

Community Testimonials

Dargavel Primary Partnership with Bishopton Rugby Club

Since the opening of Dargavel PS in 2021, Bishopton Rugby Club has been a fantastic support in promoting health and wellbeing and the importance of physical activity. They are always so keen to work with us during our annual health week, offering rugby sessions for all of our 636 pupils. For some, it is further practice of rugby whilst for others it is introducing them to a new sport which has many opportunities in the local community.

Our children's feedback is always very positive about the input we have received. It has also benefitted staff when attending the sessions as it gives them ideas for delivering a sport many are not confident in. We have had children join up to the children's club as a result of this input. They have previously offered an after school club also to develop children's skills whilst having fun. Partnership working is crucial in the local community and Bishopton Rugby club share that view.

Bishopton Rugby Club's input supported Dargavel in achieving our Gold School Sport Award in 2022. The school will be working on this to renew this coming session, and strong community links are a key part of this.

As the new Head Teacher at Bishopton Primary, starting in August 2026, I am very keen to ensure the partnership working continues there and as our location is so near the school, we could look at utilising the sports fields as they are better than the hilly grass at the school. We also plan to begin an annual health week to encourage children to being physically active and enjoy sport.

Louise Chisholm
Depute Head Teacher
Dargavel Primary School

Trinity High School

Bishopton Rugby Club has had a significant impact on the growth and development of rugby at Trinity High School. Through a strong and collaborative partnership, the club has provided coaching expertise, volunteer support and successfully secured funding that has enabled the school to establish the very early foundations of Renfrewshire's first School of Rugby.

This partnership has created opportunities that would not otherwise have been possible, allowing pupils to access high-quality rugby coaching while supporting the school's wider vision of increasing participation in physical activity. The club's commitment to providing free rugby opportunities for all young people under the age of 18 has removed financial barriers and ensured that every pupil can engage with the sport, regardless of their background.

The partnership aligns closely with Trinity High School's value of Community by creating meaningful links between the school, local rugby club, families and the wider community. It also reflects our commitment to inclusion, ensuring that rugby is accessible to all and providing young people with opportunities to develop confidence, resilience, teamwork and leadership through sport.

Looking ahead, we see this partnership continuing to play a central role in the long-term development of both the School of Rugby and the wider community. Our shared ambition is to increase participation across all year groups, strengthen pathways between local primary schools, Trinity High School and Bishopton

Rugby Club, and encourage more young people to remain involved in rugby as players, coaches, referees and volunteers. By continuing to work together, we aim to grow participation in physical activity, improve health and wellbeing outcomes, and create a sustainable model that benefits young people and the wider Renfrewshire community for many years to come.

Paul Marshall
Headteacher
Trinity High School

Renfrew High School

For session 25/26 we have been working in partnership with Bishopton Rugby Clubs Development Officer. He has worked with numerous classes providing taster sessions during the day and after school. This has opened up new experiences for young people in Renfrew High School and has provided possible future pathways to a new sport.

As a school we value community partnerships and we see the benefit this brings to promoting lifelong healthy and active lifestyles. The commitment from the club to provide free rugby to U18s is an unusual and highly commendable programme.

Financial obligation to sport out with school can often be a barrier for our young people. Bishopton Rugby Clubs free access to sport provides opportunities for everyone. This aligns both with our values as a school but also to the Scottish Government's Education Equity Strategy.

We look forward to continuing our work with the club.

Emily Gallacher
Head of Physical Education
Renfrew High School

Scottish Rugby

Bishopton Rugby Club is a fantastic example of how a community-focused sports club can create lasting impact. Through its commitment to providing opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds, from young children taking their first steps into sport through to older adults maintaining active and social lifestyles, the club has built a sustainable model of participation that places community at its heart. Securing a long-term facility lease will provide the foundation to continue to expand this work, supporting current members, future generations and the wider Bishopton community for years to come."

Alan Falconer
Scottish Rugby
West Area Director