

28th July 2006

Interview with Chris Hull, Director of Sport, Howick College

Howick College does not operate a sports academy as such but rather provides a programme for students with identified sporting ability through years 9 to 13.

They call it their elite sports programme or ESP. Students are chosen for membership based on recommendations from Phys Ed teachers and /or sports coaches. They are identified as having the skills and attitude necessary to become elite sports people in the future. They are not necessarily at the top of their sport but exhibit the self drive and motivation to succeed in the future.

They meet twice a term as a group and are exposed to aspects of what it means to be an elite sports person. They have visits from senior representatives and sporting experts who give them advice and motivation for their future development. Meetings are held during lunchtime and may extend into the adjacent period.

Members of the ESP must have a commitment to their own sport and be role models for the rest of the school. If their work or attitude deteriorates they may lose their place in the programme.

In the life of the school they are just normal every-day students but with the mentoring, advice and encouragement they soon show through as leaders within the school.

Local companies provide sponsorship for the programme to enable rewards to be given to those who are showing success in any of their fields of endeavour.