

Article by Taylor Ball (V02-16)

Since leaving the College in 2016, I feel that I have really grown into myself. My gap year after Fram gave me the best opportunity to build on my character and at times take me out of my comfort zone. Working as a Teaching Assistant at Godstowe Prep School in Buckinghamshire gave me some valuable life skills - living with other gap students from Australia, learning to tolerate others in a working environment and being involved in a number of different roles within a busy boarding prep school have certainly been useful skills to take into my times at university.

Whilst at Fram, having the opportunity to represent the 1ST team twice at the Nationals was an absolute highlight throughout my school playing career and being top scorer of 21 goals in my final season in Year 13 was an incredible personal achievement for me. My hockey career continued positively after the College and with Jamie Kingstone being that major influence for me whilst at school, I was determined to carry on playing for an outside club after leaving.

High Wycombe HC gave me insight into training and playing in a ladies team for a year before moving onto university to play for Leeds Beckett 1's and Leeds Hockey Club.

I have continued to work consistently hard on and off the field, throughout the last 3 years. In September 2019, I debuted in the National League for Leeds HC and have continued to play for the Ladies 1's throughout this season. Annually, Leeds HC play in a tournament during the pre-season period and scoring 5 goals across 2 games, really boosted my confidence since joining this team. In addition to this, I scored my first BUCS goal against Exeter, Beckett's second game of the season. Both seasons have been challenging yet there have been some successes throughout, with our most recent game for LHC coming away with a victory 4-3 in a highly competitive match.

Recently, I contacted the OF's in search of a sponsor for Leeds HC and they kindly showed their support by opting to sponsor me and therefore allowing me to continue playing and competing at such a high standard of hockey.

To date I have completed the mandatory 200 placement hours in professional clinics in the Leeds area, I have also been fortunate enough to have some work experience at Sportsmed East shadowing their highest physiotherapists and completing some interesting and exciting 'hands on' work with patients. This has fuelled my interest in this type of work, and I am considering applying for a Masters' in Physiotherapy as my next step after graduating in July with a BSc in Exercise and Sports Therapy. As for the future, I see myself either in a multi disciplinary health clinic or with a professional/amateur sports club.

See photos in action.

