

60 second interview with ... Tom Barge, Head of Sport



What did you study at university?

BA (Hons) in Sport and Recreational Management. I also completed a PGCE in teaching Physical Education.

Do you have sporting industry experience?

I went straight into teaching from university. However, during my free time/holidays I have worked as a lifeguard and at the Southampton Outdoor Sports Centre. I also have had jobs in the coaching industry working for Team Elite, Team Spirit, Brighton & Hove Albion in the community, Brighton & Hove Albion under 11 Academy Team and Saints in the community.

Do you take part in sporting activities outside of college?

I am very much into keeping fit and active and regularly use my local gym. I am now retired from playing football, having spent 16 seasons playing semi-professional football in the Wessex League. Right now I'm into boxing and MMA where I provide my vocal talents as the MC (it's much safer there!).

Can any student join the Sports Academy?

We would love every one of our students to get involved in physical activity, in one way or another. It is an important release from your studies and can help with your concentration levels in class. Therefore, yes! We have an open door policy to everyone for our sports academy for all abilities.

How many sporting enrichment activities does Richard Taunton offer?

We offer basketball (men's and ladies), football (men's and ladies), boxing, cricket, trampolining, rugby and netball. You can also get involved in other activities such as the gym and fitness classes, table tennis, badminton and beach tag rugby. Activities we have run in the past include fencing, zumba and taekwondo. We are more than happy to start up new activities if students are interested!

What advice would you give to students wanting to get involved in college sports?

Try to take every opportunity to get involved in as much sport as possible. It really is a fantastic way of meeting people across the college and could unearth a hidden talent