

Tuesday 8 September 2026

The Sutton Academy Elite Athlete Programme 2026-27

Dear Parents/Carers

The Programme

At The Sutton Academy, we are proud to have many students competing at an exceptionally high level in their chosen sport. From September 2026, we will be entering our third year of our Academy Sport+ Programme, which is designed to celebrate and support our most talented athletes. The programme aims to help students continue to develop their performance, while also reinforcing our academy values.

Only students who demonstrate high standards of behaviour and attendance will be considered. Those with poor records in these areas will unfortunately not be accepted. Please be aware that all results and photos of student successes will be celebrated on the academy's social media platforms.

Who can apply?

We welcome applications from students across a wide range of sports, including (but not limited to): rugby league, rugby union, horse riding, ballet, skiing, football, mountain biking, netball, and water polo.

The programme is open to students in years 8-10. Year 7 students can apply but will be on a probation period for the year. They will then be allowed to apply at the start of year 8. This allows the programme to monitor behaviour throughout Year 7.

Criteria

Examples of the criteria for acceptance onto the programme are:

Football - A current **signed academy player** at either a **Category 1** or **Category 2** club academy.

Rugby - A **current signed contract** player with a **professional rugby league** club or part of the **development player (DP) squad** for **Rugby union**.



Swimming - A competitor at **national level** who has represented at a national level (for example, competing for England or being ranked nationally).

All other sports - **Regional** level representative or on an **England pathway programme**

Evidence of signed contracts and representations are required - please send via email: tom.langford@thesuttonacademy.org.uk

How to Apply

Please apply by using the link below.

[TCAT+ Elite Sports Programme – Fill out form](#)

Evidence will need to be provided before final acceptance to the program.

Applications are open from **Wednesday 9 September 2026** and will close on **Friday 18 September 2026 at 3.00pm**.

Entry to the programme will not re-open until September 2027 if this deadline is missed.

Selection Panel

Applications will be assessed by a three-member panel comprising of academy staff and in addition consultations will take place with the relevant Heads of Year. The panel will source the opinions of other experts if needed in the decision making. Only successful applicants will be notified by **Thursday 15 October 2026**. The panel's decision is final.

Successful students place on the programme.

Student's continuation on the programme will depend on their behaviour, attitude, and attendance to the academy. Any student who falls below the expected standard will be removed from the programme.

I look forward to reading your applications.

Kind regards



Mr T. Langford
Faculty leader of PE and Sport

