun, engaging, and inclusive rugby activity.

The festivals were a huge success 🎉 with **over 250 boys and girls** across a mix of current and new players, and **more than 30 colleges** taking part. Alongside various formats of rugby being played 🏉, there was lots of fun 😍 and friendships were formed 🏴

massive thank you to the Regional Festival Coordinators who helped lead at local level, and for making these events happen.

There are more regional festivals planned in the coming months, with the next ones taking place on Wednesday 26th November 2026.



Plans are well underway for the November festivals. If you wish to get involved please do contact katycuddington@rfu.com who will link you directly with your regional coordinator to ensure you can get along to take part.



England Colleges 7's Tournament Wednesday 4th March 2026

The England Colleges Rugby 7' Tournaments will be held on Wednesday 4th March 2026 at two venues to accommodate the north and south regions.

North Venue: Doncaster Knights RFC
South Venue: Trowbridge RFC

Both rugby clubs will provide ample parking, changing facilities and refreshments. There will be 4 rugby pitches available at both venues to ensure a positive playing experience for all players at all levels.

There will be 4 separate tournaments at each venue:

1. Girls ACE Colleges (Can enter two teams)
2. Girls all other non ACE Colleges
3. Boys ACE and AoC Prem Colleges
4. Boys AoC Championship and other colleges

Please complete the Microsoft form England Colleges 'U18 Sevens' Tournament Wednesday 4th March 2026 – Fill in form to submit your intention to enter.

The draw for both tournaments will not be circulated until 10 working days before the tournament date. As such please do ensure you organise your transportation around the start time of the day which will be kicking off with the first game at 10am.

England Colleges are very much looking forward to seeing you all at the tournaments.

Regulation 15 (Age Grade Rugby) Review – Have your say!!!

The RFU is reviewing Regulation 15, Age Grade Rugby and would welcome the input from the college sector to ensure all views are considered as part of any re-write. It is essential that we get feedback from all areas of the game on a regulation that impacts every Age-grade offering.

This regulation sets out all the regulations for Age-grade players, including;

- *Combining of age groups in the club*
- *The process for playing 17 year old players as adults*
- *Process for playing players out of their age group*
- *Playing / Training calendars*
- *Half Game rule and other competition regulations*

If you have any feedback on the current regulation or any suggestions of how it can improved, please click this survey

https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/46aec965896f4fa0922e28bd936a5851

Please pass this survey on to the various coaches within your college so that as much feedback as possible comes in from the college sector with regards to this review and the consultation process.

Results Results Results!!

Ensuring your results are submitted to AoC Sport is essential. None submission of results and lengthy delays mean that fixtures when reported appear void and as such reflects very disappointingly upon the sector as a whole.

It is the responsibility of every college to ensure that you submit the result of each and every game, notify AoC Sport if the game has been re-arranged or if it has been cancelled altogether and so is void.

Currently the planned v played data does not directly reflect how the game is operating across the sector, however this is the measure by which it is viewed regularly by the RFU. As England College seek funding to support the game across the sector this data of planned v played is absolutely vital.

Please ensure your coaches submit the results of their games on the day.

Rugby Ambassador Programme 2025/26

Rugby Ambassador Award:

Two Rugby Ambassadors from Shrewsbury College were awarded the Rugby Ambassadors of the Year Award for their outstanding work in the role over the 2024/25 season.

Dimitri Constantinedes:
Dimitri played a key role in supporting RFU campaigns and programmes, helping to drive increased engagement with rugby across various platforms. His enthusiasm and leadership inspired others to get involved, and he contributed meaningfully to the planning, delivery, and reporting of new rugby opportunities. Through his efforts, Dimitri helped broaden access to the sport, encouraging more male and female students to participate in diverse formats of the game.

Charlie Hampson:
Charlie, within his role as a England Rugby Ambassador, played a vital role in inspiring and connecting with players across the college and community. Through the RFU's *Play Together Stay Together* campaign, Charlie supported the recruitment and retention of players by promoting inclusive and flexible formats of the game. His efforts helped build lasting connections among participants, encouraging both new and returning players to engage with rugby in ways that suit their interests and lifestyles.



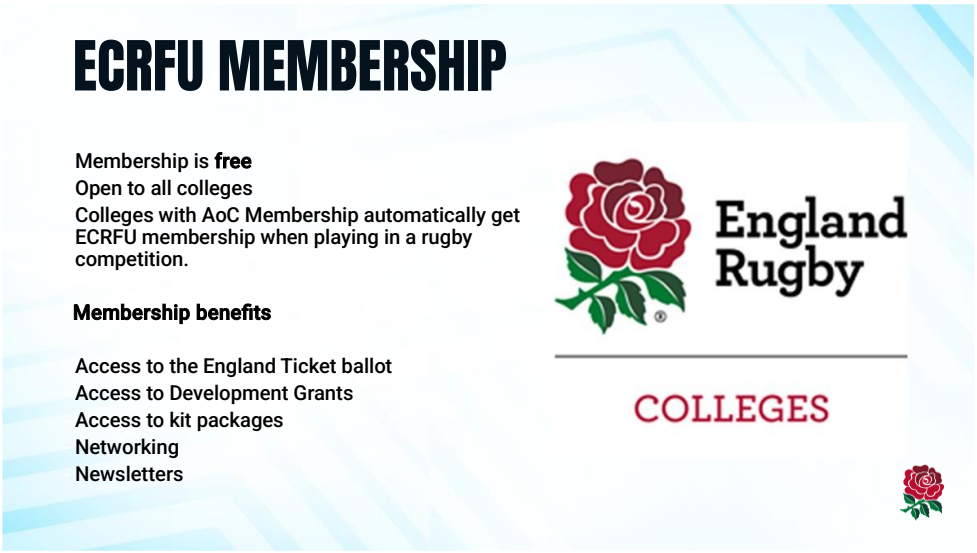
Dimitri and Charlie enjoyed a wonderful day at The Allianz Stadium for the England v Fiji Autumn International on 9th November 2025.

Rugby Ambassadors 2025/26:

We are extremely pleased to note that 51 learners have registered across the country for the Rugby Ambassador Programme within the AoC Sport Student Leadership Programme. In total we have 33 male and 18 female volunteers so far on programme this season.

England Colleges Membership

Colleges already registered as members **please ensure that you log onto your GMS account and update all details** to ensure that you receive all communications and information about developments as well as details regarding the International Ticket Ballot. The individuals assigned to the Golden Roles are key contacts and need to be regularly updated when staff change or you will not receive the information you require.



Your Regional ECRFU Rep

England Colleges RFU is the advocate of College Rugby within the RFU and, as the national Constituent Body, works hard to ensure the voice of the college sector is heard.

The role of the England Colleges Rep is a key one in ensuring this dialogue takes place and all views are clearly represented.

ECRFU Reg Rep	College	Contact Details	Region
James McKeown	Runshaw College	McKeown.J@runshaw.ac.uk	**North West**
Andy Douthwaite	Hereford VIth Form	AD@hereford.ac.uk	**West Midlands**
Dale Smallman	Shrewsbury College	dales@shrewsbury.ac.uk	
Naz Deen	Corams	naz@coramsfields.org.uk	**London & Kent**
Trevor Martingell	Kent	t.martingelll@btinternet.com	
Tim Peck	Leyton	Timothy.Peck@leyton.ac.uk	**London & East**
Mark Rugman	Worthing College	M.Rugman@worthing.ac.uk	**South East**
Chris Wall	Exeter College	chriswall@exe-coll.ac.uk	**South West**
Glenn Channing	South Devon College	glennchanning@southdevon.ac.uk	

Evan Woodworth	Bishop Burton College	Evan.Woodworth@askham-bryan.ac.uk	**East**
Robert Green	Bede Sixth Form College	robert.green@stockton.ac.uk	**North East**

Stay in Touch **@EngRugColleges**

www.englandcollegesrfu.com