

Tennis Ethos

At Millfield Prep our aim is to produce healthy, capable and resilient young athletes with a robust set of technical skills for Tennis, whilst providing opportunities for all levels of Tennis participation and success.

Tennis is a technically challenging, but very rewarding sport, which develops fitness, coordination and athleticism and is a game for life.



Who can play?

We currently have 3 players competing at National level, but at the same time our inclusive programme allows us to offer players of all levels and abilities the opportunity to play and enjoy tennis.

Over 150 pupils are involved in the Tennis programme and have the opportunity to access at least 3 squads per week (free of charge) irrespective of their ability.

Anyone can book private lessons with one of our six highly qualified coaches, in order to develop their technical skills and we provide lots of competitive opportunities, running internal and external tournaments and match play in the winter term alongside a very busy fixture list in the summer term.

Highlights

- Millfield Prep has hosted the IAPS National schools Tennis Tournament for the last 4 years.
- Our U13A Mixed team were National champions beating our U13B team in the final.
- We currently have over 12 players attending County training and one in Regional training.
- In recent years both our boys and girls' teams have qualified for the Regional stages of the Year 8 National Schools competition, making them among the top 16 teams in the country out of the 600 schools.
- In 2018 our Boys reached the National finals in Bolton narrowly losing to Reeds in the final in a tiebreak shoot out 13-11.
- We enter the LTA National Club Leagues in all age groups each year and regularly our teams qualify for Premier Division.
- We run training camps in both Portugal (at the 5 Star Vale do Lobo Resort) and in Devon (at Ashbury Manor)

Tennis expertise

The coaching team is led by the Director of Tennis, Sarah Thomas (MEd) a former international, Level 5 Master Performance Coach and LTA Tutor.

Coaches:

Julie Sinkins (BSc) - Level 5 MPC and Welsh International and Somerset County coach
Adrian Simcox - Level 5 MPC, Lancashire County player and coach and former director of Tennis at Millfield School

Matt Elston - Level 4 and Avon County coach
Chris Chapman - Level 3 and Wiltshire County player
Sam Edwards - BA (Hons) Sport and Social Sciences, PGCE in Secondary Physical Education, Level 3 and Somerset County player



Current facilities

Our Tennis facilities include seven hard courts (three with floodlights) and one indoor bubble. In addition, we have 12 AstroTurf courts during the summer months and our top players access the three Senior School indoor courts for their training.

The short-term plan is to floodlight the triple courts, with the long-term aim to have an indoor tennis centre.



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