



**LOUGHBOROUGH**  
**SPORT**

# Loughborough University National Tennis Academy



# Welcome

At LUNTA, we strive for excellence in the pursuit of your journey to become an international tennis player. Our developmental philosophy is grounded in high performance as a Person, Student, Athlete, Performer and as Complete Players. Through our daily training environment and extensive international and domestic competition programme, we aim to equip players with the tools to be able to take to the court believing they can handle any situation they may encounter.

We believe our environment strongly supports your health, happiness and wellbeing, and truly puts you, as the Person, first. Through focus on both high-achieving academic study and value in personal development, we want to support your journey.

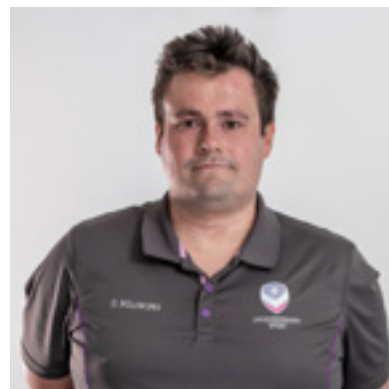
We are focused on developing international tennis players that are coachable, respectful, prepared for every outcome and hold professional standards each day to progress their journey.

Our Coaching and Performance Support Teams are both highly skilled in and passionate about developing British players to succeed on the international stage.

We look forward to welcoming British juniors of the future and being a part of their journey.



**Nathan Miller**  
Academy Manager







# Contents

National academy objectives	6
Who are we?	7
Meet the team	8
Coaching at LUNTA	14
Performance support at LUNTA	16
The programme	18
Domestic and international tournament and travel	19
Why Loughborough?	20
Elite training facilities	21
Academic excellence	22
Boarding and pastoral care	24
Alumni and testimonials	26
Key contacts	27

---



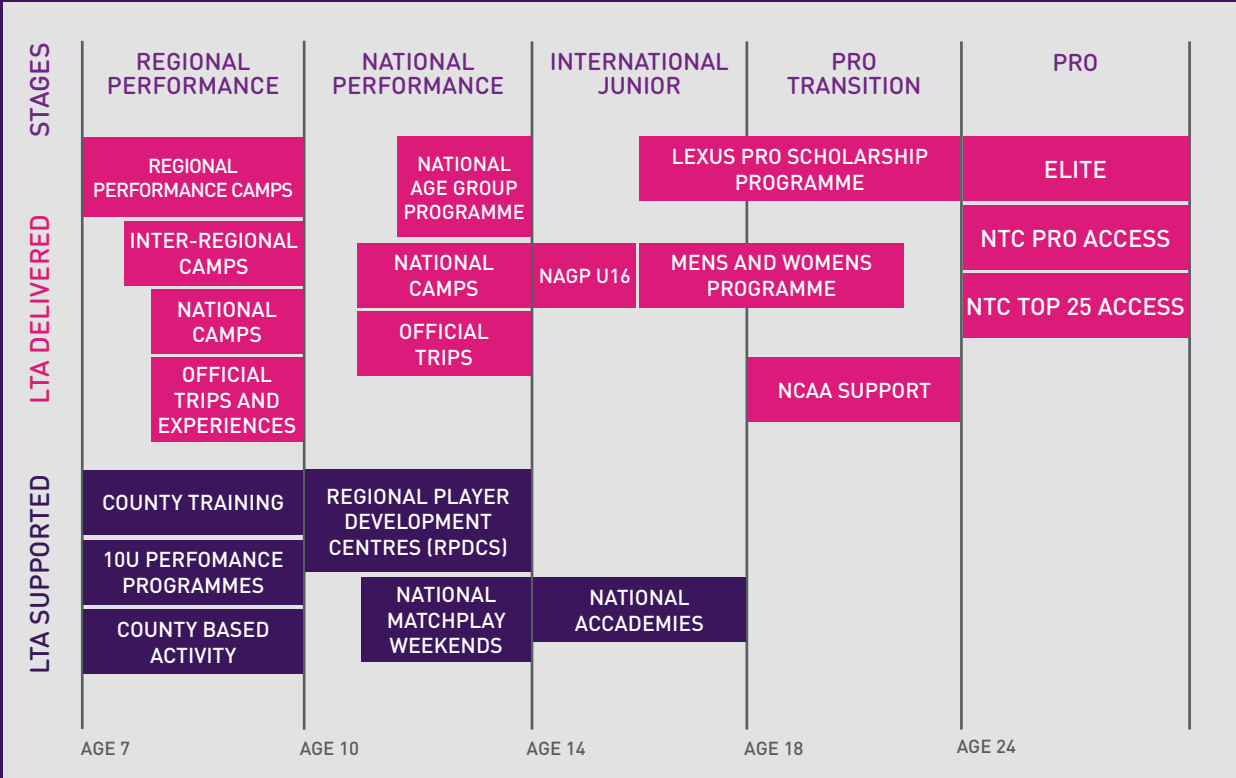
# LUNTA objectives

**DEVELOP BRITISH JUNIORS IN TRANSITIONING TO THE PROFESSIONAL TOUR**

Be an integral part of the pathway that significantly contributes to a greater number of British players inside the Top 100 WTA and ATP Tours

**DEVELOP GOOD PEOPLE WITH GOOD OPTIONS**

Significantly contribute to British junior tennis players options inside and outside of the sport



## Who are we?

Loughborough University National Tennis Academy (LUNTA) aims to deliver a pro-style interdisciplinary training environment as part of the LTA's Player Pathway for elite British junior tennis players in transitioning onto the professional tour.

We are delighted to be part of a partnership with Loughborough University, the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) and Loughborough Amherst School to deliver player support to elite British junior tennis players in the pursuit of an international tennis career. The National Academy at Loughborough University offers an unrivalled combination of world-class coaching, integrated and impactful performance support, excellent academic provision and pastoral care, an extensive tournament and travel programme, alongside some of the best elite training facilities in the UK.



Our track record of success is starting to build. Opening in 2019, LUNTA has taken on 23 elite British junior tennis players and delivered some fantastic results on and off the court. LUNTA players have achieved five U16s and four U18s National Championship titles in the five years since inception. We have supported multiple players at the latter stages of junior grand slams and have claimed two Junior Grand Slam Singles titles with Henry Searle becoming the first British boy since 1962 to claim the Wimbledon Boys Singles title in 2023, and Mika Stojisavljevic claiming the 2024 US Open Girls Singles Title at just 15 years old.



23 British Junior  
Tennis players  
joined the Academy  
since 2019



5 U16s National  
Championship Singles  
titles for LUNTA players  
since inception



4 U18s National  
Championship Singles  
titles for LUNTA players  
since inception



75 ITF Junior Tour Titles  
since inception in 2019  
for LUNTA players  
(31 singles and 44 doubles)



Multiple players  
progressed onto  
next stages of LTA  
Performance Pathway



2 Junior  
Grand Slam  
Singles Titles



# Meet the team



**NATHAN MILLER**  
ACADEMY MANAGER

Nathan joined the Academy in February 2020, and oversaw the Academy alongside previous Head Coach, Nick Cavaday, until a change in coaching structure in early 2023. Nathan moved to work for the Academy from Loughborough Sport, where he held the position of Head of Performance Support, leading the provision of support to performance athletes and programmes. Nathan has learned from, and worked alongside, a wide range of different coaches and support staff from all sports and disciplines to enhance performance and develop effective interdisciplinary teams.

Nathan leads the direction and development of LUNTA with the goal of creating a world-class tennis environment for development elite junior tennis players. This includes leading the staff and players to set behaviours, culture and values within the Academy, and driving the standards in coaching, performance support, operations, and education and wellbeing to assure the provision for the players is there. Nathan leads the Operational Team on the day-to-day on and off-court delivery and connects the programmes partners (Loughborough Sport, Loughborough Amherst School and the LTA).



**GARY MULLER**  
BOYS HEAD COACH

Gary has over 35 years of experience in elite tennis as a player, coach and Board Member of the ATP tour. As a player, Gary achieved a career high ATP ranking of 49 in singles and 7 in doubles, claiming eight ATP doubles titles and registering tour level wins over players such as Agassi, Edberg, Courier and Cash to name a few. He began his coaching career at a private academy in Vienna, Austria working with and leading on the development of international male and female players such as Dudi Sela and Lucas Kubot who went onto reach career high ITF Junior rankings of 9 and 30 during his tenure at the academy. Two years as a played elected representative on the ATP Board of directors followed, before taking on the role as Tennis Director at Ontario Racquet Club in Canada. As a coach on the ATP Tour, Gary helped Stefan Koubek achieve his career high ATP ranking of 20, coached Swedish tennis player Jonas Bjorkman to three Wimbledon doubles titles and a double ranking of four in the world, and notably was the travelling coach for former top three player Dominic Thiem in 2016. More recently, Gary has been travelling with Canadian tennis player Alexis Garlarneu on the ATP challenger tour, taking him to a career high ATP ranking of 170 before joining us in Loughborough as Head of Boys.

Gary's role at the Academy is to oversee the development of the LUNTA male players throughout their Academy journey. Gary and David lead the coaching team to deliver world-class coaching support to our players both at base in Loughborough and at tournaments. Gary will lead the delivery of players Individual Development Plans (IDPs) and train and travel alongside the boys where possible. Alongside David, Gary leads the Coaching Philosophy and Tennis Programme at the Academy and is an integral part of the Academy's leadership team.





**DAVID BREWER**  
GIRLS HEAD COACH

David joined the Academy from his previous role as RPDC Head Coach at Edgbaston Priory, and has been playing and working in performance tennis for over 20 years. As a player David won the U12, U13 and U15 Nationals and was ranked 8 in the ITF World Tennis Tour Junior Rankings, competing in all four Grand Slams. He went on to achieve an ATP singles ranking of 811 and doubles ranking of 469.

David is now an LTA level 5 Pro Licence and has worked as an Academy Coach at the LTA HPC at Bisham Abbey, U18 National Coach in Qatar, Director of Tennis at Merchiston Castle School and on the WTA tour. He has coached and developed several players to Junior Grand Slam level and on to top 10 American Universities. David joined the Academy in March 2024 as an Academy Coach, before progressing into his current role as Girls Head Coach.

David's role at the Academy is to oversee the development of the LUNTA female players throughout their Academy journey. David and the Boys Head Coach lead the coaching team to deliver world-class coaching support to our players both at base in Loughborough and at tournaments. David will lead the delivery of players' Individual Development Plans (IDPs) and train and travel alongside the girls where possible. Alongside the Boys Head Coach, David leads the Coaching Philosophy and Tennis Programme at the Academy and is an integral part of the Academy's leadership team.



**KAM SODHA**  
HEAD OF PERFORMANCE  
SUPPORT / STRENGTH AND  
CONDITIONING LEAD

Kam is an accredited strength and conditioning coach (UKSCA) who joined LUNTA from Loughborough Sport, where he delivered to multiple sports. Previously, Kam worked at Scarlets Rugby and the Welsh Rugby Union with the senior men's squad in the preparation for their Six Nations and the 2015 Rugby World Cup.

Kam leads the Performance Support provision to our players in the areas of strength and conditioning, psychology, performance analysis, medical including physiotherapy, and nutrition. His role is to align this support from the expertise in these disciplines to the coaching philosophy and plan. He works closely with Mark and Morgan in planning for players daily, weekly, and annually to ensure players have what they need to thrive. Kam also leads the physical development of the players. He works alongside Adam and Chloe to provide individualised physical programmes in context of their growth and maturation. He also spends time on court delivering movement and physical sessions at base but also on the road during periods of travel for trips and tournaments. Kam joined the Academy in October 2020 and has been part of the journey of all Academy players since inception.



**SEAN ENGLAND**  
HEAD OF EDUCATION  
AND PLAYER WELLBEING

Sean previously worked as the Player Education Manager at the Football Association working across the England men's and women's national development squads. His role focussed on managing the education and welfare needs of all players when on event in the UK or overseas. Prior to that, he was the Head of Education and Welfare at Nottingham Forest FC for over ten years and a Physical Education teacher in a school and sixth form college.

Sean supports all aspects of player well-being on and off the court, to help maximise performance and support the long term athletic and personal development of the players. Emphasis is on supporting the individual lifestyle needs of players when transitioning in or out and supporting how players manage these areas throughout their time at the National Academy. Sean also manages the day-to-day education provision for the Academy by working closely with Amherst School to help support the individual needs of each player. Sean joined the Academy in June 2023.

## Meet the team



**TOM WELSH**  
ACADEMY COACH

Tom joined the Academy in December 2022 bringing insight and experience from the WTA tour where he coached and was a sparring partner for Leyla Fernandez. His role with Leyla involved significant travel and daily commitment with a top-15 WTA player, whilst working with the rest of her team. Before his work on the tour, Tom worked at Wolverhampton Lawn Tennis and Squash Club where he coached through every age and stage, delivering to international and domestic level juniors and supporting National Age Group camps with the LTA.

As one of our Academy Coaches, Tom helps the delivery of the day-to-day on court sessions as well as travelling to international tournaments with the players. This includes supporting the holistic development of each of the players on their tennis journey and delivering a transformational experience. Tom brings a high standard of hitting level to the Academy, having completed week-long blocks as practice partners in this country for some of the world's best female tennis players. Tom has been part of many players' journeys since he started and played a strong role in supporting Henry Searle to Wimbledon Junior Boys success in the summer of 2023.



**JOCELYN RAE**  
ACADEMY COACH

Joss turned pro at the age of 17 and played professional tennis for ten years during which time she competed in all four Grand Slams. Joss was a member of the GB Fed Cup team from 2011-17, playing alongside Johanna Konta, Heather Watson and Katie Boulter to name a few, and since retiring has moved into the Fed Cup coaching team. Joss is a level four Senior Performance Coach and she brings a huge amount of enthusiasm, care and commitment in all that she does at LUNTA.

Joss helps the delivery of the day-to-day on court sessions as well as travelling to international tournaments with the players. This includes supporting the holistic development of each of the players on their tennis journey and delivering a transformational experience for all involved.



**EVIE WILLIAMS**  
ACADEMY COACH

Evie joined the Academy from the GB National Academy at Stirling where was based since 2021. At Stirling, Evie has led the coaching for a number of players on their Academy journeys as juniors, helping secure players onto the Pro Scholarship Programme with the LTA and Div 1 US College programmes in transition. Prior to her time at Stirling, Evie worked at The Edgbaston Priory Club for a five year period where she supported a wide range of ages and stages including at the centre's Regional Performance Development Centre (RPDC). Evie is currently undertaking the LTA's Junior International Level 5 Coaching Course and has supported LTA National Age Group camps in the past.

Starting her Academy journey in December 2023, Evie helps with the delivery of the day-to-day on court sessions as well as travelling to international tournaments with the players. This includes supporting the holistic development of each of the players on their tennis journey and delivering a transformational experience.





**JACOB WHITEHURST**  
PERFORMANCE ANALYST

Jacob joins the LUNTA team as our performance analyst, bringing a wealth of expertise across multiple sports. With a degree in Sport and Exercise Technology, Jacob has extensive experience as a performance analyst, specializing in optimising athlete performance through data-driven insights and video feedback. Currently pursuing a PhD, Jacob's research focuses on identifying the key physical and tactical characteristics of elite junior tennis players, helping to bridge the gap between junior and professional levels. Working for Hawkeye, the leading provider of electronic line calling in professional tennis, Jacob gained unique insights into high-performance match analysis at the highest level of tennis, working at multiple grand slams.

Jacob works closely with the coaches and performance support team to quantify the development of the players' on-court performances through analysis of training sessions and competitive matches. This includes providing statistical data to the coaches to support their teaching throughout the year.



**ADAM GREENSLADE**  
STRENGTH AND  
CONDITIONING COACH

Adam is an accredited Strength and Conditioning Coach (UKSCA) with an MSc in Strength and Conditioning (St Mary's University, Twickenham) and a BSc in Sport and Exercise Science (University of Leeds). Adam joined LUNTA from Leicester Tigers Rugby Club where he led the Strength and Conditioning for the Academy for four years. He has eight years' experience in elite and youth sport, including having worked as an Athletic Development Coach across multiple sports at Millfield School. During his time at Millfield School, Adam led the performance tennis squads which required working alongside the LTA pathway coaches.

Adam supports players at base during physical and rehab sessions on and off court, travel on the road where possible and work with the coaching team to provide tennis-specific physical support and analysis to enhance player performance. His philosophy of pastoral care and developing the person of junior athletes strongly aligns to LUNTA, and his experience allows him to provide individualised strength and conditioning programmes for players in context of their growth and maturation.



**RYAN LAMBERT**  
PHYSIOTHERAPIST

Ryan is a dual qualified therapist, graduating with First Class Honours as a Sports Rehabilitator from the University of Salford in 2016 and qualifying with First Class Honours as a Physiotherapist from Coventry University in 2019. He has since gained a wealth of experience within the NHS, private sector, and professional sport. Ryan spent a year and a half working in the NHS as a musculoskeletal physiotherapist. After which he gained extensive experience working in professional football at both Nottingham Forest F.C and Leicester City F.C. He then joined the Loughborough University Physiotherapy Clinic in March 2021, where he spent 3 and-a-half years working with a range of athletes from multiple sporting disciplines including those competing at national, international, and Olympic level.

Ryan works closely with the players, coaches and support staff to maximise player availability and positively impact player performance. Ryan is responsible for the physiotherapy requirements of the LUNTA players and helping their long-term development by increasing their understanding of self-management and how the discipline can be impactful throughout their future careers. Ryan joined the Academy in summer 2024



## Meet the team



**ANDJELKA GRUBISIC**  
PROGRAMME ADMINISTRATOR

Andjelka has over 20 years of administrative experience with Midlands Electricity plc and Next plc, primarily within Learning and Development. While at Midlands Electricity she was also responsible for Graduate Recruitment and Training.

Andj supports LUNTA with the coordination and administration of the programme which includes all aspects of travel and transportation. This includes providing administrative support and assistance to Nathan, our Academy coaches and the wider National Academy team including liaising with staff, players, parents, school and the transport company to maintain the highest quality of service and duty of care to the players.



**MATT HARBOUR**  
PROGRAMME COORDINATOR

Matt is a recent graduate from the University of Bath where he attained a BSc in Sports Management and Coaching, writing a dissertation on the influence of digital media on the development of elite junior tennis players. Matt has previous experience as both a player and coach at the University of Bath, as well as having spent a year working in the operations team at Soto Tennis Academy during his university placement year.

Matt is responsible for the daily, weekly and annual planning of training and tournaments for our players, working with players, coaches and performance staff to develop individual programmes reflecting each player's needs and objectives. Matt's role is integral to keeping the Academy running each day.



**DR MARK RIDGEWELL**  
ACADEMY DOCTOR

Dr Mark Ridgewell is a Consultant Sport and Exercise Medicine Physician and leads on all aspects of sports medicine support for the National Academy. Dr Ridgewell has a vast amount of experience in elite sport and was the first doctor in Wales to be appointed to the GMC Specialist Register in Sport and Exercise Medicine in 2010.

Mark joined the Academy at the start of the Covid pandemic in 2020 which he helped manage the Academy through. He works closely with other key members of the performance support team to ensure the players receive appropriately tailored medical provision whenever required and specialises in the prevention and management of overuse injuries as well as rehabilitation.



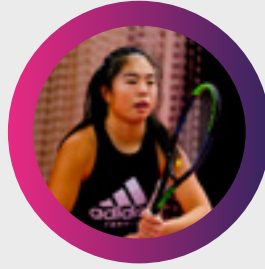
## Coaching at LUNTA

During their journey at the Academy, our coaching support is focused around building tolerance in coping with the mental and physical demands of tournament tennis. Players are challenged on-court in a positive and empathetic way to have intensity and determination to play each ball to the best of their ability and to solve problems without negativity.



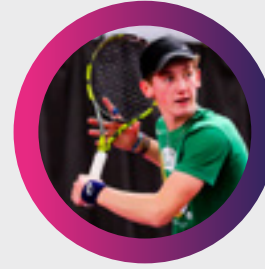
### PERFORMERS

We aim to develop top international competitors that have high focus, fight, courage and composure



### ATHLETES

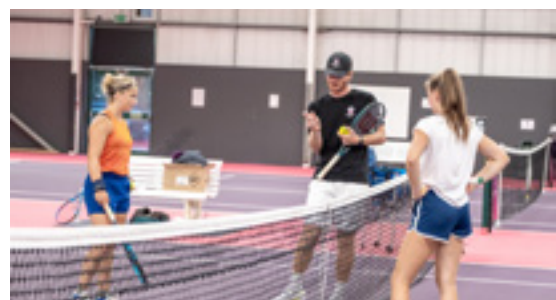
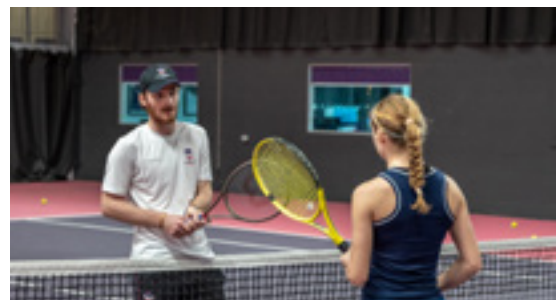
As world-class athletes and movers on all surfaces and conditions, our players will have endurance, intensity, power, agility and be efficient



### COMPLETE PLAYERS

Our Coaching Team will work with our players to become 'Complete', developing serving and returning to compete, comfortable with the ball in court and that have the skills to play an all round game and have solutions

Our coaching support to our players is led by our two experienced Head Coaches, Gary Muller (Boys) and David Brewer (Girls). Mark and David lead a group of Academy Coaches and Training Partners in the delivery of a players' Individual Development Plan (IDP). This plan directs the areas of development through regular performance objective setting between the player and coach. The player and coach will highlight the expertise and support required across the Academy to deliver on these objectives and our coaches also work with our players to set the tournament plan.





# Coaching at LUNTA

We have **Expectations and Standards** that we support and challenge our players on each day which helps develop valuable skills that players will need on their journey as an international tennis player. We believe in developing:

**1**

## RESPECT

Representing and respecting yourself as a player and others

**2**

## PREPARATION

Being prepared for every eventuality

**3**

## WORK ETHIC

Giving maximum effort and chasing every ball down

**4**

## COACHABILITY

Players that listen and are here to improve always

**5**

## PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

Players that follow habits that demonstrate they are active in their development

## Performance support at LUNTA

The delivery of high-quality performance support to our players is a fundamental part of our programme here at LUNTA. We believe the positive application of science, medicine and support accelerates our player's journey to becoming elite international junior tennis players. Our wide-ranging team of performance support practitioners utilise a variety of experiences in different sports and environments to enhance player performance and wellbeing.

Our interdisciplinary, Performance Support Team's aim is to strongly support the developmental objectives set by the player and coach. Our team look to understand the intricacies of tennis and apply sport-specific solutions to the player's development from a technical, tactical, physical and psychosocial perspective.



The role of impactful and integrated Performance Support in the development of junior tennis players is integral. Here at LUNTA, our support in the various specialist areas underpins and is aligned to the areas we are trying to develop with each player on the court led by our coaches.

Having a team around the player presents great opportunity and experience for what life is like on the tour, allowing players to understand and apply these specialist areas to help themselves. We educate thoroughly to give players full understanding of how to do the basics well, but also how to use science and evidence to grab those marginal wins where they can.

We have a set of curious, creative and passionate Performance Support staff that leave no stone unturned when planning to help performance on and off the court. Our team aim to reduce the uncertainty of achieving the desired outcome, whether that be in rehabilitating and returning to play from an injury, or using performance analysis data in order to win a match at the highest level.



**Kamlesh Sodha**  
**Head of Performance Support Strength**  
**and Conditioning Lead Academy Manager**



### Strength and Conditioning

Our Physical Team aim to produce Great Movers on-court, that are repeatedly able to cover the court, and are robust athletes that can handle all the physical demands of training and competition. Our Coaches deliver a mixture of on and off-court physical sessions during training and competition to accelerate physical development during a player's time at the Academy. These sessions are individualised and aligned to the players individual development plans (IDP), and also consider growth and maturation, training load and physical status.



### Physio and Medical Support

Our Medical Team aim to keep our players training and competing. Through quarterly medical assessments, our Doctor aims to understand the medical needs of our players and how these link to a player's performance plan. Our integrated Physiotherapy support identifies risk sites for injury based on a player's programme, and works alongside our Strength and Conditioning team and technical coaches on overcoming physical blockers to a player's performance on-court. This team lead on player assessment, diagnosis and execution of an integrated, team-wide injury rehabilitation plan and are linked to the leading specialists across the country to receive excellent medical care.



### Performance Lifestyle and Psychology

Health, happiness and wellbeing is at the centre of our philosophy and is of utmost priority here at the Academy. This is reflective in the value our Performance Lifestyle and Psychology team place on supporting the players daily. Players have the opportunity for regular 1-to-1 time with our Performance Lifestyle and Education Manager and Sports Psychologist to help them to develop the skills and resources in order to thrive both on and off court.



### Performance Analysis

Our Coaches work closely with our Performance Analyst in the pursuit of understanding the technical and tactical underpinnings of a player's developmental journey. Matches are recorded, tagged and then statistics are fed through the Coaching Team during and post-tournaments to analyse performance and set direction. We aim to improve player understanding of the technical and tactical side of tennis through our Performance Analysis software Dartfish, where players can access their recorded matches to watch back.



### Performance Nutrition

We recognise that Nutrition plays a significant role in not only performance on the tennis court for training and competition, but fuels all aspects of an Academy player's life, particularly academic performance, and general player health and wellbeing. Our Performance Nutritionist helps educate our players in both group and 1-to-1 sessions on fuelling for training and competition, eating for great health, and rest and recovery. In addition, our Performance Nutritionist is in regular communication with the players school and boarding houses, ensuring a high standard of nutrition in every aspect of the players lives.



### Performance Operations

Our Coaching and Performance Support is linked together by operational support to ensure our players have what they need at their disposal to develop. Coordinating trips and travel, organising weekly scheduling, communication with players, parents and partners to ensure smooth delivery of a player's plan is of paramount importance and the heart of our player support. When training at base, players and parents are sent a weekly schedule. An Annual Plan, including targeted tournaments, is also regularly communicated to the player and family.



# The Programme

At LUNTA, we consider optimising two of the most important parts of our programme, training and tournaments, to be integral to player development. Individualising and tailoring weekly training and tournament schedules to a player's development needs is central to our approach.

Our weekly tennis performance schedule consists of:

- Tennis sessions (both group and individual).
- Integrated on-court physical work.
- Off-court physical training sessions in our world class campus and school gym.
- Performance support delivery including, Physiotherapy, Psychology and Performance Lifestyle.
- Group player education sessions.

Schedules are communicated to players and parents each week to ensure players have knowledge of their whereabouts and can plan. The holistic balance for academic and performance pursuits is something we take immense care and pride of at the Academy. The amount of teaching contact time varies between Year Group and there are supervised, and independent study periods built into the schedule where players can catch-up with their work. The schedule is purpose built and the players are encouraged to make use of social opportunities to make friends and interact with peers, and there is the opportunity to take part in extra-curricular activities, predominantly at lunchtimes at the School.

	MORNING 07.30 – 12.10	AFTERNOON 12.10 – 15.55	EVENING 16.30 – 18.30
MONDAY	TENNIS AND GYM AND PERFORMANCE SUPPORT	SCHOOL	TENNIS
TUESDAY	TENNIS AND GYM AND PERFORMANCE SUPPORT	SCHOOL	MOVEMENT SESSION AND TENNIS
WEDNESDAY	SCHOOL	SCHOOL	TENNIS
THURSDAY	TENNIS AND GYM AND PERFORMANCE SUPPORT	SCHOOL	TENNIS AND ON COURT CONDITIONING
FRIDAY	TENNIS AND GYM AND PERFORMANCE SUPPORT	SCHOOL	BOARDING / SOCIAL
SATURDAY	TENNIS AND GYM AND PERFORMANCE SUPPORT		BOARDING / SOCIAL
SUNDAY	REST DAY / SOCIAL / EXTRA-CURRICULAR		

Example weekly schedule for those in years 9-11. Players completing A level study receive a more individualised schedule based on reduced in-person teaching hours. All weekly schedules are tailored to the needs of the player and the demands of their tournament schedule.



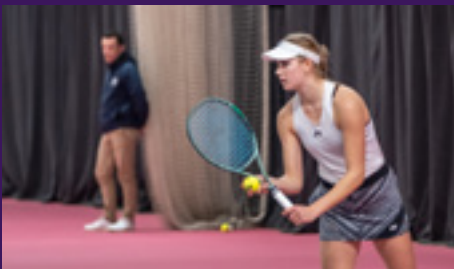
## Unrivalled Domestic and International Tournament and Travel

Since the Academy's inception in 2019, LUNTA players have competed in 39 different countries, competing in every level of ITF Junior event as well as a range of senior ITF, ATP and WTA tournaments.

Well-planned exposure to domestic and international tournaments are an essential part of a player's programme here at LUNTA. Players receive an individualised tournament plan tailored to their specific developmental goals and ranking targets.

Several LUNTA Players have also had the opportunity to gain exposure to both Junior and Senior Grand Slam events, with the Academy supporting multiple players into the latter stages of Junior Grand Slams over the last five years.

## Home tournaments:



Loughborough University Tennis Centre is also an ITF tournament host venue, hosting a minimum of 5 ITF Junior / Senior events a year, giving our players access to international competition on their home courts.



Mika Stojisavljevic at the Us Open Juniors



Ranah Stoiber at Junior Wimbledon

## Why Loughborough?

Over the past five years since the academy's inception, Loughborough University are proud to have provided a unique sporting environment for the National Academy athletes, contributing to a number of on court success such as Henry Searles 2023 Wimbledon Boys Singles Title, and creating a programme that combines world class players development with the highest quality of education, pastoral care and personal development.

Loughborough has become one of the leading training centres for elite sport in the UK, with an extensive history of hosting elite athletes and a culture of high-performance sport. Our sporting facilities are world renowned and foster an environment of sporting excellence. Loughborough Campus is home to a host of high-performance athletes and organisations such as British Athletics, British Triathlon, British Weightlifting and Loughborough Lightning elite women's teams including the reigning super league champions Loughborough lightning Netball; providing inspirational role models to our junior athletes.

## Location and transportation

Loughborough University is located in the middle of the country and is easily accessible by car, train and air into East Midlands Airport. This makes it easy for players and parents to reach us, as well as providing a perfect base for travel to domestic and international competitions and events.

The University's single site campus is just five minutes from our education and boarding partners, minimising wasted travelling time. We have partnered with a vetted local transportation company to provide safe, comfortable and reliable transportation for our National Academy players between the school and tennis centre (and vice versa).





## Elite Training Facilities

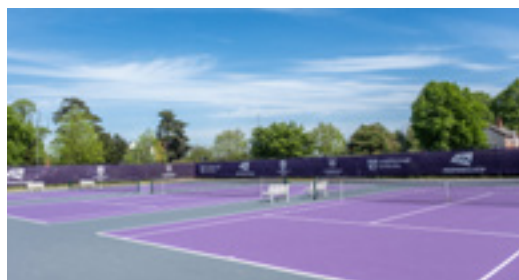
The Loughborough University campus provides an elite environment to cater to the needs of our LUNTA players. Our players have access these world class sports facilities as part of their daily / weekly training programmes.

These facilities include (but are not limited to):



### Indoor tennis courts

Ten indoor plexipave hard courts



### Outdoor Tennis Courts

Three indoor plexipave hard courts



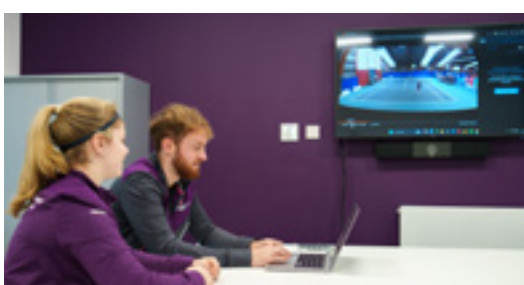
### LUNTA Players Lounge

A dedicated player relaxation lounge with food preparation facilities



### Physiotherapy Rooms

For sessions with our Academy Physiotherapist



### Performance analysis Suite

Used for group and individual analysis sessions



### Powerbase

One of the world's largest elite strength and conditioning environments

## Other facilities include:

HiPac Athletics Centre – Home to British Athletics Performance Institute  
 Olympic size (50m) swimming pool – Home to British Swimming  
 Sir David Wallace Sports Hall – Home to Loughborough Lightning Netball  
 Loughborough Sport Physiotherapy Clinic  
 Four glass-back squash courts  
 Loughborough University Boxing Centre of Excellence



## Academic excellence

Our players are educated at Loughborough Amherst School which is a co-educational excellent rated school at the heart of Loughborough Schools Foundation. LUNTA players complete a minimum of six GCSE subjects (including Maths, Science, English and a choice of either History or Geography), and a minimum equivalent of two subjects at A Level.

As a team we work together to ensure:

- Flexibility in timetabling to work around / alongside the weekly tennis programme
- Flexibility in providing remote / digital solutions when players are travelling, or abroad

Boarding, meals and pastoral care are all provided by Loughborough Schools Foundation as part of the partnership, with two newly renovated boarding houses for our National Academy players. LSF are experienced in boarding, having boarders at Loughborough Grammar School for many years which has now been extended to Loughborough Amherst School and continues to achieve an excellent rating in the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) inspection report.

# Academic excellence

## **Welcome to Amherst.**

Ours is a caring, vibrant and inspiring community, where pupils' enthusiasms and creativity shine through in every aspect of school life.

We are proud to offer both day and boarding provision, as host school for the Lawn Tennis Association youth programme in partnership with Loughborough University. This summer saw three of our boarders reach the Junior Wimbledon quarterfinals, including Henry Searle who made history as the first British Junior Wimbledon Boys' singles champion since 1962. Our tennis boarders are supported to achieve their greatest potential in all areas, and perform highly academically.

Since 1850, our belief in educating the whole person stems from our founder, Antonio Rosmini, who said 'a pupil must be allowed to grow and develop as an integrated human person.' This is at the heart of our commitment to academic excellence, personal development, co-curricular opportunity and faith in action.

We encourage and challenge every pupil to become the very best version of themselves and aim to help parents in their task of nurturing confident, compassionate and happy young people.

We are a Catholic school in the truest sense, universal and welcoming of all, regardless of faith background. We seek to nurture in every pupil a concern for the world around them, compassion for others and a deep sense of wonder.

As part of the Loughborough Schools Foundation, Amherst pupils enjoy sector-leading facilities, including the Midlands' only 'All-Steinway' Music School, The Parkin Sports Centre, Forest School and swimming pool.

I am confident that, having met our staff and pupils and seen all that we have to offer, you will agree that our school combines the best of tradition and contemporary thinking to provide a rounded education of the very highest quality.

## **The Loughborough Amherst School**



## Boarding and pastoral care

Loughborough Amherst School provides the education, boarding and pastoral provision for the national academy players in close partnership with the Loughborough University National Tennis Academy staff.

Boarding facilities are provided for our players allowing them to be educated, eat and sleep all in close proximity. We are delighted to offer two newly renovated boarding houses designated for boy and girl national tennis academy players but also shared with a number of non-tennis LSF pupils. We believe this mix provides a fantastic environment away from tennis to help players to feel settled into life at the academy and thrive in what they do.

Our LUNTA nutritionist works closely with the school to ensure the nutritional needs of the players are catered for and provides a progressive educational programme for the athletes in basic cooking and food preparation to prepare them for life on the tour.

For further information on Loughborough Amherst School please refer to the Loughborough Schools Foundation website [lsf.org/amherst](https://lsf.org/amherst)



## Meet the boarding team

### **SALLY BRUTON, HEAD OF BOARDING**



As Head of Boarding for Loughborough Amherst School, Sally's takes responsibility to ensure that all LUNTA players are catered for when it comes to accommodation, boarding, food provision and overall care whilst at LUNTA. Sally, along with boarding staff Lea and Toni, act as the player's parents during their time at Loughborough taking overall 'loco parentis' responsibility. Sally works closely with the LUNTA team to ensure player happiness, health and wellbeing is taken care of.

Alongside her role as Head of Boarding, Sally is Head of Drama at Loughborough Grammar School, with over 25 years of teaching experience in schools across the North West, Coventry and Quorn before settling at the Loughborough Schools Foundation in 2014. Sally has been part of the boarding family here previously having worked in both Glengairn and Denton House with girls and boys.

### **LEA RANGL, HOUSE PARENT**



As House Parent for Glengairn, Lea joins Sally in taking 'loco parentis' responsibility for our LUNTA players, acting as their parent away from home during their time at Loughborough. Lea helps Sally oversee the health and happiness of our players both from an accommodation and boarding perspective as well as a wellbeing perspective, looking after our borders on both evenings and weekends.

Originally from Germany, Lea studied at the University of Leicester for both her Bachelor's and Master's degrees, and brings a rich cultural background adding to our diverse community. Her passion for education and dedication to student development makes her a fantastic addition to our school and boarding team.

### **GRACE DAVIES, SENIOR DEPUTY HEAD, LOUGHBOROUGH AMHERST SCHOOL**



As Senior Deputy Headteacher for Amherst School, Grace has played a significant role in the journey of the LUNTA programme, even before we welcomed our first players in 2019. Grace has many roles in supporting the players, and leading the academic, boarding, and pastoral care provision from an Amherst School perspective. Grace has played the connection between Amherst School and LUNTA, regularly holding meetings, providing updates and monitoring progress of player academic status and well-being.

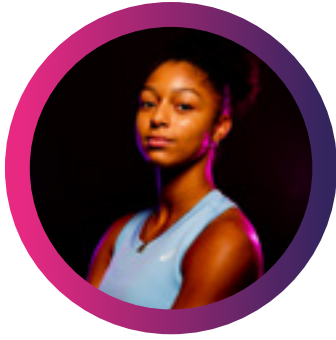
Grace joined Loughborough Amherst School as Senior Deputy Headteacher in September 2017 after leaving her position as Assistant Headteacher for Inclusion at Esher Church of England High School in Surrey. Grace graduated from Reading University with a First-Class Honours degree in French Studies, then completed post-graduate studies at the University of Leicester before completing my Master's Degree in Education Leadership and Management through the University of Roehampton. Grace has also completed the National SENCo Award and numerous Designated Safeguarding Lead courses.

### **TONI O'DONOVAN, PLAYER FORM TUTOR, AMHERST SCHOOL**



Toni leads on the academic provision for LUNTA players. Liaising with Sean and the LUNTA team, Toni holds a keen eye over the academic progression of our players, ensuring players stay on track alongside their tennis commitment. Toni feeds into and reports back to a group of academic teachers and tutors who work with our players.

Toni teaches Maths at Loughborough Amherst School and tutors all ages of player during their Mathematics journey at the School as well as teaching PSHE to the LUNTA players. A Doctor of Philosophy in Physical Education and Sports Pedagogy, Toni has an extensive background in academia and teaching, lecturing in higher education and working in research.



### **RANAH STOIBER, 2019-2023**

Ranah competed at seven different junior grand slams whilst at the Academy, reaching the semi-final of the Australian Open in 2023, and quarter-finals of both Wimbledon in 2023 and US Open 2022. Ranah's ITF junior career high ranking was 11, and was consistently inside the world's top 50 junior players in her final two years of juniors. Ranah began her senior career in 2022, qualifying and reaching the second round for the W100 Ilkley on the grass in 2022 aged 17, beating three higher-ranked opponents along the way. Ranah reached the final of a W15 event in May 2023 and has continued in the same vein after leaving the Academy, continuing to climb the rankings and win more matches at senior level.

Ranah now trains at the National Tennis Centre and is supported through the LTA's Men's and Women's Programme.



### **LUCA POW, 2019-2023**

Luca reached an ITF junior career high of 68 in March 2023 and won 5 ITF singles titles during his four-year journey with the Academy. He became the first player to win back-to-back British U18 National Championship titles in 2022 and 2023, earning himself a wildcard into Wimbledon Senior Qualifying in both years.

Luca achieved six GCSEs during his first two years at the Academy, and then went on to study Physical Education and Business Studies in his final two A Level years.

Luca is continuing his tennis journey playing and studying at Wake Forest University where he combines study of his Business degree alongside competing on the Men's tour and for the University.



### **MIMI XU, 2020-2023**

Mimi reached an ITF junior career high ranking of 17 in August 2023 just as she departed the Academy, with 9 ITF Junior doubles titles and two finals at major ITF Junior competitions contributing to this. Her biggest win coming at the JA Merida with fellow Brit and GB Stirling National Academy graduate Ella McDonald. In April 2022, Mimi won both National Championship singles titles at U18 and U16 level, gaining a wild card into her first Grand Slam senior experience at Wimbledon.

Mimi also achieved outstanding results in her GCSE exams in the Summer 2023 at Loughborough Amherst School and continues to study post-life at the Academy.

Mimi reached the standard for Pro Scholarship Programme (PSP) selection in November 2022 aged 15 and joined the programme in September 2023. Mimi now trains out of the National Tennis Centre in London, and has broken in the top 10 of the ITF Junior World Rankings.



## Testimonials



“My son Henry was part of the first intake into LUNTA in 2019 when he was 13 years old. It has been a steep learning curve on both sides but overall his time with LUNTA has been a resounding success. For us, joining the Academy was a ‘no brainer’ and allowed Henry to take his tennis to the next level and still incorporate schooling as well.

Recently, I have been particularly impressed with how the Academy have tailored the support for Henry in light of his progress. Recognising that he needed something beyond the Academy’s usual offering, they quickly adapted and negotiated other training opportunities for him. The Academy offering is definitely not one size fits all, they have simply done whatever is right for my son rather than sticking rigidly to standard procedures.

The tennis results speak for themselves, but Henry has thoroughly enjoyed his time at the Academy and the staff feel like family now!

I have had peace of mind throughout his time with LUNTA knowing that he is happy, well cared for on and off the court and making great progress with his tennis.”

**Emma Searle**  
Parent of LUNTA Player Henry Searle

“At Loughborough University Tennis Academy (LUNTA), hard work takes on a whole new meaning. From tailored workouts to personalised tennis plans, every aspect was geared towards pushing me beyond my limits. The coaches were like family, always there to support and push me towards greatness. With the individual tutoring, I not only excelled academically but also secured a spot in a US college tennis program, furthering my tennis journey. Choosing LUNTA has truly transformed my life.”

**Luca Pow**  
LUNTA Alumni



## Key contacts

**Nathan Miller**

Academy Manager  
N.Miller@lboro.ac.uk

**Sean England**

Head of Education and Player  
Wellbeing  
S.England@lboro.ac.uk

**Kamlesh Sodha**

Head of Performance Support  
K.Sodha@lboro.ac.uk

**David Brewer**

Girls Head Coach  
D.Brewer@lboro.ac.uk

**Gary Muller**

Boys Head Coach  
G.R.Muller@lboro.ac.uk

**Sally Bruton**

Head of Boarding  
S.Bruton@lsf.org.uk



**Loughborough  
University**



lboronta



lboroNTA