

RIFA

RISHWORTH INTERNATIONAL
FOOTBALL ACADEMY



Combining
FOOTBALL & **ACADEMIC**
Excellence





“

RIFA is more than just a place to play football; it's a place where dreams are nurtured and futures are built

”

Welcome to **RIFA**



Welcome to **Rishworth International Football Academy**

RIFA is dedicated to nurturing young talents and providing a comprehensive training program to help both boys and girls reach their full potential.

Students live and are educated at Rishworth School - one of the UK's leading boarding schools, with training happening both on and offsite including sessions at the world class Manchester City Academy facilities.

At our academy we focus on all aspects of football, including technical skills, tactical understanding, physical conditioning, and mental preparation. Our experienced coaching staff are committed to providing top-quality training sessions tailored to your needs.

We look forward to working with you and helping you become the best football player you can be. Let's embark on this exciting journey together!

Rishworth International Football Academy

Why Us?



Each student is supported and challenged to achieve **peak performance**, and reach their highest potential, both on and off the pitch



Highly qualified UEFA licensed football coaches with established contacts in the professional game, creating exposure and international progression opportunities



Extraordinary student life with extensive options of extra-curricular activities, trips and experiences



World class training provision through use of facilities at Manchester City Academy



Academic excellence with expertise in English for Academic Purposes and outstanding exam results



A Proven Track Record Student Story

Abdulla Alkhater

“My time at Rishworth School was truly amazing. I learned so much about British football and culture, and it enabled me to have a life changing experience that I would have been unable to get back in my home country.

The football coaching programme was a vital part of my development as a professional footballer, while the teachers were a great support in me achieving my academic qualifications – they really treated me like I was part of the family.”

- **Abdulla Alkhater**
Manchester City
Academy Player,
Emirates Club Player



A Proven Track Record Student Signings

Emyr Huws

Professional Footballer playing at Colchester United FC, formerly Manchester City FC, Ipswich Town FC & Wales



Isaac Baldwin

Huddersfield Town AFC U18 and U21 & English ISFA Football



James Pollard

Professional Footballer played for Bradford City FC



Huddersfield Town FC Signings

James Pollard
Sean Collins

Scott Moloney
Kian Stewart



Independent Schools Football Association

Joseph Henderson
Harry Jackson





“

Every training session feels like a new opportunity to push myself to the limits and improve my skills

”

Who Are We?

Dr Anthony Wilkins Head of Rishworth School

With over 36 years total as an education leader and 14 at Rishworth School, our Oxford University educated Head has two masters degrees and a PhD.

Anthony supports: Portsmouth FC



David Johnston Programme Manager RIFA

David has extensive experience as an educationalist having held the roles of Headteacher, School Inspector, Director of Education, Government Education Consultant and most recently Education Consultant at Manchester City FC Academy for 10 years.

David supports: Manchester City FC & Sheffield United

Paz Shan Director of Football

Over 30 years of experience as a player and football coach, previously the Manager of the Manchester City FC Women's U17s team. Alongside running RIFA, Paz works within the Recruitment Department at Manchester City FC in providing pathways and opportunities for talented young players into the Manchester City Football Club Academy Programme.

Paz supports: Manchester City FC



“ Our team is what makes us so elite. ”

About Rishworth School

Rishworth School

Rishworth School is a thriving, independent co-educational school with a happy mix of day-pupils and boarders, set in over 140 acres of beautiful Yorkshire countryside.

Rishworth School combines a three hundred year history with up-to-the-minute innovation to create an atmosphere in which traditional values are cherished and invention and exploration are encouraged.



Rishworth is an exceptionally friendly and caring international community, with **16 nationalities** represented by the student body and a ratio of 80% day students to 20% boarders.

Academic Results

At Rishworth, we are really proud of our most recent academic results and notable achievements:

100% A-Level pass rate (Summer 2022)

78% A-Level grades A*-B (Summer 2022)

Where Are We?

Location

Rishworth School is ideally situated in West Yorkshire, in the glorious Ryburn Valley, within 1 hour's drive of 10 elite football clubs.

“It is so easy to visit Manchester from Rishworth; I have been able to go to many Man City games whilst at RIFA”



Airports

The school is conveniently located near two major airports, Manchester Airport is only a 35-minute drive and Leeds Bradford is 45 minutes' away.



RIFA Football Philosophy

A unique '**total football**' approach

The RIFA '**total football**' philosophy is one that emphasises supporting the whole person whilst playing attacking football with freedom and creativity.

Consequently, the **physical, psychological, emotional, and pastoral elements** of working with individuals and groups are focused upon, and are not marginalised to the detriment of purely playing football.



Our holistic approach recognises that football development extends beyond the pitch. Our academy focuses not only on physical skills but also on **mental and character development**. We aim to instil qualities such as **leadership, sportsmanship, resilience**, and a **strong work ethic** that will benefit you both on and off the field.

We offer a bespoke **individualised learning programme** ensuring the right balance is met from both a football and an academic perspective, set in a school with a reputation for the **highest standards of pastoral care** and **excellent academic results**.



“

I can't believe I get to wake up every day and do what I love the most

”

A Week at RIFA

What would a typical week in the **life of a RIFA student** look like?

Day	Morning (8:30am-12:30pm)	Afternoon (1:30-3:30pm)	Evening (3:30-6pm)
Monday	Lessons - English Literature, History & Chemistry	Lessons - Maths & Physical Education	Working on individual programme, focusing on game understanding, control, passing, organisation, creating space and team work
Tuesday	Lessons - Geography, Maths & Art and Design	Lessons - Spanish & Music	Showcase Match
Wednesday	Lessons - Physics, Food and Nutrition & English Language	Lessons - Biology & IT	Technical programme developing control, passing, crossing, shooting, turning, defending and attacking
Thursday	Lessons - Maths, Drama & Games	Lessons - Chemistry & English Literature	Technical programme developing control, passing, crossing, shooting, turning, defending and attacking
Friday	Lessons - English Language, Physical Education & Physics	Lessons - Biology & Design Technology	Video Analysis & Discussion
Saturday	Working on individual programme, focusing on game understanding, control, passing, organisation, creating space and team work	External trip to a Manchester City FC home Premier League match	External trip to a Manchester City FC home Premier League match
Sunday	Match or training	External trip with Rishworth boarding community, trips include visits to Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester and York, as well as other local places of interest	Structured weights programme

RIFA Life

Ethos

For 300 years, our school motto has been 'Res Non Verba' – and it's not just a phrase upon the crest on our blazer! It's in our culture and our DNA, it pervades every aspect of school life. Our approach to learning is to roll your sleeves up and get stuck in because experiential learning is the most fun!

We appreciate the importance of bringing subjects to life through use of guest speakers, field trips, experiments, and live briefs, because we understand that learning can occur through many different ways and that children are individuals.



Education

We have small class sizes and enthusiastic and knowledgeable teachers and as a result, our students receive fantastic results.

Most recently, at GCSE we had 100% pass rate and 93% of our students attained grades 4 – 9.

At A-Level we also had 100% pass rate and with nearly half at A*, more than two thirds at A* - A, and nearly 80% at A* - B.

In our last Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) inspection, we were rated as double excellent and the report stated that: "The quality of the pupils' academic and other achievements is excellent."

EAP (English for Academic Purposes)

We deliver student-centred lessons in small groups to our international learners for rapid language development. Learners are able to access expert advice and personalised tuition to ensure they can access all areas of the school curriculum and achieve academic success.

Enrichment and Extension

We have a huge number (120+) of clubs and activities every single week, designed to extend and enrich the lives of our students.

Food and Nutrition

Our experienced catering team fully understand the importance of a good diet and meeting the needs of professional athletes. Every dish served is prepared from scratch on-site by our talented team of chefs led by Mr Andrew Algar.

He prides himself on preparing fresh, tasty and nutritious dishes using locally sourced and seasonal ingredients. He is also able to cater to any dietary requirements and our students have the opportunity to try new dishes from around the world, broadening their taste buds.



Boarding with RIFA

Our facilities are homely and comfortable, with stylish, well resourced common rooms for socialising and single study bedrooms providing a quiet, relaxing space.

Our boarding community is like one big extended family - the emotional, physical and social welfare of the children in our care is our priority.

At our last inspection, the ISI said we are a "multicultural community and there is a strong sense of mutual respect" that without doubt "overseas boarders are quickly and effectively integrated". They commented that our international pupils "are articulate and were extremely positive about their experiences".

Boarding Trips

Boarding life is an enriching and rewarding experience with a structured programme of activities in place for boarders. There is something happening every evening with a bigger outing on Sundays, ranging from Go-karting, to the Van Gogh exhibition, through to shopping in Manchester or visiting the Harry Potter Experience.



RIFA Coaching

UEFA Licensed Coaching

- Professional training taking your game to the next level.
- Highly qualified UEFA licensed football coaches with vast experience in football development, with over 16 hours of football played per week.

RIFA offers a clear and unique pathway for students with opportunities into the professional football arena through the quality of the programme, and strong partnerships with professional football clubs globally.



Skill Development



Ball mastery:

Control and manipulation of the ball on different surfaces



Passing, receiving and possession:

Tempo, retention and risk



Defending:

Pressing and blocking, beginning a press, protecting the goal, defending in and around the box, pressing in the middle and defensive third



Attacking:

Build up play from the back 4, goalkeeper situations, creating in final third, finishing, and building play with advanced full backs



Transition:

Counter attacking, regaining to exploit space in wide areas, recovering team shape to counter



Training Overview

Here's an overview of what you can expect from our football academy:

- **Skill Development:** Our training sessions will focus on improving your ball control, dribbling, passing, shooting, and other technical skills essential for a successful football player.
- **Tactical Understanding:** We will teach you the fundamentals of team play, positioning, and strategy, helping you understand the game at a deeper level and make intelligent decisions on the field.
- **Physical Conditioning:** Top level football requires a high level of fitness and endurance. We provide fitness training programmes designed to enhance your speed, agility, strength, and stamina.
- **Individual Attention:** We understand that each player has unique strengths and areas for improvement. Our coaches will provide regular individualised feedback and guidance to help you maximise your potential.
- **Mental Preparation:** Football is not just a physical game but also a mental one. We will help you develop the right mindset, confidence, and resilience to overcome challenges and perform at your best.



“

I'm grateful for the chance to pursue my passion and turn it into a potential career. It's not just about the game; it's about the life lessons, discipline, and dedication I learn here.

”

~ Brighton, aged 13, from LA

RIFA Perks

RIFA's Benefits

- World class training provision through use of facilities at Manchester City Academy.
- Full immersion in a professional football environment with routine, schedule and holistic development.
- Extraordinary student life with extensive options of extra-curricular activities.
- A visit to St George's Park, the home of English football where the England team train.
- All students will be provided with full RIFA branded Adidas uniforms.

Attend League Matches

Enhanced football education and analysis through regular attendance at Manchester City Premier League and Champions League home games.

RIFA Matches

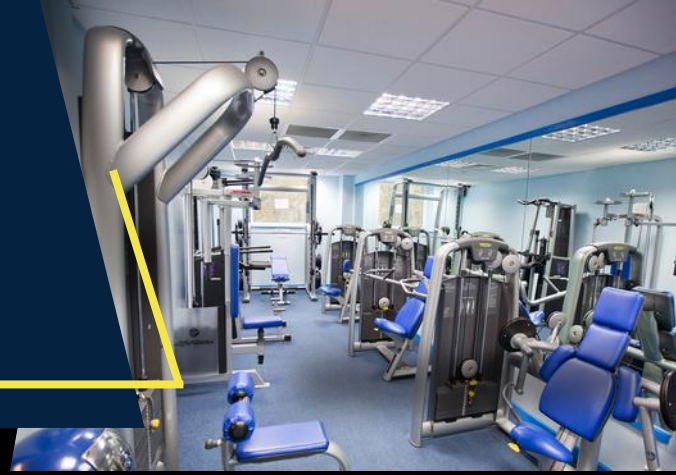
We play matches on a weekly basis, organising regular practice matches, friendly games, school games and showcase games against development teams from professional clubs, as well as entering tournaments, giving you the opportunity to apply your skills in a competitive environment and gain valuable match experience.



Elite Environment

On-site Facilities

The unique part of the RIFA experience is also the professional high-quality training facilities within Rishworth School grounds which are tailored to support your individual football development.



- 3 Top Class Grass Football Pitches
- Indoor Sports Centre
- Weight Training Room
- Cardio Gym
- Swimming Pool



External Facilities

As part of a RIFA student's learning and development, some coaching sessions will also be delivered at the world-famous state of the art Manchester City Football Academy training facilities, thus enabling students to have the ultimate professional academy player experience.



RIFA Development



Student Termly Reviews

Students will take part in termly development reviews with the Director of Football and coaches (parents may join by Zoom). The reviews will be focused on the student's strengths and weaknesses in the following five areas of development: technical, tactical, physical, psychological and social. A measurable learning development plan will be agreed for the student to work towards in the following term.

Student Pathways

Every player's ability is unique; our development pathways are designed to play to a student's own strengths. All students who have a desire to pursue a career in football will be offered an individualised programme to allow them to reach their goals; whether that be within professional football, semi-professional football or coaching, both in the UK and overseas.

As a part of RIFA's commitment, we will continue to support and represent our students during their transition and beyond into professional football.



“

Students join us with varying levels of ability and knowledge, but our pathways help every student progress, and in their own time with the right programme.

~ Paz Shan, Director of Football

”



Beyond RIFA

Careers in Football

RIFA's Football Academy Partner has, over 30 years, established very strong partnerships with professional football clubs.

Students within the RIFA programme who demonstrate and reach levels required for a potential career in professional football will be provided with the necessary support, guidance and opportunity for trials at professional clubs. As part of RIFA's commitment, we will continue to advise, support and represent our students during their transition and beyond into professional football.



University Pathways

For those students who stay on the RIFA programme to age 18, there are University pathways that can be pursued.

RIFA has strong connections with Higher Education programmes within the UK and USA.

As part of the RIFA programme, students will have the opportunity to visit universities that offer high intensity football whilst studying a top class degree.



Apply To RIFA

For further information please contact us:



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Email: rifa@rishworth-school.co.uk



Web: www.rishworth-school.co.uk/rifa-rishworth-international-football-academy



Learn more about
RIFA or download
an application
form



Resilience

*Using your mind and body to
accomplish greatness*

Innovation

Creativity on and off the pitch

Fearless

*Determination to achieve your
dreams*

Adventure

Your journey starts here



RIFA

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SCHOOL