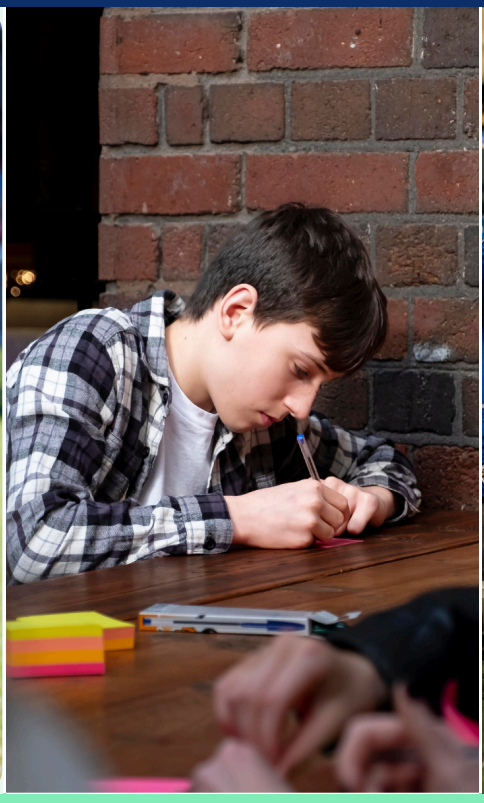
mva®
Hybrid

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
LFE | League Football Education

A levels alongside the apprenticeship

Serious academic study, built around a football apprenticeship. Taught live, online, by qualified subject teachers.







A guide for players and parents

2027 ENTRY AND BEYOND

WHY A LEVELS

Further opportunities, combining your apprenticeship with A levels

A football apprenticeship is the best opportunity to pursue your professional football career alongside an academic pathway. In the past, the subject and qualification choices were limited. That has now changed.

Through the innovative partnership between MVA Hybrid and LFE, there is now a pathway that allows scholars to add agreed A level study to their BTEC and SEP Programme, where there is a clear, well-justified link to their career ambitions beyond football. Lessons take place outside the working day - scheduled around training and fixtures, never in place of BTEC or SEP time - and are taught by experienced teachers who understand the demands placed on scholars.

It is designed to equip players for ambitious futures - **whether or not they continue in professional football** after their apprenticeship.

> **"MVA has given me the opportunity to develop qualifications that will give me an alternative career path to football in isolation."**
>
> JOSH · MANSFIELD TOWN

HOW THE PROGRAMME BEGAN

Our partnership with LFE began in 2021, when former Notts County apprentice and professional **Fabian Spiess** joined MVA. Drawing on his own experience as a player, he saw a clear need: a flexible pathway that supports apprentices with long-standing career ambitions, through qualifications that build on their BTEC.

Five years on, it is an established programme with scholars at clubs across the EFL.



FABIAN SPIESS
Athlete Development Manager

5th
year of the MVA-LFE A level programme

100+
scholars supported with A levels alongside their apprenticeship

24
clubs with scholars on the programme this season

THE PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE

Five years, and a record to show for it

The programme is small by design and academically serious. These are the numbers behind it.

1 in 4

A level grades on the programme in summer 2026 were an A or A*

100+

scholars supported with A levels alongside their apprenticeship

300+

athletes supported by MVA across all our programmes

150+

athletes currently working towards GCSEs and A levels with us

About MVA

A DfE-registered independent online school, inspected by Ofsted, teaching students across the UK and internationally. Every lesson is live, taught by a qualified subject specialist.

MVA Hybrid is our programme for elite athletes, whose training and competition schedules make a conventional school day impossible.

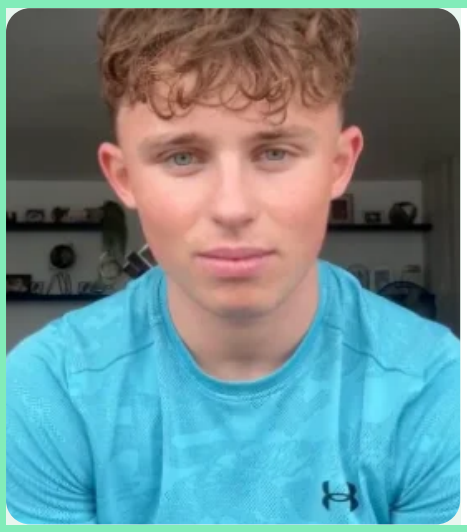
Department for Education

24 clubs across the EFL have scholars on the programme this season – from Wrexham and Blackburn Rovers to Norwich City and QPR.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Hear it from the players

Scholars and staff from clubs across the EFL, on what the programme has meant to them.



JOSH · MANSFIELD TOWN

“It gives you the best possible chance to really learn everything you need to, in a structured and systematic way.”

On studying online, and the degree apprenticeship it led to



GABRIEL · QPR

“He's a brilliant, brilliant teacher. He knows his stuff.”

On his teacher, and a grade A in History



ALEX · HEAD OF EDUCATION, QPR

“I can't think of any negatives whatsoever.”

On the tuition, the communication, and the satisfaction from the boys and parents

HOW THE TEACHING WORKS

Two ways to study, one standard of teaching

Which model a scholar is taught on depends on the subject and on how many scholars in that year group choose it. We confirm this with LFE before the course begins.

Group model

A small online class of up to eight LFE scholars, at fixed weekly times agreed with LFE.

3 hours of lessons a week + a 30-minute private tutorial

One-to-one model

A course built entirely around one scholar, at times agreed directly between player and teacher.

2.5 hours of one-to-one lessons a week

How many subjects?

Most scholars who qualify for LFE funding study **one A level**. A small number each year are approved to study two - a decision made with LFE, dependent on well-justified career ambitions beyond football and on how the player is managing their commitments.

"Without a doubt, being in full-time professional football, flexibility is the key."

ALEX · HEAD OF EDUCATION, QPR

Whichever model a scholar is on, courses are carefully planned and equipped with resources and assignments either in MVA's Virtual Learning Platform, available 24/7, or in a Google Classroom.

mva® Hybrid

THE GROUP MODEL

A small class of players in the same position

The group model runs whenever three to eight scholars in a cohort choose the same subject - in most years, Business, Economics and Maths.

- **3 hours of group lessons each week**

  3.5 hours for Maths. Taught live online by experienced, qualified subject teachers, at fixed times built around apprenticeship commitments.

- **A weekly 30-minute tutorial, one to one**

  Protected time with their own subject teacher every week: help where they're struggling, detailed feedback on assessments, and room to follow the parts of the subject that genuinely interest them.

- **Every lesson recorded, available 24/7**

  Recordings and resources sit in the Virtual Learning Platform. If the football schedule changes or an opportunity comes up, nothing is missed - the lesson is waiting.

- **Maximum class size of eight**

  Small enough that every scholar is known, contributes, and can't drift quietly through a lesson.

> “Our classroom's only got five students and one teacher, so I think we can learn on more of a one-to-one level. It's definitely more personal - you can get a lot more help than if you were in a sixth form with a class of 30 people.”
>
> WILL AND TIAM · MK DONS

THE ONE-TO-ONE MODEL

A course built around one player

Where a subject isn't running on the group model, scholars are taught one to one. It opens up a much wider range of A levels – including some with coursework – for scholars whose subject links clearly to their future ambitions, and gives the player the most flexible timetable we can offer.

- **2.5 hours of one-to-one lessons each week**

  Taught online by experienced teachers and tutors, with full attention on one scholar.

- **Times agreed between player and teacher**

  And movable, with notice, when football commitments change. Flexibility is built in rather than negotiated each time.

- **A genuinely bespoke route through the course**

  The teacher paces the course to the player: more time where it's difficult, extension where they're flying, resources chosen for them.

- **Rarely a need for recordings**

  Because lessons move rather than clash, scholars shouldn't miss any – but recording is possible if it helps.



A TEACHER WHO KNOWS THEM

On both models, the same teacher stays with a scholar across the two years.

"It felt as if I had a mentor that both wanted me to do well in my A levels, but also my career."

EDDIE · PETERBOROUGH UNITED

MEET THE TEACHERS

The people behind the lessons

Qualified subject specialists who understand the demands of professional football, and stay with a scholar across both years.



Steven BUSINESS & HISTORY

A former professional tennis player and school leader, Steven knows first-hand what it takes to balance elite sport with academic ambition.

> **"They are ambitious in two different worlds at once, and it is rewarding to help them see that strong academic progress can still be part of that journey."**

Jenny ECONOMICS

Eighteen years teaching Economics, with a gift for connecting the theory to real-world events - and to football.

> **"Some of the most rewarding moments are when a student starts making their own connections between Economics, football and the world around them."**





Ali SOCIOLOGY

More than twenty years teaching at GCSE and A level, built around independent thinking and genuine engagement with ideas.

> **"What stands out most about my LFE scholar is his dedication. He is focused, hardworking and always willing to put in the effort."**

Sharmila PSYCHOLOGY

A teacher and trained counsellor with particular experience supporting student athletes - mindful of the whole student, not just their grades.

> **"It's no easy feat balancing a full-time football apprenticeship with studying, but LFE students I've taught have been more than capable of rising to the challenge."**





Laura BIOLOGY

A former NHS pathology officer and Assistant Headteacher, Laura now teaches Biology to LFE scholars one to one.

> **"It is rewarding to see the different paths students take, whether progressing within football or moving on to university."**

WHAT WE ASK, AND WHO IS AROUND THEM

Honest about the work, and the support around it

A levels are a different beast from GCSEs. Students who sailed through Year 11 often find their old approaches stop working - and that is normal, not a warning sign.

3-4 **hours of independent study each week**, alongside lessons - homework, revisiting earlier content, self-testing and wider reading. Scholars need to set this time aside and protect it.

Consistency is the hard part, and it decides the grade. They don't do it unaided: every new scholar gets our **Study Skills Workshops** on making the jump from GCSE to A level, and a great deal of encouragement and structure from there.

SUPPORT AROUND THE PLAYER

The programme is fully integrated with LFE. Four people share responsibility for every scholar - and they talk to each other.

Head of Education & Player Care

At their club - the day-to-day link

LFE Academy Education Manager

Oversight across the apprenticeship

A level subject teacher

Teaching, feedback and encouragement

MVA Head of Hybrid

The programme as a whole

Teachers write a progress report for the club and LFE **every two weeks**. The club and LFE also have their own access to MVA's Partner Portal - attendance registers, progress reports, concerns needing discussion and commendations worth celebrating.

"My favourite thing was the support I received from my teacher and my classmates."

LINCOLN · MANSFIELD TOWN, 2026 GRADUATE

SCIENCE SUBJECTS

Biology, Chemistry, Physics: the practicals

Science A levels require a set of assessed practicals, known as **CPAC**. It is the one part of the programme that needs a scholar to be somewhere in person, so it is worth understanding early.

Sciences need thorough discussion before a scholar commits. They are among the most demanding A levels to take alongside an apprenticeship, so any science choice is talked through carefully with LFE, the club and MVA first.

CPAC does **not** affect the final grade - that is decided entirely by exam performance. It appears on the certificate as an endorsement, or as 'not completed'.

We recommend every scholar completes it. Not having the endorsement can affect how universities view a science-based application.

CPAC is delivered at venues all over the UK as week-long courses, usually within reasonable reach of the club.

MVA arranges it, in consultation with the club, at an appropriate point in Year 2 of the apprenticeship.



A calendar built for players

The academic calendar is bespoke to the MVA-LFE programme, built around players' need for a genuine break during their time away from the club.

Assessments are structured across both years, with two rounds of full mocks in Year 2.

EXAMS

The admin is ours, not yours

Sitting A levels while living away from home and training full time sounds complicated. In practice, MVA handles almost all of it.

1

A local exam centre

Scholars sit their exams at a college, school or private exam centre near where they are based.

2

Entries submitted by MVA

Our Exam Office team submits every entry for LFE scholars and manages the communication with players and clubs.

3

Access arrangements handled

Extra time and other access arrangement requests are managed by MVA, in liaison with the club and - where it is needed - with parents.

4

Results day, with us

We contact every scholar directly, and we're on hand that morning for anyone who wants to talk through what their grade means for their next steps.



"Steven gave us loads of practice papers. I was getting consistent A stars in those - that was the point where I thought, okay, I could actually do quite well."

JOSH · MANSFIELD TOWN

Thinking it through together

Nothing needs deciding today. It is worth knowing the option exists, and worth a conversation at home about whether it fits the player he wants to be.

MEET THE TEAM



Fabian Spiess
ATHLETE DEVELOPMENT MANAGER



Lawrence Tubb
HEAD OF HYBRID



Kate Meeks
HEAD OF HYBRID PARTNERSHIPS

> **"I'm looking into doing the PFA business school... that would probably be my next step."**
>
> EDDIE · PETERBOROUGH UNITED

NEXT STEPS

If you are interested in exploring an A level pathway, start a conversation with the club's Head of Education and LFE Academy Education Manager about suitability for the programme. LFE funding and approval are subject to criteria and grade targets, confirmed after GCSE results.

Three questions worth asking him: what career beyond football is he working towards? Which A level links directly to it? And is he willing to protect three or four hours a week for it, in a demanding year?

mva Hybrid | LFE League Football Education

ANY QUESTIONS

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