

Pocklington School Specialist Sports Staff



David Byas – Director of Sport – I/C Cricket, I/C Boys' Hockey and Swimming

David is a Level 4 elite England & Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Coach and previously enjoyed playing professional cricket with Yorkshire and Lancashire. He was captain when Yorkshire won their first county championship for 33 years in 2001 and it was the club where he became Director of Cricket in 2004. David was involved as an ECB Umpire Coach where he coached and mentored a number of international and first-class umpires, in both the professional game and at County second team level. David is a former senior Yorkshire hockey player who represented England U21s in the European Cup in Portugal. He is currently a Level 2 Coach and is the lead coach for Humber hockey U13/U14 boys. Now Director of Sport at Pocklington School, he also runs his own sports academy.



Lucy Hornby – Head of Co-Curriculum – I/C Tennis

Lucy joined Pocklington School with a wealth of hockey experience. As a player, she captained Pocklington School 1st team before going on to play for Leeds Metropolitan 1st team at university and gain representative honours for Humberside and North of England. She has coached at both Ampleforth and Stamford Schools where she was Head of Netball and Head of Hockey respectively. Lucy also plays club tennis at Sledmere.

Sam Fox – Head of Rugby and Sporting Development – I/C Rugby and Athletics

Sam joined us in September 2023, having spent the past two years as Head Coach for Harrogate RUFC and as Assistant Coach with Yorkshire Rugby Academy. Sam is now the Backs Lead for the U18s Yorkshire Rugby Academy and plays in his free time at Harrogate RUFC. Sam is a RFU Level 3 Qualified Coach with a First-Class Honours Degree in Sports Coaching from Leeds Beckett University. Sam also holds a Level 7 Diploma in Leadership and Management. From Cornwall, UK. Sam was brought up on the coast with a love for all sports, rugby was his main passion, representing Cornwall from U15-U20 level and being part of the Exeter Chiefs Academy Squad from U16s-U18s culminating in a successful finals day win over Gloucester to finish third in the Academy League Competition. In 2015, at the age of 18 he finished from Truro and Penwith College with a BTEC Extended Diploma in Sports Performance and Excellence with Triple Distinction. From the success of the Truro College Rugby Academy the team was invited to the Sanix World Championships in Japan, he was fortunate enough to captain this side that ultimately finished fourth. He moved to New Zealand to pursue a rugby opportunity which saw him play and then coach at the highly successful Scots College, based in Wellington, before representing Poneke Premiers and Wellington Academy. This led to him having the opportunity to represent the Wellington Lions at the Jock Hobbs National Memorial Tournament in September 2016 before returning home to join Harrogate Rugby in National 2 North from January 2017. Concluding the 2016/17 season Sam moved to Leeds to start at Leeds Beckett University studying BSCH Sports Coaching Course whilst playing BUCS Super Rugby as part of the successful rugby club.



Emily Kendra – I/C of Netball

Emily has taught PE and games across the foundation since arriving in 2016 covering all of the sports we provide. She is a Level 1 England Netball coach and played in local leagues throughout her time at Leeds Metropolitan university where she achieved a degree in Physical Education. Emily is now a competitive road runner for Pocklington Runners and competes in both road and cross country leagues. She is also a Level 1 Swimming Teacher which stemmed from her childhood passion for swimming in which she swam competitively across Yorkshire from the age of 6 to 17



Henry Perham – Teacher of PE & Games, I/C Girls' Cricket

Henry joined Pocklington as a sports graduate in 2017, and he has since gone on to complete his PGCE and a master's degree in education. He is a Level 2 cricket coach and currently leads the girls' cricket provision at Pocklington, having previously coached as part of the Yorkshire CCC women and girls pathway. As a rugby coach, he has worked in the Yorkshire Rugby DPP programme since 2018 and has also coached Yorkshire U20s. He is currently the forwards coach for the Yorkshire Under 17s as well as one of the centre leads on the under 17s DPP pathway and is working towards his level 3 coaching badge.

Charlie Lambert – Teacher of P.E

As a player, Charlie represented East Yorkshire cricket U12-U15, captaining the side at U15 level. He went on to play for Yorkshire Cricket Club Development U15s and later captained both Pocklington Cricket Club and Pocklington School. Charlie is a Level 2 Coach and has coached East Yorkshire U12s as well as players at the Byas Academy and Ryan Sidebottom Academy. Charlie represented the 1st XV rugby when he attended Pocklington School and he now works across the School's games afternoons, having led the U14s to an undefeated season in 2017. Charlie is a Level 2 Rugby Coach and referee, and coaches on the Developing Player Programme with the Yorkshire Rugby Academy. Charlie is also a Level 1 Netball Coach.



Robin Crewes – I/C Cross Country

Robin's love of running started late on in school when his PE tutor spotted he hadn't tired during a football match and suggested he run with the cross country team. Despite the bleak weather in his first race, Robin came 2nd and from then on dedicated his energies to improving his running. Robin has since raced at regional and county level and represented local athletic clubs in races ranging from 5km to half marathon. In 2017 he won the fastest local man title at the Escrick 10k trail race. More recently Robin has turned his attention to longer road races running the Edinburgh Marathon, Yorkshire Marathon and the London Marathon. Since joining the school Robin has been keen to pass on his love of running. The Cross Country teams have gone from strength to strength and in 2019 Robin coached the Junior girls team who qualified and competed in the ESAA National Cross Country Cup Final, and in the same academic year two senior boys qualified to compete in the prestigious New Balance English Schools Cross Country Championship.



Ben Byas – I/C of Girls' Hockey

As an Old Pocklingtonian himself, Ben was 1st XI Boys' Hockey Captain and 1st XI Cricket Wicket keeper while at school. After leaving Pocklington, Ben has played for Wakefield Hockey Club 1st XI in the English National Hockey league for the last five years, while attending Loughborough University, where he was a member of the Coaching and Volunteering Academy. Moving onto Northumbria University in 2019 in the role of Head Hockey Coach for the University, he almost led the 1st XI women to a promotion berth in the British Universities & Colleges Sport Hockey League. For the past year, Ben has been responsible, alongside David Byas, for running a youth hockey coaching academy.

Dave Thompson – Tennis Coach

David has over 10 years' experience as a tennis coach, coaching at several different clubs over the years. He has experience coaching all age ranges and has been running match play events and tournaments in and around York. His passion is teaching children at the mini tennis level and getting them competing early on while also enjoying everything the game has to offer, he will bring a wealth of knowledge and experience across all ages and abilities within the Foundation.



Leah Goddard – Resident Sports Graduate

Leah has recently graduated from Nottingham Trent University with a degree in Sport & Exercise Science and holds a level 1 coaching qualification in football. Leah also has coaching experience in Netball, Hockey & Athletics and has played these sports to age group county level. Leah played hockey with Nottingham Trent University and has been a member of the Isle of Man Senior County squad and England Hockey pathway. Captaining the Isle of Man U18s allowed her to develop leadership and communication skills which she carried into university roles such as Women's Hockey Club's treasurer and Student course representative. Leah has recently been employed by Manx Sport & Recreation, delivering a variety of sporting activity in the Isle of Man to children age 4-13 and has provided cover for PE lessons at primary schools in the Isle of Man. Leah holds up to date certificates in first aid and safeguarding and has completed courses in Mental Health Awareness for Sport and Physical Activity and Sport England's Inclusivity Activity Programme. Finally, Leah's role as a Group Leader with PGL, living on centre, in the summer of 2022 provided her with the opportunity to further develop her leadership skills, and provide energy and enthusiasm into the programme offered by PGL to children of various ages.

Aled Jones – Rugby Coach

Aled joined Pocklington School in Sept 2023. He is part of the Harrogate 1XV coaching team, Community Officer at the club and Head of Transition. He has a Post Graduate Certificate in Sports coaching from Leeds Beckett University.





Tris Hymers – Rugby, Hockey & Cricket Coach

Tris provides support across the games program at Pocklington School, coaching rugby, hockey, and cricket.



Lydia Walker – Head of Netball Coaching

Lydia has been a part of the School's netball programme since starting at Pocklington School in 2010 and is now the Head of Netball Coaching. She has an abundance of playing experience, playing for multiple teams and has represented Humberside county. Lydia currently plays for the first team of two local clubs, Stamford Bridge Vikings and Pockalypse, where she coaches and assists with umpiring. Lydia has also represented her county for swimming and hockey and has coached rounders and hockey at Pocklington School.



Clare Bracken – I/C Equestrian

Clare had an interest in horses at an early age; she mucked out weekly at a local riding school and it was here where she taught herself to ride. She bought her own horse eight years ago and started to learn to ride 'properly' – undoing all the poor habits she had previously picked up. The Equestrian Team at Pocklington was formed seven years ago by Clare; it is cross-foundational and is one of the few sports where girls and boys compete together.



Olly Toomey – I/C Rugby Development

Ollie specializes in Rugby and Cricket and he has recently taken on more responsibility within the rugby program. As master I/C of Rugby Development, he will work closely with the Head of Rugby in developing participation and performance at all stages across the Foundation and will act as a coaching mentor to non-specialist members of staff.



Georgia Hird – Teacher of PE and Games

Georgia joined Pocklington School originally in 2018 as a sports graduate and completed her PGCE working across both prep and senior school. Georgia returned following completion of her Early Careers Teaching Qualification and has joined us as a physical education and games teacher. With a passion for strength and conditioning, Georgia develops performers to fulfil their potential across an array of sports. Hockey, netball, cricket and athletics are her main sports. Georgia has competed at regional and national level in middle distance running as well as playing county netball and hockey at school. She has been involved with Yorkshire Cricket for a number of years, originally as their strength and conditioning intern, and more recently working with the country and regional age group squads for strength and conditioning and cricket sessions.