



# VARSITY NINE ACADEMY

● PROSPECTUS 2024/25



**WE ARE AN ELITE  
FOOTBALL ACADEMY  
CREATED FOR THE  
PLAYERS OF TOMORROW**

# WELCOME TO VARSITY NINE ACADEMY

**AN ELITE FOOTBALL ACADEMY CREATED BY INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS FOR THE PLAYERS OF TOMORROW.**

## OUR MISSION IS SIMPLE



At Varsity Nine Academy we offer an elite environment that develops high performing players whilst producing young men and women with strength, self-belief and integrity, equipping them for their futures on and off the pitch.

## OUR PROGRAMMES



We run football-education programmes for male and female students aged 16-19 years, giving them the opportunity to study towards further education whilst playing football at an elite level. Our 2-year course gives student-athletes the opportunity to gain a Level 3 NCFE Extended Diploma in Sport (equivalent to 3 A-Levels) alongside playing competitive academy football. Our weekly schedule allows our student-athletes to study and train like professionals from Monday to Friday, with the additional option to remain in education for a third year to attain a Personal Training qualification (NCFE Level 3 Diploma in Gym Instructing & Personal Training).

THANKS TO OUR PATHWAYS FOCUSSED  
APPROACH WE ARE THE REGION'S  
FASTEST GROWING ACADEMY

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100+

Varsity Nine Student-Athletes  
in 2023

# EMPOWERING YOU TO CARVE THE PATH

Based in Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, we are the region's fastest growing academy thanks to our pathways focussed approach, empowering our student-athletes to take progressive routes upon graduation.

Whether that's a professional contract, a scholarship in the US, non-league football or a move into higher education in the UK, our academy programme provides student-athletes with the necessary skills, qualities and education to follow a pathway destined for success.

Despite our emphasis on the future we also believe that the time is now, and have designed an academy experience that is engaging, challenging and delivers the fun every single day.



# OUR VALUES



● **EMPOWERMENT**



● **AFFABILITY**



● **EXPERIENTIAL**



● **TEAMSHIP**



● **PATHWAYS**





# OUR FOOTBALL ETHICS

We view football as the gateway to exploring the world, embracing new cultures and gaining independence. We believe that our players should be fearless, expressive and show personality on the pitch. We empower our athletes to take ownership of their performance and motivate them to elevate their playing potential.

Varsity Nine Academy student-athletes compete within the highest standard of youth football outside the professional game. Our academy programme is designed so that players not only benefit from the level of competition, but also have access to the best tools for development, such as video analysis, strength and conditioning sessions, nutrition and health advice, and an onsite physio.



## MALE

- FA Youth Cup
- National League U19 Alliance
- Tactic League
- Southern Counties Floodlit League

# LEAGUES

**AT VARSITY NINE ACADEMY WE PARTICIPATE IN  
VARIOUS LEAGUES AND COMPETITIONS**

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## FEMALE

- AoC Football Women's League
- ECFA Women's Premier Cup
- Friendly Showcase Games Schedule



# OUR FACILITIES

The Varsity Nine Academy is based at the following site locations:

## **Tattenhoe Sports Pavilion**

Activity: Football and Education

Address: The Pavilion, Holborn Cres, Tattenhoe, Milton Keynes  
MK4 3EQ

## **Priory Park**

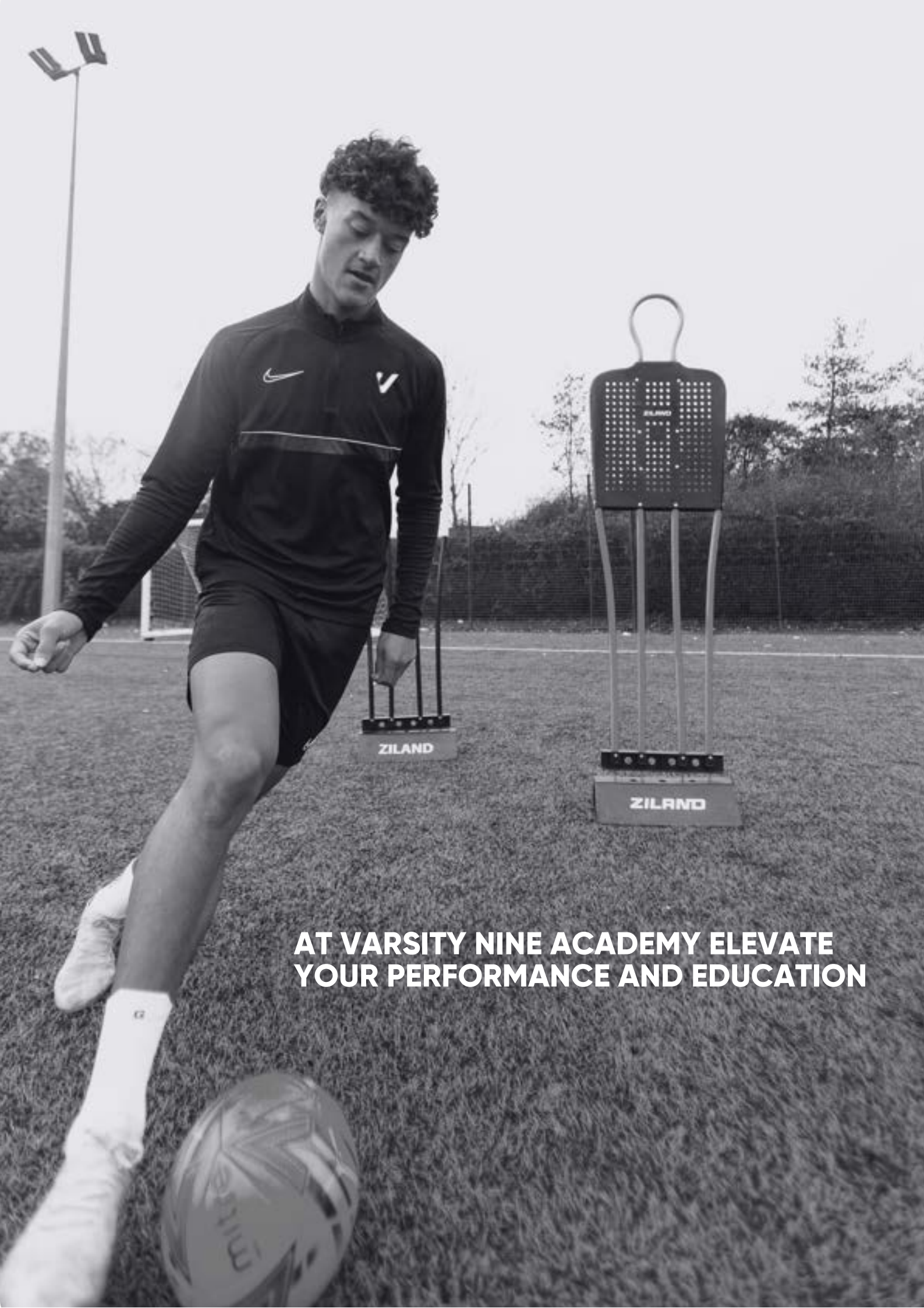
Activity: Education

Address: Priory Park Pavilion, Priestley Dr, Tattenhoe, Park, Milton  
Keynes MK4 4NW

We run a minibus shuttle service on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays - collecting our students from Bletchley and Central Milton Keynes station in the morning, transporting them to the Academy at Tattenhoe, and then dropping them back to the stations at the end of the day.

Our students also have access to Bletchley Leisure Centre for regular supervised gym and recovery sessions.





**AT VARSITY NINE ACADEMY ELEVATE  
YOUR PERFORMANCE AND EDUCATION**

# EDUCATION

## COURSES

At Varsity Nine Academy, we want our student-athletes to succeed on the pitch and in the classroom. Therefore from their very first day at the academy, we emphasise that education is of paramount importance to football.

Depending on an incoming student's academic level they have various course options for the year. Students will study towards, and gain a qualification equivalent to either 2 or 3 A-Levels:

NCFE Level 3 in Sport and Physical Activity

Pathway Option: Sport & Exercise Science or Sports Coaching

### OPTION 1

**YEAR 1 - NCFE LEVEL 3  
CERTIFICATE - 6 UNITS  
YEAR 2 - NCFE LEVEL 3  
DIPLOMA (720) - 6 UNITS**

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### OPTION 2

**YEAR 1 - NCFE LEVEL 3  
DIPLOMA (540) - 9 UNITS  
YEAR 2 - NCFE LEVEL 3  
EXTENDED DIPLOMA - 9  
UNITS**

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## **OPTIONAL YEAR 3 COURSE: NCFE LEVEL 3 DIPLOMA IN GYM INSTRUCTING AND PERSONAL TRAINING**

This qualification provides learners with the knowledge, understanding and practical skills needed to work as a Gym Instructor and Personal Trainer in a variety of settings. Learners who achieve this qualification could progress into employment or self-employment as a Gym Instructor or Personal Trainer. It is internally assessed with an external quality-assured portfolio of evidence.

After each completed year, a certificate is mailed to the student's home address.

We ensure the student-to-teacher ratio is around 20:1, so we know each student is receiving the best support possible.

The course is 100% coursework, with no exams. Education assessment is a combination of both theory and practical work e.g. coaching and practical instruction. There will be continuous ongoing assessment/assignment completion throughout the course to develop a portfolio of evidence.

Different types of assessment include:

- Practical
- Roleplay
- Group work
- Written report
- Video and verbal presentations

Students are given time and support to complete assignments, with tutors providing extensive feedback from improvements prior to final submission. Microsoft 365 is provided to all students, so students will only need to bring a laptop, notebook & pen, and a positive attitude to their education sessions.

### **Requirements**

We look for students with at least 5 GCSEs at a level 4 or above. We are fortunate enough to offer a Diploma course as well as the Extended Diploma qualifications, therefore, we can be selective with who we enrol as long as we feel we are not setting a student up for failure and adequate support can be provided for the individual in question.



## Math & English

For students who do not achieve a grade 4 in Math & English Language, they are entitled to free GCSE resits each year they are enrolled on our programme. Students who achieved a grade 3 will resit in November, whereas students who achieved a 2 or below will resit the following May/June. Functional skills and entry level exams are also available.

Weekly Math & English sessions are timetabled for applicable students.

## NCFE LEVEL 3 COURSE MODULES

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Fitness Testing</b></li><li>• <b>Fitness Training and Programming</b></li><li>• <b>Instructing Physical Activity</b></li><li>• <b>Principles of Anatomy and Physiology</b></li><li>• <b>Exercise, Health, and Lifestyle</b></li><li>• <b>Team Sport</b></li><li>• <b>Technical and Tactical Skills in Sport</b></li><li>• <b>Assessing Risk in Sport</b></li><li>• <b>Sports Coaching</b></li><li>• <b>Leadership in Sport</b></li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Psychology for sports performance</b></li><li>• <b>Sports Nutrition</b></li><li>• <b>Sports Injuries</b></li><li>• <b>Analysing of Sports performance</b></li><li>• <b>Current Issues</b></li><li>• <b>Sports development</b></li><li>• <b>Ethics and Values</b></li><li>• <b>Encouraging active lifestyles</b></li><li>• <b>Careers in sport</b></li></ul> |
|---|--|

## GYM INSTRUCTING COURSE MODULES

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Anatomy and Physiology for Exercise</b></li><li>• <b>Maximising the Customer Experience in a Gym Environment</b></li><li>• <b>Supporting Client Health and Well-Being</b></li><li>• <b>Conducting Client Consultations and Gym Inductions</b></li><li>• <b>Planning and Reviewing Gym-Based Exercise Programmes</b></li><li>• <b>Instructing and Supervising Gym-Based Exercise Programmes</b></li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Applied Anatomy and Physiology for Activity, Health and Fitness</b></li><li>• <b>Client Motivation and Lifestyle Management</b></li><li>• <b>Programming Personal Training Sessions</b></li><li>• <b>Delivering Personal Training Sessions</b></li><li>• <b>Nutrition to Support a Physical Activity Programme</b></li><li>• <b>Business Acumen for Personal Trainers</b></li></ul> |
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**X**



Newbury College  
Est. 1948

**EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP**

# OUR EDUCATION PARTNER



**OUR EDUCATION PARTNER IS NEWBURY COLLEGE, WHO PROVIDE EDUCATION PROGRAMMES AND TEACHING VALUES THAT FOCUS ON DELIVERING 'CAREERS NOT COURSES'.**

The partnership between Varsity Nine Academy and Newbury College has been formed to work together to design, develop and deliver a curriculum programme that supports the region's young talent to succeed. Through a sports curriculum the partnership helps young people develop skills that allow them to move into a meaningful career.

Newbury College are proud to partner with private football academies to provide aspiring young athletes with the opportunity to pursue their dreams of playing at the highest level whilst gaining an education. Academy students benefit from the expertise and experience of the academy coaches, who help them to develop their skills and reach their full potential.

## CAREERS, NOT COURSES

“Our career-based curriculum is led by employers and designed to give you the best opportunities to gain the qualifications and skills you need for the career you want. We are preparing students for the workplace of tomorrow and supporting students in the workplace of today, creating a fully-immersive learning environment that blends hands-on, technical learning with underpinning knowledge and professional work-related activity.

We work closely with top employers to develop a career-based curriculum that gives you the skills and qualifications you need to succeed in your chosen field. Through creating a fully immersive learning environment, we combine hands-on technical training with real-world work experience, giving you the tools to excel in the workplace of tomorrow.”

**Newbury College**



“The Newbury College and Varsity Nine Academy partnership gives so many young people the opportunity to grow in their chosen area of expertise linked to the sports industry. I believe in the collaboration of both the College and the Football Academy, which has helped us both develop the college intent of 'Careers not Courses'.

The expertise of the staff and management within Varsity Nine Academy and their desire to help all progress leads to opportunities for our young talent to grow and flourish. I have been so impressed with the commitment of all the staff at Varsity Nine. The drive and motivation for all the students to succeed is excellent and I am proud and pleased to be in this partnership with them. A great organisation and a great team.”

**Lee Hunt**  
**Newbury College Assistant Principal**



**PROGRESSION  
FOCCUSED**

**SKILLS  
BASED**

**EMPLOYER  
LED**

**DIGITALLY  
INTEGRATED**



# STUDENT CENTRED APPROACH



- **STUDENT DEVELOPMENT  
DAYS/WORKSHOPS**



- **TUTORIALS**

- **CAREER DEVELOPMENT**



- **TEAM ACTIVITIES AND BONDING  
DAYS**

- **PASTORAL COACH**



- **EXTERNAL SPEAKERS FROM  
RANGE OF DIFFERENT INDUSTRIES**

- **TERMLY 1-TO-1 SESSIONS  
FOCUSING ON THE STUDENT'S  
AIMS AND AMBITIONS**



# PROGRAMME SCHEDULE



Per week our programme schedule includes

- Education: 8 hours
- Independent study hours: 4-6 hours
- Enrichment (training, matches, analysis, gym, recovery): 10-12 hours

<b>Monday</b>	9.30am - 12pm   Training 2pm - 4pm   Education <b>Physio clinic available</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	10am - 1pm   Education 2pm - 4pm   Training <b>Physio clinic available</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>GAME DAY</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	9am - 12pm   strength and Conditioning/Analysis 1pm - 4pm   Education <b>Physio clinic available</b>
<b>Friday</b>	9.30am - 12pm   Training

All our student-athletes are given the autonomy to schedule their own hours of independent study. However, we do organise regular study sessions where education assistance will be available for students who have questions or queries regarding their work, or may need extra support.



**OUR ACADEMY HAS BEEN  
DESIGNED TO ENABLE  
YOU TO FOLLOW A  
PATHWAY DESTINED FOR  
SUCCESS**



# OUR PATHWAYS

We are the region's fastest growing academy thanks to our pathways focussed approach, empowering our student-athletes to take progressive routes upon graduation.

Whether that's a professional contract, a scholarship in the US, a role in non-league football or a move into higher education, our academy programme provides student-athletes with the necessary skills, qualities and education to follow a pathway destined for success.

Our pathway services have been created to help our academy students make their best career move following on from graduation - ensuring that our alumni are placed on an unstoppable trajectory.



# SUCCESS STORIES OUR ALUMNI



## **JOSH ALLAN - GOALKEEPER**

Class of: 2023 - Academy Team Captain  
Qualification: NCFE Level 3 Extended  
Diploma in Sport and Physical Activity  
(Sports Coaching)  
Pathway: AFC Dunstable (1st Team) &  
Personal Training Qualification



## **DANIEL IDIAKHOA - CENTRE MIDFIELD**

Class of: 2022  
Qualification: NCFE Level 3 Extended  
Diploma in Sport and Physical Activity  
(Sports Coaching)  
Pathway: Pro Football - Luton Town FC

# **VARSITY NINE**

## **ACADEMY**

# SUCCESS STORIES

## OUR ALUMNI



### **MOLLIE KNOX - FORWARD**

Class of: 2024

Qualification: NCFE Level 3 Diploma in Sport and Physical Activity (Sports Coaching)

Pathway: AFC Dunstable (Women's 1st Team)



### **CAM COOK - CENTRE MIDFIELD**

Class of: 2024

Qualification: NCFE Level 3 Extended Diploma in Sport and Physical Activity (Sports Science)

Pathway: USA Scholarship - San Jose State University - NCAA D1

# **VARSITY NINE**

## **ACADEMY**

# OUR PATHWAY SERVICES

## **VARSLITY NINE** ELITE

**Varsity Nine Elite** - A bespoke service designed for elite performing athletes looking for their next career move. From scholarship placements to semi-pro and pro contract opportunities across the globe, our Elite services are individually tailored to each player's sporting experience, performance and ambitions.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

## **VARSLITY NINE** PRO

**Varsity Nine Pro** - Full service player management and advisory services for Professional footballers. We support pro players through a host of bespoke sports management services. Our dynamic approach and diverse team makes us equipped to handle all areas of athlete management; representation, contract negotiation, commercial deals, lifestyle management and personal branding.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



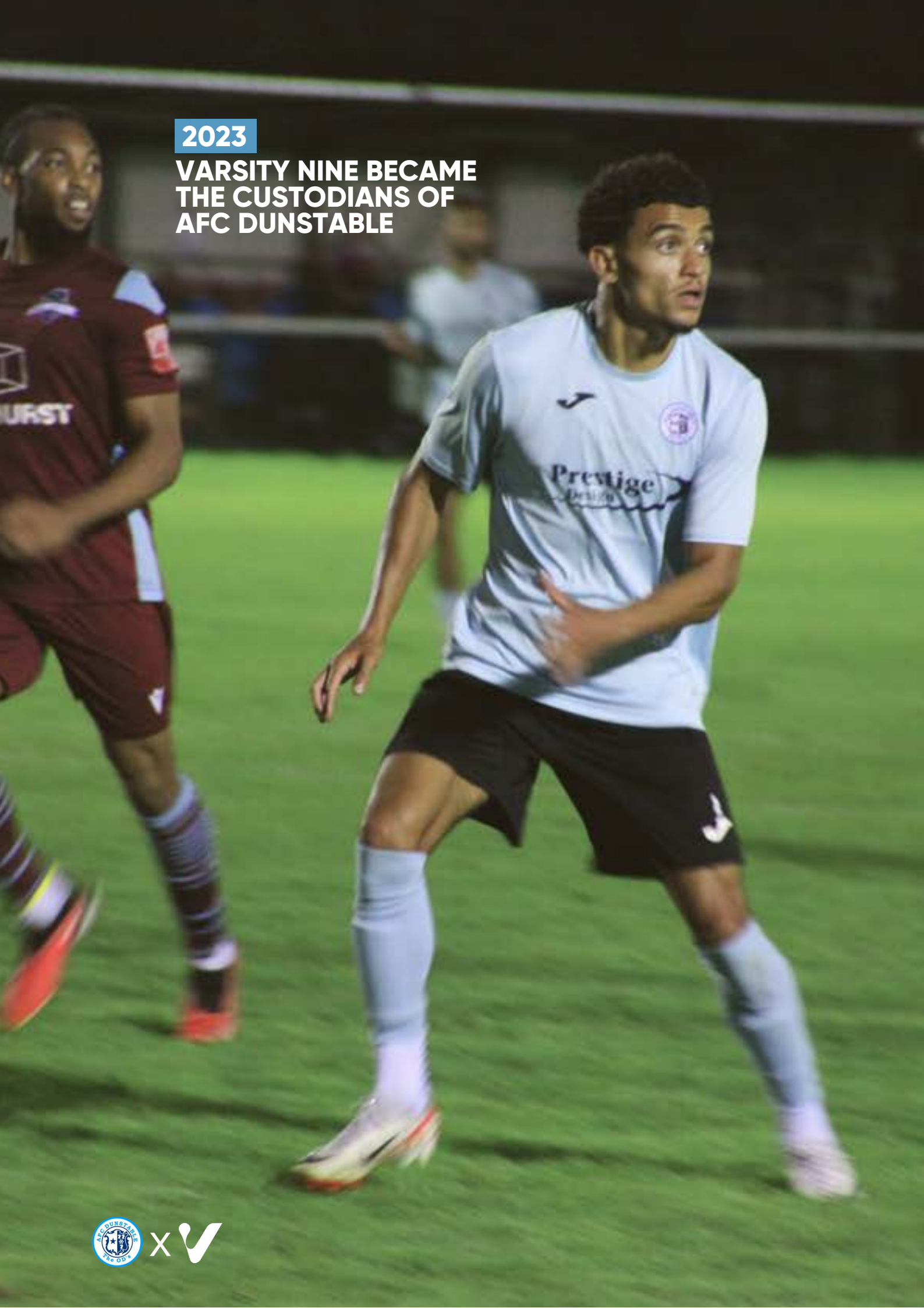
**AFC Dunstable** - Step 4 Club competing in the southern league.

Our custodianship of AFC Dunstable provides our academy student-athletes with elevated football pathways by offering them the opportunity to compete within the various leagues and competitions.



**2023**

**VARSITY NINE BECAME  
THE CUSTODIANS OF  
AFC DUNSTABLE**



# AFC DUNSTABLE

In 2023 Varsity Nine became the newly appointed custodians of AFC Dunstable, a Step 4 Club competing in the Southern League. This exciting partnership provides our academy student-athletes with elevated football pathways by offering the opportunity to compete within the following leagues and competitions;

- First team - Southern Football League (Step 4)
- U23 - Suburban League
- Eastern Region Women's Football League (Tier 5)
- Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire Women's League
- FA Cup
- FA Trophy
- FA Youth Cup
- Bedfordshire FA Senior County Cup



# INVESTMENT



## ACADEMY COSTS

**OUR ACADEMY IS A GOVERNMENT FUNDED PROGRAMME, THEREFORE WE DO NOT CHARGE EDUCATION FEES. HOWEVER, THERE ARE A FEW COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH BEING AN A VARSITY NINE ACADEMY MEMBER;**

### Academy Uniform

It is a mandatory requirement for all students to purchase, and wear, Varsity Nine uniform whilst on site and when representing the academy. You can view this year's collection [here](#).

### Tours and Experience Days

Parents and students are given several months notice ahead of these events and we also offer payment plan options.

### Laptops

Students are asked to have a laptop as the majority of assignments are required to be submitted online. The academy uses Microsoft 365, which is provided to all students free of charge. We also help students who do not have access to a personal laptop via a loan scheme, which is free.

### Registration Fee

We charge a registration fee of £350 ahead of the start of each academic year. The fee secures a student's place on the course, and also contributes to the enrichment content of the Varsity Nine programme; physio clinics, gym sessions, transportation to and from away games, strength and conditioning, video analysis and exclusive academy pre-season training sessions and fixtures leading up to induction week in September. The fee is only refundable if we are unable to enrol you on the programme.

### Bursaries

The 16-19 Bursary Fund provides financial support to help learners overcome specific barriers to participation, and to ensure that they can remain in education. All students are able to apply for a bursary if their household income is below the designated threshold. If your application is successful, you will receive a termly allowance which can be used for food, travel, uniform and equipment to support your education. At Varsity Nine Academy we remind our students to apply for their bursary in August, prior to induction week. Once term commences, we prompt any students who haven't already applied to make their application as soon as possible. More information about the Bursary Fund can be found [here](#).





# HOW TO APPLY

For students interested in joining Varsity Nine Academy, we hold regular trial days to showcase more information about our programme and gain an understanding of your current playing level. We run these events every half term at our Milton Keynes facility. This allows prospective student-athletes to meet our staff and coaching team, learn more about the programme and experience an academy training session.

If you are interested in attending an upcoming trial day, please contact us via [academy@varsitynine.com](mailto:academy@varsitynine.com) to find out more information and to register your place.

# OUR PROCESS



1

## Apply Online

Complete an online application to register your interest. Application link [here](#).

2

## Introductory Call

Join an introductory call with our Academy Representative, where you can find out more about our programme and ask any questions you may have.

3

## Trial

Attend a trial at one of our facilities, where you will experience what it's like to be part of the Varsity Nine Academy.

4

## Onboarding Call

If you are successful, you will be invited to a player and parent meeting with Academy staff, who will provide feedback on your attendance at our trial, talk you through the next steps and explain how you can best prepare for academy life.

5

## Confirm your Place

Let us know if you will be committing to our programme in September.

6

## Pay registration fee

Make your payment to secure your place and we will send across pre-season dates.

7

## Enrolment

Join us at one of our facilities for enrolment and an opportunity to ask any questions you might have in the run up to the start of term.

8

## Welcome

In September you will be a Varsity Nine Academy student-athlete!







**"A GREAT ENVIRONMENT TO BE IN - VERY COMPETITIVE BUT EVERYONE IS ALSO VERY FRIENDLY. AMAZING COACHING AND EXCELLENT PLAYER-COACH RELATIONSHIPS. MIRRORS A PROFESSIONAL ENVIRONMENT!"**

**JACK PATEMAN  
ACADEMY STUDENT**

# TESTIMONIALS



From the very first time I spoke to Varsity Nine, they have been friendly, informative and incredibly welcoming to both me and my daughter. We were so excited after attending the open day, we couldn't wait to enrol onto the programme. Since signing up, they have stayed in touch and have already involved my daughter in football games and events.

**Gail Knox**

**Academy Parent**



Varsity Nine is one of, if not the most, enjoyable, demanding academies out there. Every session is another skill learnt, whether that's on, or off, the pitch.

**Edmond Gjomaj**

**Academy Student**



I have been so impressed with the commitment of all the staff at Varsity Nine. The drive and motivation for all the students to succeed is excellent and I am proud and pleased to be in this partnership with them. A great organisation and a great team.

**Lee Hunt**

**Vice Principal - Newbury College**



My son was unsure what to do after his GCSEs. After spending the day at the academy, he was hooked. Absolutely loves it there. The coaches are helpful and supportive and he has discovered something he really enjoys doing.

**Vikki Rogerson**

**Academy Parent**

**"THE MOST WELCOMING TEAM  
I HAVE EVER JOINED. THE  
COACHING IS PROFESSIONAL  
AND OF THE MOST ELITE LEVEL,  
IT IS ALSO VERY DIRECT AND  
INFORMATIVE."**

**OLIVIA JAMES  
ACADEMY STUDENT**



# TESTIMONIALS



The team at Varsity Nine are great. Excellent sessions delivered by experienced coaches at great venues. Communication at all levels is spot on - from events through to future opportunities. So far the programme has exposed my daughter to qualified and technical coaches and opportunities within football. I look forward to my daughter working with them again in the future.

**James Fields-Davis**  
**Academy Parent**



Varsity Nine Academy came into our school to speak to Year 11 regarding their courses; I've never seen the students so engaged during assembly! The speaker was enthusiastic, the slides clearly showed what they offered and many of our students found out about a pathway they did not know existed before, and have since made applications and have been accepted onto courses for next year!

**Ann Warner**  
**Sponne School - Towcester, Northamptonshire.**



Varsity Nine have supported a number of our events, hosting an information stand. I have always found the staff, especially Josh, to be reliable, engaging and professional. Students have enjoyed talking to the team with some attending trials to explore studying at Level 3.

**Donna Montague**  
**Walton High School - Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire.**







**CONNECT  
WITH US**



## **SOCIAL MEDIA**

Instagram: [@varsitynineacademy](https://www.instagram.com/varsitynineacademy)

X: [@vn\\_academy](https://twitter.com/vn_academy)

TIKTOK: [@varsitynineacademy](https://www.tiktok.com/@varsitynineacademy)

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### **JUNIOR ACADEMY DIRECTOR**

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07858991181

### **JOSH RELATIONSHIP COORDINATOR**

Josh@varsitynine.com

07759054796

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**[VARSITYNINE.COM/  
ACADEMY](https://varsitynine.com/academy)**



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