

TENNIS ACADEMY



**A guide for parents
and pupils 2025-26**

THE
WEST HANTS CLUB



Talbot Heath
Independent School for Girls aged 2-18



Introduction

The Talbot Heath Tennis Academy was set up with The West Hants Club to provide a programme where students from year 7 and above can combine elite level tennis training alongside a high quality education.

For many years Talbot Heath and The West Hants Club had worked closely supporting students with their tennis and providing coaching and the partnership was formalised in 2007 with the formation of the Talbot Heath Tennis Academy. Since then, the Academy has gone from strength to strength.

We believe we have put together an elite tennis programme supporting students both on the RPDC pathway and the Tennis Academy pathway alongside a high quality education.



Academy Successes:

- Both U18 Teams reached Aberdare National Finals in 2025
- No. 2 ranked Tennis school in the UK 2024
- Eight Academy girls have played at Junior Wimbledon in recent years
- Aberdare Cup National Champions in 2014 and 2017
- Alumni include **Jodie Burrage**, Esther Adeshina, Erin Richardson, Lauryn John Baptiste and Daniella Britton
- Year 8 National Schools Champions in 2016, 2021, 2023 and 2024
- Year 10 National Schools Champions in 2005, 2010, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2016 and 2017





BENEFITS OF THE TH TENNIS ACADEMY

Personalised Academic timetable*	Opportunities to enter school competitions U13 and U15 Team Tennis and U18 Aberdare Cup	Mentoring and Tournament support
Regular fitness testing and screening	Strength and Conditioning sessions	BWT Physio discount
Programme Management	Subsidised social events	Homework study sessions (if applicable)
Transport between Talbot Heath and West Hants (during school hours)	Regular talks/workshops along with TH sport scholars	Stringing discount in the West Hants Shop
Membership of West Hants Club	2 complimentary Parent Social Memberships to West Hants Club	Occasional off court sessions

* which will include up to 12 hours a week of Tennis Programme (individual and group sessions) and Strength and Conditioning sessions whilst maintaining a strong academic focus.





Application Details

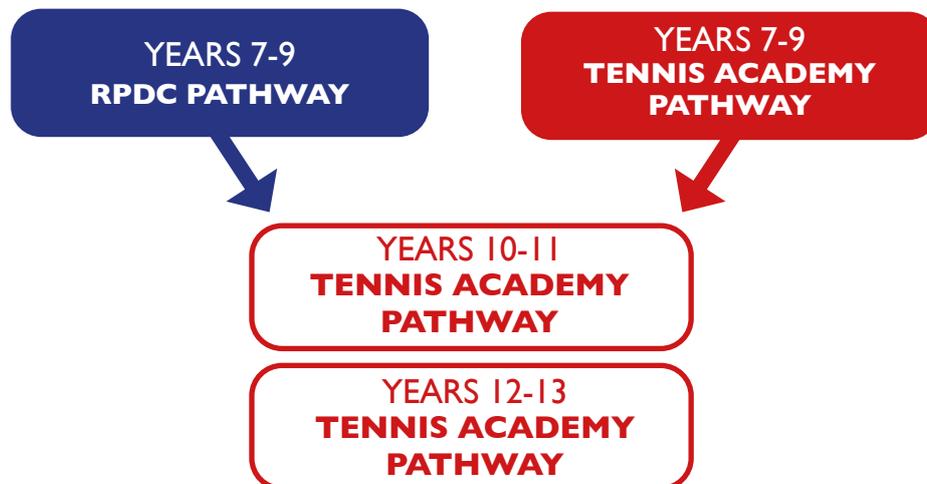
Families are invited to attend the school Open Evening held early in the Autumn term to meet key personnel. Applications are due on October 31st for the following academic year. Along with applying to Talbot Heath School, parents should indicate on the application form their interest in the Tennis Academy. This may be done alongside an application for an Academic, Sport or Arts scholarship. Students will be invited for an assessment day in January and following this offers will be sent out on 1st March.

Application Criteria

Applicants must meet the entry rating and ranking criteria which is reviewed each year. For a player to be considered for selection into the academy programme at year 7, they should be aiming to meet the following criteria by the application deadline:

- At the time of application: 10 Under/11 Under national ranking inside top 100 for their age group.
- Played in a grade 1 or 2 singles event within the last 6 months.
- Played a minimum of 80 tournament matches within the last 12 months
- West Hants (or other club) coach nomination based on their professional opinion, from observations and the Academy assessment day, on which they believe players have the potential to reach national standards when considering the West Hants cultural pillars of **Commit, Develop, Compete and Repeat.**

TENNIS ACADEMY PATHWAY





During their time in the Academy, students should remain in the top 100 in the country in their first year of an age group and top 50 in the final year of the age group. Extenuating circumstances will be considered such as injury or illness.

Entry into years other than year 7 (Upper 3) is by application and players must meet the age group criteria set.

Places on the Tennis Academy are reviewed each year to ensure the standards are being met. During the spring term of year 9, a formal review will take place and a decision whether or not to offer a continued Tennis Academy place for years 10 (Lower 5) and 11 (Upper 5) will be made. Similarly in year 11 (Upper 5) when students are applying to stay at Talbot Heath for the sixth form an application for the Tennis Academy will be considered along the same conditions.

THE TENNIS TEAM



James White
DIRECTOR OF TENNIS
WEST HANTS



James Pankhurst
ACADEMY HEAD COACH
WEST HANTS



Josh Cull
LEAD STRENGTH AND
CONDITIONING COACH
WEST HANTS



Rich Irwin
RPDC HEAD COACH
WEST HANTS



Sarah Camp
TENNIS ACADEMY LEAD
TALBOT HEATH



Ian Cradick
ASSISTANT HEAD - ACADEMIC
TALBOT HEATH



Sarah Jayne Wright
SAFEGUARDING LEAD
WEST HANTS



Anna Talbot
SAFEGUARDING LEAD
TALBOT HEATH



Tennis Schedules

During the summer term, consultation between parents, Mr Cradick (Talbot Heath Assistant Head with responsibility for the timetable) and West Hants will result in an individual programme for each Academy member. This will be based on a core Academic timetable. Depending on the year of study some non core subjects will be removed to allow for Individual Tennis sessions, group squads and Strength and Conditioning sessions. A core Tennis programme will be put together based on 12 hours of daytime sessions (largely between 8am-4pm). Parents will receive this schedule in August prior to the start of term.

Tennis schedules are term time only and follows the Talbot Heath timetabling of week 1 and 2. At times there may be need for changes to be made during the year in terms of timing or location (moving tennis sessions to Bournemouth Gardens in the winter for example or subject changes). It is vital that if any changes take place, Mrs Camp is informed so that the school knows where a student is at any time for safeguarding reasons. When a school trip or outside speaker for a school subject takes place, occasionally this may clash with a tennis session. Where possible we would like you to prioritise the school commitment for example if there is a geography trip and the work for the term is based on the field trip.

Along with the Academic and Tennis schedule, the timetable will also show the timing of buses to transport the girls to and from West Hants. Transport to and from West Hants is provided for all journeys within school time so for example if a session runs 7.30am-8.30am parents would be expected to transport their child to West Hants for 7.30 and a school minibus will drive them at 8.45am into school. All buses leave from outside the front entrance to Senior School and from the front entrance of West

Hants. Bus times must be adhered to. Students must sign in and out both at school reception and at West Hants so that we know where girls are at all times. It is important that parents inform both the tennis coach and Mrs Camp if students are to miss a session due to illness/tournament etc so that the office/bus drivers etc can be informed.

When drawing up timetables we endeavour to avoid spare time so that students are either in lessons at school or in tennis sessions but inevitably at times a tennis session may finish 20 minutes before a bus leaves or arrives back at school before a lesson starts. Spare time spent at school must be spent in the library and spare time at West Hants must be spent in the restaurant area.

Holiday time

Tennis Academy students are expected to maintain their tennis and fitness during school holidays whilst also balancing the need for a break from the tennis court and some much needed family time! The expectation is that girls put into practice the hard work they put in on the tennis and strength and conditioning sessions and compete to gain match experience. This will vary from player to player, on academic year, age and ability but as a guide, we expect girls to play at least 80 singles matches per year. These will largely be at weekends and in holiday time but we acknowledge when girls reach a certain level, tournaments are often during the school week.





School absences for tournaments

If a tournament or travel to a tournament is during the school week we ask parents to email Mrs Camp to request permission for this absence, this includes County Cup representation as the school is not informed by County or West Hants.

Each request will be taken individually and will be dependent on the current attendance record (and if this is due to an illness or tennis related absence), level of the tournament and past attitude to catching up with work. *It should not be assumed that you will have your*

request authorised. We are aware sometimes girls are put on reserve lists so may not be notified until the last minute if they have been successful in qualifying, however, please give as much notice as possible. Mrs Camp will seek authorisation from Mrs Harris and if successful will reply saying this is an authorised absence for her Tennis development.

TOURNAMENT REMINDERS

- Email Mrs Camp to request permission to be absent.
- Make every effort to return back to school as soon as you are out of a tournament.
- Keep Mrs Camp informed regularly of your progress during the tournament so that the school knows how many days you will be absent.
- Send Mrs Camp photo's, particularly if you have won (make sure the photo is just of you and we have your permission to share this).
- Check on Google classroom and Homework4.
- Email teachers to request any work that you will be missing. Aim to do catch up work whilst you are away if possible so when you come back to school you are up to date.
- The responsibility to catch up is yours and not the teachers.
- Take iPad/book away to tournament.
- Use down time in between matches.
- Use study time when in school.
- Leave space in books so you keep in order.
- Ask more than one person to collect worksheets.





Talbot Heath Tennis Academy Kit

Tennis Academy students are expected to wear Tennis Academy kit at all times when in school/at West Hants (during school hours) unless they have no tennis on that day and then they should wear school uniform. If girls have PE lessons on their timetable they can wear their Tennis Academy kit. There is no expectation to buy the school PE kit as well as the Tennis academy kit. Tennis Academy kit must be worn for all school Tennis matches. Students will be expected to wear full school uniform on days such as School Birthday, Speech day etc.

Kit orders will be sent out to parents after Easter and this is the only order for the year so please ensure you order sufficient to last for the whole academic year.

Please ensure you order sufficient kit - you should only wear Talbot Heath Tennis Academy kit in school. The kit is sourced from Kukri and currently is made up of the following items:



hoodie



retro jacket



capped t-shirt



polo shirt



skort



padded jacket



leggings



tracksuit bottoms style 1



tracksuit bottoms style 2



Lunches

If students are at school for their lunch they will eat a normal hot school lunch but as Tennis sessions are often scheduled over a lunchtime this may not be possible on some days. Tennis Academy students will be provided with a school packed lunch which they need to collect from the dining room or if they are leaving just before lunch they are able to take a Tupperware and fill it up from the hot lunch buffet.

School trips /matches etc will sometimes clash with tennis commitments and for individual sessions coaches where possible will work around this and try to find an alternative time slot. Group sessions are more difficult but where possible coaches may be able to provide opportunities to catch up in alternatives squads. There are no refunds for missed training.

School competitions

As a school we enter teams in the U13, U15 and U18 Aberdare Cup. **There is an expectation that Tennis Academy students will make themselves available for these matches when required.**

Tennis Calendar

A typical tennis year is set out below. In addition, mentoring sessions will run throughout year with Mrs Camp.

TYPICAL TENNIS YEAR

		U13/U15 Competition	U18 Aberdare Cup
August	Receive Tennis/Academic timetable		
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents meeting One to one meeting with Mrs Camp to run through schedule, bus, lunches etc. 	Divisional play offs	
October		Further regional rounds	
November		Regional finals (Bath)	
December	Fitness testing	National finals (Bolton)	
January	Assessment of new starters		
February	One to one meeting with Mrs Camp to review progress		
March	Annual review of places Fitness Testing		First round
April			Second round
May	kit orders made	County rounds	3rd/4th round
June		County rounds	National Finals (Nottingham)
July	-	-	-

If you have any questions regarding the Talbot Heath Tennis Academy please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Camp (scamp@talbotheath.org) or James White (james.white@westhants.co.uk)



6th Place Aberdare Cup 2024



National Champions 2024 Year 7/8



Talbot Heath
Independent School for Girls aged 2-18

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