

Pupils Tackle Rugby with Pirates Coach

A Cornish school has received some expert training from Cornish Pirates' Head Coach, Ian Davies, when he led a coaching session yesterday with the help of first team players Chris Morgan and Jake Parker.

Pupils from Polwhele House in Truro were lucky enough to have their P.E. lesson taken by the rugby specialists when they visited the school for two coaching sessions.

The Pre-Prep and Year 3 children, aged from 6 to 8 years old, were treated to the first hour before the remaining Prep school children, aged 8 to 13 years, had their turn during the second hour.

Alex McCullough, Headmaster of Polwhele House, was delighted with the opportunity saying:

"Having such specialist personalities visit the school is really fantastic for our pupils as it gives them the chance to learn more about a brilliant sport from leading experts. We welcome ways to inspire pupils to follow their interests, giving them the chance to be further involved in our busy sporting season."

For Ian Davies, the sessions might bring back a few memories as his love of rugby began during his sports lessons at school, as well as his time spent with a youth rugby team.

Ian said:

"All the boys brought huge energy to the sessions. There was a definite passion to play rugby. I think it is fantastic that rugby is offered to all the boys at Polwhele and Chris, Jake and I have thoroughly enjoyed leading their P.E. session."

Ian later trained to be a teacher and completed an MSc at the University of Portsmouth as well as achieving the Welsh Rugby Union Level 3 and Level 4 coaching award.

After joining the Cornish Pirates as Forwards Coach, he helped the team achieve success with their win against Irish team Munster 'A' in 2010, in what was the first ever British and Irish Cup final; as well as helping them achieve a place in the twin-legged RFU Championship finals against Worcester in 2011, and then, soon after he had been appointed Head Coach, against London Welsh in 2012.

The Cornish Pirates are the premier [Cornish rugby](#) club, playing in the [Championship](#) and the second level of the English rugby union pyramid – this means that Ian was able to pass on expert knowledge to Polwhele House's pupils.

Polwhele House also offers tag rugby as an extra-curricular activity as well as training in the sport during P.E. lessons in Michaelmas term.

All Prep School boys at Polwhele House have a rugby afternoon once a week throughout one school term per year and take part in competitive fixtures during this time.