

# Mike Dickinson



## Coach And Consultant



Mike is a qualified teacher who taught in a high school (11-18 years old) in England for 26 years. He taught Physical Education and Mathematics to examination level as well as teaching Science and Personal and Social Education. During this time he was Head of the Physical Education Department for 3 years and was a Pastoral Head for 15 years. He spent much of his time supporting pupils with learning difficulties and young people who were socially challenged.

After coaching part-time at a Premier League club for 5 years he left his teaching position to take up the full-time role of Head of Education and Welfare (5-21 years old) at the club, a post he occupied for 17 years. During this time he has contributed to the development of, and supported, many young players who have gone on to have very successful playing careers at all levels of football both in England and abroad. He advised and supported those players who did not achieve their dream of playing football professionally, as they planned and embarked upon a second career path. A number of those young men are now physiotherapists, teachers, sports scientists, doctors or are studying at universities. One of them is currently enjoying a full athletic scholarship at Clemson University in North Carolina.

He liaised with the schools of the younger players in order to ensure that their academic performance and personal development was not in any way compromised by their involvement in the Academy programme. He was very active in establishing a working partnership with a local, high achieving high school. The relationship with the school enabled many youngsters from the Academy to take part in a Full-Time Programme, whereby they attended school for part of the day and were then coached for the remainder of the day and evening.

Mike spent many hours meeting with parents and delivering Performance Education sessions for them and their sons covering a range of topics such as Personal Hygiene, Financial Planning, Codes of Conduct, Being the Parent of an Elite Performer, Touchline Behaviour, Alcohol, Tobacco and Gambling Abuse, Doping Regulations, Relationships, Dealing with Failure, Diet and Nutrition, Social Media, etc. He was Academy Safeguarding Officer for the 17 years that he worked for the club. He was instrumental in introducing and carrying out player reviews for all of the young Academy players. In recent years these have all been computerised with players, parents and teachers having password protected access. He presented on several occasions to Premier League and FA national meetings of Heads of Education and Welfare.

Mike remains totally committed to supporting the overall development of young sportsmen and sportswomen and all of those that work with them.