



**BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN  
GRASSROOTS AND ACADEMY  
FOOTBALL**



# APD POST 16 FOOTBALL ACADEMY

2025/26

SINCE 2013



# THIS IS APD

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Advance Player Development (APD) was founded by Director and Head Coach, Harry Watling in March 2013.

APD was built upon the 'Play The APD way' philosophy, which is an expansive and positive style of football that excites and engages within the modern game. The APD way is not only manifested on the pitch but demands the players to have a hardworking attitude and respectful nature, off the pitch.

Our company mission is to help aspiring young players bridge the gap between grassroots and professional academy football. One of the ways we work towards that is by offering College and Sixth Form Football Academies.

This offers players a chance to experience training like a full time professional, with weekly fixtures and showcase matches against Pro Academies whilst completing their A Levels, BTECs or IB studies at the same time.



## Success Story: Eddie Allsopp

"I came to APD not knowing what to expect and just saw it as another game of football with my mates. After just the first session with Harry I could see this coaching was at a different level to what I was used to. Harry took my talent and helped me grow as a player with training on a daily basis and putting me in challenging situations both on and off the pitch to test my ability and mental strength. I can honestly say that Harry is by far the best coach I've worked with and I will always make sure to stay in contact with all the staff at APD. I would recommend any young aspiring footballer to give APD a go."



# HOW IT WORKS

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Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Training 9-11am or 3.30-5.00pm	Training 3.30-5.00pm	Pre Match	Recovery Session - Gym Session provided	Analysis Session
		Match Day		Training 3.30-5.00pm

We work with the school to make sure your football fits in with your other subjects to make sure you get the most out of your sixth form and football experience.

## WHY CHOOSE APD?

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- Rather than a Football Academy run by a specific club, APD has the ability to help players be seen by a range of clubs. Our aim is to prioritise the players needs and interests.
- All of our sites offer A Levels and BTEC options catering for a broad range of academic aspirations to go alongside your football.
- You'll be coached by highly experienced UEFA Licensed coaches who work for both APD and Academy clubs.
- You will benefit from individual and team match analysis as well as a recording of every game being sent to you after every match.
- APD annual Tour and Showcase matches throughout the year. The highest performing players will join the annual tour in October Half Term to play against a range of different professional clubs.

# WELLING SCHOOL

## Overview

Our purpose is to ensure that all students leave with the qualifications, skills and personal qualities to be successful in their adult lives. We offer a broad range of qualifications meaning that students can study the academic pathway that is right for them. This means that every year we support students to gain places at Russell Group and high performing universities and we support students gain apprenticeships and employment. Success for every 6th Former is different and one of the most important reasons why students achieve excellent academic results is because of the positive relationships staff build with students. We also offer a varied range of extra-curricular activities that all 6th Formers take part in. These include leadership opportunities, activities that develop cultural capital, encourage teamwork and allow students to display their talents.



## Entry Requirements

Welling School Sixth Form are proud to offer a range of courses and pathways, the entry requirements for each are listed below. Please note that some subjects require specific GCSE grades as well as the entry requirements.

### Academic pathway

In order to study a pathway of 3 or more A-Level subjects a **minimum of five grade 5s are required in full GCSE subjects, including Maths and English**. On this pathway the student will study no vocational subjects.

### Mixed pathway

In this pathway students study 3 courses that are a combination of A-Level and Level 3 courses. In order to study this pathway a **minimum of five grade 4s are required in full GCSE subjects and specific entry requirements for A-Level subjects**.





# TOURS & PRO FIXTURES

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## APD ELITE TEAM

Every year we take our Elite squad on tour to play in pro fixtures and give them the full Football Academy experience. Our last tour took us to Manchester where they not only played multiple fixtures but also got to attend Manchester City v Atletico Madrid in the Champions League Quarter Final at the Etihad.

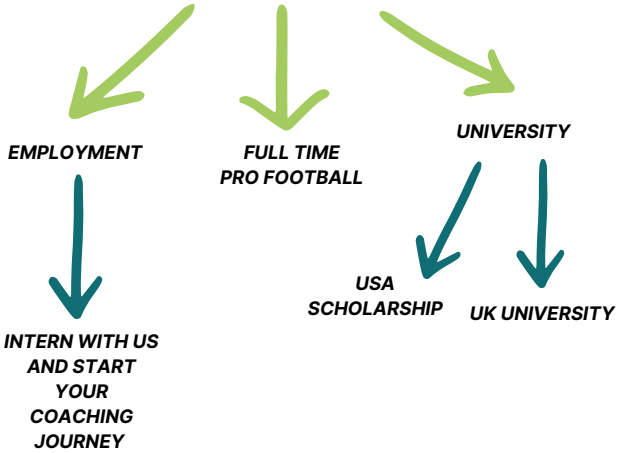
As you can imagine this was a highlight of the tour and something that we know our players will remember for years to come. At APD we want to give our Academy Players the best opportunities and experiences during their time with us both on and off the pitch.

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# FUTURE PATHWAYS



**APD PARTNERS**

**matchark**



Prifysgol Wrecsam  
Wrexham University

# APD TRAINING KIT

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The APD training kit is in partnership with Puma and Pro:Direct. All kit is available to purchase online at our Kit shop.

The APD training kit is a part of school uniform that should be worn during training, matchdays, tours and trips.



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