

Pocklington School Specialist Sports Staff



David Byas – Director of Sport – I/C Cricket 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.

Aled Jones – Head of Rugby and Sporting Development – I/C Rugby and Athletics

Aled is part of the Harrogate 1XV coaching team, Community Officer at the club and Head of Transition. He has a Postgraduate Certificate in Sports coaching from Leeds Beckett University. After coaching at the school for a number of years, he was appointed Head of Rugby in 2025.



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.



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 brings a wealth of knowledge and experience across all ages and abilities within the Foundation.

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.

Alex Bell – Head of Hockey

Alex Bell started playing hockey at age 15 on the Isle of Man and continued to coach through his early 20s for both club and then his university, Sheffield Hallam. During this time he attained 2 degrees, one in Sports Science and one in Physiotherapy. He also coached at National League level, BUCS Premier and headed the South Yorkshire County Hockey program for 8 years. He is the assistant coach of the England O35 Men's team and was part of the team winning back-to-back World Cups in 2022 & 2024. He is still an active player with City of York Hockey club, whilst leading the Hockey department at Pocklington School.



Tris Hymers – Rugby, Hockey & Cricket Coach

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



Sally Dearing – I/C Equestrian

Having grown up within the equestrian world, Sally is now a professional rider and showjumper competing at a National level alongside producing young horses for competition careers. She has competed up to National 1.30 level and competed up and down the country, winning at National championships as well as producing horses which have gone on to compete internationally.

She holds regular training and clinics and work alongside pupils to help them gain the knowledge and experience to perform at their best while building a confident relationship with their horse or pony. She is able to use her vast competition experience to support pupils during training and whilst out representing the school.

Luke Haddon – Sports Graduate

Luke started his career as a multi sports coach in primary schools around South Yorkshire where he developed a passion for coaching all sports, including, rugby, cricket, hockey and tennis. Luke attended Sheffield Hallam University where he studied Sports Coaching, and Further Education Skills (PGCE). He is also the under 16s coach and player for Dinnington RUFC, where he took the team as under 14s to the Yorkshire Cup Final. He also held the role of junior transition coach in 2022.

He has previously held a role as a community rugby coach for Leicester Tigers; running rugby sessions in schools, clubs and even running rugby camps and club-led festivals such as the Defender Cup and Tigers Challenge. Luke has also completed his Level 2 rugby coaching certificate and begun his Level 3.



Georgia Hird – Head of PE – I/C Netball

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.

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.

