




*Leading the way  
in state school  
cricket*



**Brighton Aldridge Community Academy**

The Official Partner of Sussex Cricket  
in the state school sector



# Welcome



## Principal

Welcome to the BACA Cricket prospectus. Cricket is a wonderful sport and I passionately believe that girls and boys at state schools should have an equal chance to enjoy it and to have every chance to play at the highest level they can.

For several years, our outstanding facilities, coaching staff and partnership with Sussex Cricket have made a real difference to the opportunities that students at BACA and our local primary schools have to learn and play the game. Now we are moving into an exciting new phase with closer integration of the BACA and Sussex Cricket junior pathways, including the involvement of the County's professional coaching and playing staff in our programme. This will ensure an even wider range of opportunities for our younger cricketers to develop their game and be inspired and guided by some of the top people involved in sport.

At BACA we are committed to excellence in the classroom and on the sports field. I am very proud of the academic achievements of our students and warmly invite prospective students and their parents to come and see what our BACA Cricket programmes have to offer.



**Robert Speight**

## Director of Cricket

My passion for allowing all young people the chance to progress as cricketers whilst fulfilling their academic potential is at the core of the BACA Cricket offer. Cricket has allowed me to travel to fantastic countries and forge a wonderful career and I want others to be able to do the same. The physical, employability and life skills that are developed through cricket are incredibly valuable to young people.

From state education myself, this journey to create a place anyone can achieve on and off the sports field has been amazing. I am very proud to work with such a forward thinking school in close partnership with my beloved Sussex Cricket.



**Alexia Walker**

## Founder & Chair of the Aldridge Foundation

Cricket holds many wonderful personal memories for me. Not only for the great matches that I have seen but I still recall the joy of playing with my father as a young boy and then doing the same with my two sons.

I have come to realise that cricket is more than just a game as it shapes one's character. You have an individual responsibility to perform well to contribute towards the team. This develops confidence and a resilience to overcome challenges - an approach necessary to have a successful and fulfilling life. Overall, cricket makes a major contribution to developing one's character, building the values and attitudes that will serve you well personally, academically and within your community. I am very proud about all that has been achieved at BACA and the academy motto "Believe You Can" is aptly embedded in our ambitions for BACA Cricket.



**Sir Rod Aldridge OBE**

# Sussex Cricket

Sussex Cricket has been instrumental in the development of the Aldridge Cricket Academy since it was first proposed in 2012. In subsequent years the relationship with the professional county club has grown year by year.

Sussex Cricket works with the Aldridge Foundation on many cricket projects across the county including delivering a Women's & Girls' Project enhancing the offer for this group from primary school to the elite pathway. The Sir Rod Aldridge Cricket Centre is the home of Sussex Women & Girls Cricket.

Sussex also collaborates in the coaching of the cricket programme with performance coaches and professional players having regular involvement across the programme. The BACA Cricket Pathway is seen as an integral part of the Sussex Cricket Pathway.

The Premier League standard square is maintained superbly by Sussex ground staff and we regularly host Sussex Women, girls and boys age group matches as well as St Peters CC youth and senior cricket.



*“The cricket facilities and programmes at Brighton Aldridge Community Academy are outstanding. We at Sussex Cricket are very pleased and proud to be a partner of BACA especially on the development of girls’ and women’s cricket and to be able to use the facility as the official home of Sussex Women’s cricket. The progress of both the boys and girls at BACA over the last few years has been fantastic and we very much look forward to growing our partnership in the years to come.”*

Rob Andrew, Chief Executive, Sussex Cricket



*“With the quality of cricket provision, the outstanding cricket and school facilities and the unique close working partnership with Sussex Cricket, BACA has to be the state school of choice for any aspiring young cricketers in the county.”*

Keith Greenfield, Performance Director, Sussex Cricket

*“We have built a fantastic relationship with the Aldridge Foundation to help develop their cricket initiatives. Both organisations are working towards the same goal of inspiring the next generation of cricketers and providing opportunities for children to easily access cricket. BACA presents a wonderful opportunity for boys and girls of all abilities to experience high quality cricket provision in a state school setting.”*

Gary Wallis-Taylor, Interim Head of Community Cricket, Sussex Cricket



*“It’s great that when we can’t train at the county ground we have a top class facility just down the road. The students are very lucky to be able to train there everyday.”*

Tymal Mills, Sussex and England T20 Player

# About us

Brighton Aldridge Community Academy students benefit from an excellent education, secure great qualifications and develop into young adults who are the first choice recruits for universities and employers. The academy opened in 2010 and is part of the Aldridge Education family of schools.

Our motto is simple - "Believe You Can". Whether in the classroom, on the sports field, or performing on stage, we inspire each of our students to develop the knowledge, skills and enterprising mindset they need to follow their passions into a successful future. Through all aspects of learning our students develop the Aldridge Attributes:



The Aldridge Cricket Academy began in 2013 to provide opportunities to develop cricket skills alongside education. By 2019 we had reached over 100 sixth form students through the cricketing offer. The introduction of the BACA Junior Cricket Pathway allows for even more students to benefit from the combined education and cricket offer.

The facilities and coaching available at BACA are world class and all students can experience cricket at every level of their school journey.

- £1.8m Indoor Cricket Centre with three full run cricket lanes, BOLA Merlyn bowling machine, a high specification gym and physio room
- Premier league standard cricket square maintained by Sussex Cricket ground staff
- ECB Level 3 and 4 coaching staff including Sussex Cricket Performance Coaches



# Cricket Provision

All BACA Cricketers will have the opportunity to experience the following during their cricketing journey through the academy:

**Allocated time within the school day for individualised cricket and strength & conditioning training**

**Training in the world class Sir Rod Aldridge Cricket Centre with Level 3 and 4 Coaches**

**Support in areas such as nutrition, mental health in sport, careers and many more**

**Competitive fixtures.  
Both indoors, outdoors, as well as overseas tours**

**Personalised study support to ensure academic standards are high as well as cricket development**

## **NEW for September 2020**

**Additional coaching from Sussex Cricket professional coaches & players including technical and leadership sessions throughout the year.**

**Professional coaches will include:**  
**James Kirtley (Fast Bowling)**  
**Ian Salisbury (Spin Bowling)**  
**Jason Swift (Batting Coach)**  
**Richard Halsall (Academy Director)**

**Junior Pathway and Aldridge Cricket Academy players will engage weekly with Sussex Cricket professionals who will share their expertise in many areas of the game.**

**Regular opportunities to visit The 1st Central County Ground to meet the squad in their environment, learn about the running of the club and watch matches.**

# Junior Cricket Pathway

## Combining curriculum studies with cricket from Year 7 to Year 11

The BACA Junior Cricket Pathway (JCP) was launched in September 2019 in partnership with Sussex Cricket to enable talent to be nurtured throughout a student's secondary education and delivering a programme which fits in seamlessly to the Sussex Cricket Junior Pathway. Each student has a bespoke programme of cricket activities which fits around their academic timetable delivered by Sussex Cricket and the BACA Cricket staff.

### The Programme

- Up to 20 places each year for aspiring high level male and female cricketers
- Over 4 hours of specialist coaching in both curriculum and extra curriculum time every week
- Competitive indoor and outdoor fixture programme
- Additional personalised study support to ensure both academic and sporting success
- Clear progression route into the sixth form programme



### The Staff

**Alexia Walker** - Level 4,  
BACA Director of Cricket  
Sussex Women's Head Coach

**Ashley Wright** - Level 3,  
JCP Lead Coach  
Sussex Pathway Lead Coach

**Georgia Adams** - Level 3,  
BACA Assistant Cricket Coach  
Sussex Captain and EPP Coach

**Jack Baldwin** - S&C Coach for  
BACA and Sussex Women & Girls

the  
**cricketer**  
SCHOOLS GUIDE 2020  
**TOP 100**

*"I am proud to be part of the BACA Junior Cricket Pathway. Coming to BACA is the best decision I have ever made."*

*Current Year 9 JCP student and Sussex Cricket Pathway player*

# Aldridge Cricket Academy

## Combining sixth form studies with an intensive cricket programme

Since 2013 the Aldridge Cricket Academy has helped over 100 female and male students progress in both their academic studies and cricketing skills without having to make a choice between the two. Studies in a variety of subjects are undertaken each morning with the afternoon sessions dedicated to the cricket programme allowing for up to 8 hours of coaching each week.

The programme has developed professional players, coaches in both cricket and strength & conditioning, and students following many other careers whilst continuing to play cricket at various levels.



### Highlights

**Tours** - successful tours to South Africa, Dubai & Sri Lanka

**MCC** - host an annual timed match at BACA

**National T20** - compete in the independent schools cup annually

**School matches** - fixtures against independent schools including Charterhouse, Hurstpierpoint & Ardingly

**Alumni** - Will Sheffield (Sussex); Tara Norris (Loughborough Lightning & Sussex); Liam O'Brien (England Physical Disability); Ariana Dowse (Hampshire)



### The Programme

- Video analysis
- Batting v spin with BOLA Merlyn
- Individualised Strength & Conditioning plans
- Fast Bowling plans & workloads
- Playertek GPS Tracking
- Competitive playing programme
- Overseas Tours
- Coaching qualifications
- Academic/University/Work Support



*“The facilities and teaching are incredible...you learn to think creatively about the game.”*

*Will Sheffield, former BACA student and current Sussex Cricket professional*

the  
**cricketer**  
SCHOOLS GUIDE 2020  
**TOP 100**

# The Journey

We are here to deliver opportunities to encounter cricket at every step of your BACA experience. Whether you want to play a new sport with your friends, develop your skills or become an elite cricketer, we have the infrastructure and expertise to help you fulfil your goals.



We work closely with Sussex Cricket to reach out to primary school children. Together we deliver cricket at local primary schools, provide transition visits for prospective students and host many local and county-wide competitions throughout the year in all of our facilities.



There are a number of external partnerships allowing us to deliver a variety of cricket activities outside of school. These include the ECB Allstars (5-8 years) & Dynamos (8-10 years) as well as the MCC Foundation's flagship Hub providing free coaching for state educated players from 11-15 years.



All BACA Year 7-9 students are taught cricket as part of their PE curriculum including using the Sir Rod Aldridge Cricket Centre for PE lessons. A thriving after-school club allows for further development of skills and preparation for school competitions.



The Junior Cricket Pathway allows students from Year 7 to Year 11 to combine a full GCSE curriculum and enrichment with a weekly programme of specialist cricket training. The sessions are delivered in partnership with the Performance staff at Sussex Cricket as part of the Sussex Cricket Pathway.



The Aldridge Cricket Academy allows students to combine their sixth form studies with an intensive cricket programme. The sessions are every afternoon and there is a varied fixture list including overseas tours. Our graduates move on to professional cricket, university, apprenticeships and full time employment.

**For information on the academic curriculum at Key Stage 3, 4 & 5 please visit the academy website**



*“It’s not where you come from in life, it’s where you get to that counts.”*

Sir Rod Aldridge OBE

# BACA Sport

We believe in developing well-rounded athletes and encouraging our cricketers to get involved in as much of the sporting life of the school as possible. The sports facilities at BACA are excellent and help to provide fantastic opportunities to develop in a range of sports. These include a large sports hall, a fitness suite with weights room, a dance studio, 3G floodlit artificial pitch, extensive fields for rugby, football and athletics as well as the Sir Rod Aldridge Cricket Centre.



At BACA, we offer a broad and balanced PE Curriculum that focuses on developing the students' physical literacy as well as teamwork, cooperation and leadership skills. We offer a range of practical activities within the PE Curriculum throughout the year including cricket, rugby, football, netball, basketball, badminton, fitness and athletics.

We offer cricket in all classes in Key Stage 3 and 4 during the Autumn and Spring terms in the Sir Rod Aldridge Cricket Centre as well as outdoors in the Summer term.



We have an extensive extra-curricular programme competing in Brighton & Hove District and Sussex competitions in a range of activities including cricket, football, rugby, basketball, netball, badminton and athletics. We run after-school clubs which are available to all students every day from 3pm - 4.15pm as well as breakfast and lunchtime clubs.

We regularly participate in fixtures against a wide variety of state secondary schools and colleges as well as schools in the independent sector. A number of talented athletes at BACA are in elite programmes such as the Brighton and Sussex District Football teams and the Harlequins DPP Programme as well as the Sussex Cricket Pathway.

# Experiences

Overseas tours have always been an important part of the Aldridge Cricket Academy programme. To date, we have visited South Africa, the UAE and Sri Lanka. These trips have been a huge learning experience for all the students involved.

The students were challenged in many different aspects of life from the initial fundraising and physical preparation, to the new cricket environments and the varied and stimulating culture of these wonderful countries.



The Cricket World Cup Trophy, proudly held aloft by Eoin Morgan, Ben Stokes, Jofra Archer and the rest of the victorious England team in July 2019, visited BACA on its tour of England and Wales.

Students from Year 7, along with the members of the BACA Junior Cricket Pathway and the Aldridge Cricket Academy, were able to see what it feels like to lift the trophy.



# Achievements

## Top 100 Cricket School 2020

BACA was named amongst The Cricketer magazine's Top 100 Senior Schools for cricket in the country in its Schools Guide 2020.

We are one of only four state secondary schools in the country, outside of the grammar school sector, to feature in the Top 100 list. The leading cricket publication's team judged each entry against an extensive set of criteria, with the chosen schools having "outstanding facilities, fixture programmes and coaching."

Following this The Cricketer magazine asked to use the Sir Rod Aldridge Cricket Centre and the students to facilitate their popular annual Club Cricket Equipment Guide. The students used and gave feedback on dozens of bats as well as receiving coaching from Samit Patel and Simon Hughes.



## MCC Foundation Hub since 2017

In 2017 the MCC Foundation selected BACA as the venue for its Brighton Hub. Over 50 players have the opportunity to train at the Sir Rod Aldridge Cricket Centre with high quality coaching each winter. The Hubs were designed to remove financial barriers to participation and empower young cricketers to reach their full potential.

The MCC Foundation used the Brighton Hub for its promotional video which can be viewed at [www.lords.org/mcc/mcc-foundation](http://www.lords.org/mcc/mcc-foundation)

The Brighton Hub has been a huge success with over 100 applicants from around Sussex every year. Since its inception several players have gone on to make their full county age group debuts and many have moved on to represent their men's or women's club teams.



## Praise from Mike Atherton in The Times

In May 2020, the ex England Captain, Mike Atherton published an article in The Times - "The state school every county needs for a brighter future." Arguing that saying "BACA is a beacon for the sport in the state sector," Atherton praised our partnership with Sussex Cricket that is helping local children have the chance to play and excel at a sport without having to attend a fee-paying school.

Noting how difficult it has become for children who attend state schools to break into the top levels of the sport, Atherton highlighted BACA's partnership with Sussex Cricket and the Aldridge Foundation as a template for others to match.



# Believe you can

We are incredibly proud of all the onward journeys our students have made since graduating. ACA alumni have gone on to study degrees at top universities such as Loughborough and Durham as well as successful careers in the world of sport, healthcare, business and education.

These are stories about a few of our graduates:

## Will Sheffield 2016-18



Will, a left-arm seam bowler, was our first graduate to join the Sussex men's playing staff when he signed a professional contract in 2019. He was named in the Championship squad in April 2018 and continued to impress throughout that season to earn himself a playing contract.

He captained the academy in his final year at BACA College which included the inaugural MCC match at the Sir Rod Aldridge Cricket Centre.

Will's academic achievements were equally fantastic with triple Distinction earned in his BTEC Sport and Sport Science courses. He gained place at the University of Brighton which he has deferred in order to pursue his playing career.

## Tara Norris 2014-16

Tara, a left arm seam bowler, was the first ever Aldridge cricketer to gain a place in the Sussex Academy and this led to her Sussex Women's debut. She was also named the first ACA Player of the Year after a successful tour of South Africa and numerous performances for the 1<sup>st</sup> XI in her first year.

Since graduating, Tara has gone on to represent England U19's as well as playing in the KSL Superleague for the Southern Vipers and Loughborough Lightning.

Tara studied Psychology and Double BTEC Sport at Portslade Aldridge Community Academy (PACA) and gained a place to study BSc Sport Science & Management at Loughborough University.



## Liam O'Brien 2015-17

Liam, an all-rounder, has become an established member of the England Physical Disability squad with the most recent highlight being named Player of the Year in 2018. During his time with ACA he was part of the successful tour to the UAE.

The England PD programme has allowed Liam to play at some high class venues in England and around the world. He recently spent the winter in Australia playing club cricket as well.

Liam studied BTEC in Health & Social Care and Double Sport whilst at PACA and now works for YourGolfTravel company alongside his cricket commitments with England.



# Testimonials

“The educational side of things has transformed him from an average student to one who is flying. He has about 6 hours of cricket every week with the county coaches (Ash Wright, Georgia Adams and Alexia Walker etc), has James Kirtley as his bowling coach and is under the Sussex Strength & Conditioning coaches for his personalised fitness programme.”

“As a 13 year old coming from a family without an awful lot, having never been part of the private education system, and still dreaming of a career in cricket, this school has been the best thing to ever happen to him.”

***Parent of a current JCP student***

“It definitely feels that you are not only able to work as a team but able to lead in the team as well. I found it very useful in terms of doing presentations and building confidence. Leading in a cricket team can also transfer to leading in a team while presenting.”

“I have never been anywhere like that before (Sri Lanka). To go over there and experience life, but also get to play cricket five or six times was amazing. I loved it.”

***Tom McCreddie, former ACA student, now studying at Durham University***

“There is nowhere else like this and training here has made me fitter and stronger. I would not be in the position I am today without this opportunity.”

***Tara Norris, former ACA student, reflecting on the ACA programme***

“Lessons have been really enjoyable and fun. The teachers are great - they are very approachable and if there is any help needed they will be there.”

“Sri Lanka was the best experience of my life. I’ve never been that far away. Meeting the people there and seeing how different we are as a culture, comparing the way that they have been brought up to the way that we have...but we still got on well with them - and they gave us good games!”

***Dale Stevenson, former ACA student, on school and touring***

## Follow BACA cricket on social media



@Aldridge\_CA



@AldridgeCricketAcademy



@aldridgecricket13

# Next steps

For all enquiries about the admissions process and to book a personal tour with the Principal and Director of Cricket by emailing our Communications Manager and Executive Assistant to the Principal Abigail Healy [ahealy@baca-uk.co.uk](mailto:ahealy@baca-uk.co.uk) or calling 01273 691191 ext 2005

[www.baca-uk.co.uk](http://www.baca-uk.co.uk)



@BACA\_UK



@BACAUk

We offer a range of open events throughout the year with the main open evenings in the autumn. These are advertised on the academy website and on social media.

For students hoping to join the Junior Cricket Pathway in Year 7, BACA's general admissions arrangements are the same as those for all local secondary schools within Brighton & Hove.

For students hoping to transfer to BACA in Years 8, 9 or 10, please contact the school so we can guide you through the process.

To qualify for the JCP, students will take part in an assessment to ascertain their level and potential.

For the Sixth Form Aldridge Cricket Academy programme, you can apply for BACA College via the academy website. You will then be invited for an interview to begin the induction process and to make sure you have chosen the right courses for you.



# How to find us

**Travelling to and from BACA is easy. Our location is well-served by public transport with direct train and bus services from Brighton, Lewes and across the county.**

## Bus

High-frequency services operate from central Brighton. Students can reach BACA from almost any part of the city directly or with just one change of bus.

The nearest stop to BACA is called Brighton Academy and is just a five minute walk to the school. The following buses stop at this location: 5B, 23, 25, 28. Students can also walk from Halland Road (8 minutes) or Coldean Lane (11 minutes) for other local buses. Students using the early morning service 84 to Sussex University can walk from the University via Falmer Station to the Academy (15 minutes).

Almost all buses are designed to easily accommodate wheelchairs, and foldable bikes can be taken onto buses. Discount fares are available on Brighton & Hove buses for students up to the age of 18. Go to [www.buses.co.uk](http://www.buses.co.uk) for more information.

## Bicycle

BACA has CCTV monitored secure racks for over 100 bicycles, under cover and adjacent to the building.

Most of the city's main roads have dedicated cycle lanes, including Lewes Road which leads to the academy.

## Train

Falmer Station is a 10 minute walk from BACA, along a dedicated footway free from traffic. The station lies on the Brighton - Lewes - Newhaven railway line on which a train runs every 10 minutes at most times.

From Brighton, the train stops at London Road and Moulsecomb stations before arriving at Falmer. Go to [www.southernrailway.com](http://www.southernrailway.com) for more information.

## Road

There are limited parking facilities for cars and motorcycles.



# 10 reasons to study at BACA

**1**  
**Ofsted**  
**rated Good**,  
with support for  
students' wellbeing  
and safety rated  
**outstanding**

**2**  
Strong  
**GCSE results**  
and  
**outstanding**  
**outcomes**  
at Key Stage 5

**3**  
**Comprehensive**  
**careers advice**  
and destinations  
guidance by our  
many academic and  
commercial  
partners

**4**  
Unique  
**cricket**  
**provision** for  
Year 7 to Year 13 in  
partnership with  
**Sussex**

**5**  
Highly committed  
and dedicated  
**staff** providing  
excellent academic  
and pastoral  
support

**6**  
Recognised with a  
**Rainbow Flag**  
**Award** for our  
**outstanding**  
commitment to  
**inclusivity**

**7**  
Focus on developing  
**enterprise** and  
**employability**  
**skills** alongside  
**academic**  
**qualifications**

**8**  
**Excellent**  
**transport links** in  
and around Brighton  
and across Sussex  
from Falmer Station  
and via Brighton &  
Hove Buses

**9**  
Multi-million pound  
**buildings, sports**  
**facilities** and  
**technology** on a  
beautiful site near  
the universities and  
the AMEX stadium

**10**  
"BACA stands as a  
**beacon for the sport in**  
**the state sector**"

Mike Atherton writing in  
The Times, May 2020



**Brighton Aldridge Community Academy**

Lewes Road | Brighton | BN1 9PW | [www.baca-uk.co.uk](http://www.baca-uk.co.uk) | Tel: 01273 691191