

# Chelmsford College are impressing on and off the pitch

AFTER nine very successful seasons in the National League, Chelmsford College are still producing football players that are progressing to a very high standard.

The Academy players train and play full-time whilst studying qualifications of their choice.

After the very successful progression of Joe Ward from Chelmsford City to Peterborough United and Aaron Greene from Chelmsford City to Brentford, players have been following in their footsteps year after year. This year, they have seen Tyler Forbes play internationally for The British Virgin Islands as well as progressing from the U19 academy to Heybridge Swifts first team.

"Tyler has been an inspiration this year and there have been one or two clubs enquire after him" explained former West Ham favourite and Academy coach, Stuart Slater. "His pacy runs from full-back have troubled many defences and he deserves his break into first team football."

Another to excel and progress to Heybridge Swifts is Joe Debell.

"Joe's work rate and enthusiasm for winning is key to his success" says former Colchester United player and Academy co-ordinator and coach, Kirk Game. "Joe reminds me a little of myself when I trained and played and I have no doubt he will progress even further."

Debell has also been selected by Stuart Nethercott and has joined the Swifts squad for training.

The college has an excellent coaching team in Slater and Game and are only too pleased to see young players progress into senior squads.

This year also saw Ted Forbes progress to Aveley FC, Kieran Jones to Brentwood Town FC, Callum Fitzer to Hullbridge and Tommy Tableporter also to Heybridge Swifts.

"These are all young players that football supporters will hear more of in the future" said Academy director David Cornwell.

Cornwell also sings the praises of the new goalkeeper academy and former West Ham Utd goalkeeper coach Dan Worthington.

He said: "The new goalkeeper academy at the college has seen some excellent goalkeepers this year and Dan is doing an excellent job, it's very popular and the keeper training has been immense."

The college has seen football players not only progress with their football.

Cornwell added: "There are a wide variety of college courses on offer and we also offer 16 different apprenticeship programmes for those players who have finished their courses and ready to leave college.

## STARLETS TIPPED TO FOLLOW IN FORMER STUDENT WARD'S FOOTSTEPS



Joe Ward, seen here playing in League One for Peterborough United, has also enjoyed success at National League side Woking

CHRIS RADBURN

"It's our aim for players to play professional football but failing that, play senior football whilst studying

an apprenticeship of their choice."

■ If you are an aspiring young player and interested in this excellent

scheme, please contact David Cornwell on 01245 293119 or e-mail [CornwellD@chelmsford.ac.uk](mailto:CornwellD@chelmsford.ac.uk)

## Christou hopes to deliver after bagging new role as Swifts U23s manager

DELIVERY driver Kevin Christou came knocking on the door of Heybridge Swifts and the former Tring Athletic boss left with an extra job as manager of the U23 side at Scraley Road, writes *Jon Longman*.

Christou, a UEFA B coaching licence holder, certainly rang the bell with Swifts director of football Ryan Handley who will be part of the Christou's Swifts U23 management team. Noting that it was a coup to obtain Christou's

services, Handley said: "Kevin was by far the outstanding candidate of the eight that I interviewed."

"Kevin was part of the management team that won the Essex Senior League title at Hullbridge and he had success at Royston too.

"He is a local lad and the area manager of a major home delivery company with a patch that covers Heybridge, Tiptree and Colchester.

"He has valuable knowledge of local players and the local

non-league scene so he is going to be a huge asset to the Swifts.

"Kevin will be bringing an assistant manager and a goalkeeping coach with him and I will join the team as a hands on coach to provide a pathway from the U19s through the U23s to the first team."

Christou is a rarity as a goalkeeper in his heyday going on to make a top coach but he certainly delivered the goods at St Margaretsbury, Hertford,

Hullbridge, Royston, Thurrock and Basildon.

Christou is delighted to be back in football after being sacked as Tring manager in February, having only joined the Hertfordshire side the previous June. He was the victim of a major row in the Spartan South Midlands League sides' committee room that resulted in many players departing too. Handley says Tring's loss is Heybridge's gain, adding: "Kevin has good links with the Crystal

Palace academy set-up and other academies too.

"We have been training every couple of Saturdays so Kevin came down to Heybridge last weekend to meet up and introduce himself to all the players." The Swifts U23s will be playing in the Isthmian U23 Development League and all the games are played in midweek which will enable first team manager Stuart Nethercott to call up U23 players to the first team.