

2022 CHAMPION SCHOOLS

NATIONAL
FINALS
2022



Kingston Park, Newcastle
Friday 8th July 2022

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GAME



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2022 CHAMPION SCHOOLS FINALISTS



YEAR 7

YEAR 7



YEAR 8

YEAR 8



ORDER OF PLAY

Kingston Park, Newcastle | Friday 8th July 2022

10:40 AM

**ST PETER'S
RC HIGH SCHOOL**

St. Peters RC
High School
(Manchester)



Malet Lambert
School
(Hull)

Champion Schools Y7 Girls Final

11:45 AM



Malet Lambert
School
(Hull)



Castleford
Academy
(Wakefield)

Champion Schools Y8 Girls Final

12:50 PM



Ryburn Valley High
School
(Calderdale)



Standish Community High
School
(Wigan)

Champion Schools Y8 Boys Final

2:05 PM



Archbishop
Sentamu Academy
(Hull)



Ysgol Gyfun
Gymraeg Glantaf
(Wales)

Champion Schools Y9 Girls Final

ORDER OF PLAY

Kingston Park, Newcastle | Friday 8th July 2022

3:10 PM



Archbishop
Sentamu Academy
(Hull)



Castleford
Academy
(Wakefield)

Champion Schools Y9 Boys Final

4:25 PM



St John Fisher
CVA
(Kirklees)



Castleford
Academy
(Wakefield)

Champion Schools Y10 Girls Final

5:40 PM



Spenn Valley
High School
(Kirklees)



Great Sankey
High School
(Warrington)

Champion Schools Y10 Boys Final

12:30 PM



Castleford
Academy
(Wakefield)



Bridgewater High
School
(Warrington)

Champion Schools Y7 Boys Final
Saturday 9th July | St James Park, Newcastle

WELCOME



On behalf of the Rugby Football League it gives me great pleasure to welcome the finalists today.

Champion Schools is the world's biggest schools Rugby League competition and all of today's finalists will have overcome many hurdles along the way in reaching this event. All those involved in this success should be rightly proud of their achievements thus far.

Many of the greatest players of the modern era have played in these finals including the likes of Kevin Sinfield and Morgan Smithies. In addition to them, I write this article as I travel watch the England vs France women international game, and it would be hoped that both Hollie Dodd and Keara Bennett will feature; both of whom also played in these finals only 4 years ago.

Regardless of what you go on to achieve within the game all I really want for you all today is to have a great experience and go away with a burning passion for the sport. This sport is very special indeed and you are involved in it in one of the most important years in its 127 year history. We have recently realigned the governance of the sport and signed a 12 year strategic partnership with one of the world's biggest sports and entertainment organisations. This will mean change going forward and that is exciting. We also, of course, have a World Cup at the end of this year in which countries from all over the globe will arrive on these shores, all with the intention of taking away with them any one of the three trophies for the Men, Women and Wheelchair events.

In short, you have reached the Champion Schools Finals in a truly historic year for this sport; make the most of it!

Enjoy the Game today. That's an important phrase which means a great deal to this sport. Players, match officials, teachers, parents and all those that helped each player along the way to get to this event should be respected at all times. This Champion Schools journey and event have the potential to impact very positively and project the sport at its very best. Let's make sure it does.

RALPH RIMMER
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
THE RUGBY FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Welcome to the 2022 Champion Schools Finals. It is a wonderful feeling to be back after three years!

This has been my first full year overseeing the competition after the 2020 season was curtailed early in the knockout stages for the boys, and before any National competition even began for the girls. It has been an absolute pleasure to finally see first-hand the high standards of skills on show across the competition, made all the sweeter by the enforced break.

We retained the 'new' format of the girl's competition which was first introduced in 2019; hosting separate semi-final fixtures for the top 4 teams progressing through from the National Festivals. This gives a vital extra playing opportunity for the non-community players as we try to grow the talent pool in schools to further enhance the quality of Women & Girls' Rugby League now and in the future. The boy's competition continues to successfully operate on a 16 team, 3 round knock-out format.

There were lots of close and exciting games in both the girls' and boys' semi-finals; two games were won in Golden Point extra time, and many others featured unlikely comeback wins and last-minute victories. The standard of Rugby League on show proves that the future of our great game is in safe hands with these players, and I look forward to following the journeys of many of the talented young people involved today as they will undoubtedly achieve success at elite level in coming years.

I must say a huge thank you to all the staff from our participating schools for getting Rugby League back on the school sport landscape at a time when it would probably have been much easier not to play! A special message goes to the staff from our finalists; You will have undoubtedly spent countless hours of your own time not only delivering coaching and training sessions to prepare your team on the pitch, but also completing meticulous planning and administration tasks to get them here today. Without your drive and commitment this competition simply does not happen.

Win, lose or draw, I hope that you enjoy the experience today. Congratulate yourselves on being involved in a National Final; it is a tremendous achievement and only a small number of players, coaches and match officials can list it as an accomplishment on their Rugby League CVs!

Play well!

ANDREA MURRAY
SECONDARY SCHOOLS MANAGER
THE RUGBY FOOTBALL LEAGUE



CHAMPION SCHOOLS HISTORY

School rugby competitions to find "Champion Schools" have existed for 120 years – starting with local competitions, through to county competitions, and finally a national competition which began over 40 years ago.

English Schools' Rugby League was formed in 1967 and the first national champions, in 1981, were St John Fisher of Wigan who beat Parkside (Hunslet) in the final. For the first three years the competition was organised at Under 16 only, then in 1984 the competition was extended down to Under 11 (although the Under 11 tournament was curtailed in 1998). For the 2003 competition, ESRL went into partnership with the Rugby Football League to create a new structure, culminating in a finals day at Cardiff Arms Park the day before the Challenge Cup Final at Millennium Stadium. The girls' competition began the following year, with Year 7 only, and grew incrementally to fully mirror the boys' competition by 2008, making it the largest Rugby League competition in the world.

Having lost the Champion Schools programme to the Covid pandemic for two years, it has been heartening to see schools' Rugby League return to a full playing programme in 2021-22. For the first time ever, the finals will be linked to "Magic Weekend" as opposed to the Challenge Cup Final, with a new venue for the schools in Newcastle.

I am sure that this year's finals will be every bit as entertaining and enjoyable as previous finals, for players and spectators alike.

Steve Boothroyd
Schools Representative, RFL Council

MATCH OFFICIALS

Match Officials Manager Tom Grant is delighted to have a strong squad of young Match Officials selected to officiate the Champion Schools Finals in Newcastle. "Congratulations must go to the talented young officials who have been selected to officiate at such a prestigious event on the Rugby League calendar. We have had strong competition for places this year and selection is testament to the commitment, effort and hard work of all the officials selected. We are pleased to have officials from across the country with representatives from Yorkshire, Lancashire, Cumbria and London in the seven strong squad, may they enjoy the experience and push on further in their refereeing careers"

The return of the Champion Schools finals after a Covid enforced break is a welcome boost to the pathway for young Match Officials; the competition is held in high regard and has long been a target for younger Match Officials as they officiate in both the Community and Professional games alongside educational commitments.

The selected officials will be hoping that their experience in the Champion Schools competition will be an important step on the ladder to ultimately following in the footsteps of many Super League officials who have featured in the competition over the years.

Thanks must also go to the Match Official Coordinators for the weekend, Steve Race and Jayden Covell-Wood who will be guiding and coaching the officials across the games.

Today's match officials are as follows:
Ben Brocklehurst, Milo McKelvey, Oliver Salmon, Luke Flavell, Lucas Seal, Josh Pemberton, Henry Winnard

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Rugby Football League would like to thank a number of people and organisations for their support throughout this year's Champion Schools Competition, and for everything they do to help grow our game.

First of all a big thank you and congratulations must go to all the players who have taken part in Champion Schools during the 2021/22 season – helping to make the biggest Rugby League knockout competition in the world what it is today!

Our thanks also go to Newcastle Thunder and Thunder Community Foundation for hosting us at Kingston Park today and their support in the run up to these exciting finals. We must also mention the support from our Community Clubs in providing their facilities and volunteers in earlier rounds; Crosfields RLFC and Oulton Raiders RLFC have been excellent hosts each time they have been called upon in both the boys and girls competitions.

A huge thanks must also go to the teachers and support staff who have dedicated countless extra hours of hard work to make this possible for everyone involved.

Finally, we couldn't run this event without the support of parents, match officials, volunteers and our own dedicated staff. We are looking forward to a great Rugby League experience for everyone!

Thank you!

SCHOOL CO-ORDINATORS

The Rugby Football League would like to thank our workforce of Champion Schools local co-ordinators for their time and effort and congratulate them on their accomplishments.

These voluntary roles ensure that the local stages of the competition are promoted, managed and organised professionally, allowing their local schools and pupils an opportunity to take part in the early qualifying stages of the competition.

Their work this year has been more important than ever as schools cautiously took the first steps back into competitive environments in September 2021 following the long break. Without their drive and continued enthusiasm to support the RFL and this competition, the Finals today would not be possible.

REGION	LOCAL AREA	CHAMPION SCHOOLS CO-ORDINATOR	SCHOOL/ORGANISATION
Cumbria	Barrow	Jon Seal	Dowdales High School
Cumbria	West Cumbria	Paul Farrell	St Benedict's High School
London & South East	South London	Steve Frost	South London Silverbacks RLC
London & South East	Hemel	Bob Brown	Hemel Stags RLC & Adeyfield School
London & South East	Hemel	Rhys Mellor	Hemel Stags RLC & Adeyfield School
London & South East	Richmond	Ed Roberts	RTS & Richmond School Sport Partnership
London & South East	Richmond	Maggie Morrell	RTS & Richmond School Sport Partnership
London & South East	Essex & Suffolk	Peter Le Marquand	Sigma Sixth & Eastern Rhinos RLC
London & South East	North London	Kev Flanagan	London Skolars RL
London & South East	Elmbridge	Kevin Rudd	Elmbridge Eagles RLC
London & South East	Leatherhead	Sam Beadle	Howard Of Effingham School
London & South East	Leatherhead	Shane Birkett	Howard Of Effingham School
North West	Manchester	Kev Raynor	Salford Red Devils Foundation
North West	Oldham	Gary Melling	Saddleworth High School
North West	St Helens	Jenny Welsby	Saints Community Development Foundation
North West	Warrington	Ryan Cartledge	Warrington Wolves Charitable Foundation
North West	Widnes	Ste Burke	Saints Peter and Paul Catholic High School
North West	Wigan	Neil Ashton	St Peter's Catholic High School
North West	Girls Regional Qualifiers	Kris Ratcliffe	Deanery High School
North West	North West Plate Competition	Andy Duncalf	Hawkley Hall High School
Yorkshire	Bradford	Shaun Flynn	The Bradford Bulls Foundation
Yorkshire	Calderdale	Richard Cole	Ryburn Valley High School
Yorkshire	Hull	Mark Arridge	St Mary's College & Hull Active Schools
Yorkshire	Kirklees	Jon Smith	Salendine Nook High School
Yorkshire	Leeds	Ellis Pascal	Leeds Rhinos Foundation
Yorkshire	Wakefield	Lee Hudson	Outwood Academy Freeston
Yorkshire	Girls Regional Qualifiers	Ryan Lloyd	Castleford Academy
Yorkshire	Yorkshire Plate Competition	James Abbott	Archbishop Sentamu Academy
Yorkshire	Yorkshire Plate Competition	Peter Grayburn	Archbishop Sentamu Academy
Wales	Boys and Girls Regional Qualifiers	Mark Jones	Wales Rugby League

STEVEN MULLANEY MEMORIAL GAME

Thirty-six years ago, Steven Mullaney, a schoolboy Rugby League player, thrilled television viewers across the country by scoring a superb solo try as Wakefield Schools defeated St Helens 17-0 in the traditional Year 7 Boys curtain-raiser at Wembley, before the 1986 Challenge Cup Final.

Tragically, Steven died in a road traffic accident the following year. As a tribute to him, the English Schools' Year 7 Boys (under 12s) game, was renamed the The Steven Mullaney Memorial Game.

Since then, generations of young players have carried on his joy of playing Rugby League by taking part in this special fixture, which has become an integral part of our Champion Schools Finals. It is a very special occasion for Steven's family. His father Terry says "It means everything to the family, it's such a great honour that the RFL still choose to remember Steven for the game he played back in '86. It's always a proud day for us, we look forward to it immensely every year and it's great to see this game and the other finals returning to the calendar after missing the last 2 years.

It's a great honour for the whole family to attend the game and present the trophies. To see these kids coming through and award them with their medals is a great thrill for myself, his mum Denise and our daughter, Lauren. They are such talented lads as well, hopefully some of them will go on to make it as international players in the future.

One of our Grandson's Jack has just been awarded a Scholarship at Huddersfield Giants and both have always played the game. They know all about Uncle Steven and are definitely following in his footsteps. We're Rugby League people through and through. To be quite honest, words can't describe how much it means to us".

The showcase fixture will return from it's enforced break this year and make it's debut at Magic Weekend, as Bridgewater High School from Warrington and Castleford Academy face off on the St James' Park turf.

Many young players who have represented their school in the Steven Mullaney Memorial Game have gone on to make their mark on both the professional and international stage. Among those are Mike Ford, Denis Betts, Phil Clarke, Chev Walker, Kevin Sinfield and Ryan Hampshire. Keep an eye out for the stars of all of the finals making their mark across Super League and Women's Super League in a few years time.



ST PETERS RC

KO: 10:40AM

COACH: Ceris Mellor

SQUAD:

Devine-Blessing **ADAFIN**
Wing | 5ft 5'

Michelle **EDOKPOLO**
Prop | 5ft 8'

Melissa **KAYEMBE**
Centre | 5ft 5'

Sionah **JAMIESON**
Hooker | 5ft

Chelsea **KANDOLO**
Secoond - Row | 5ft 2'

Keisha **KALEMERA**
Scrum - Half | 15ft 2'

Sophia **SCHUTZ**
Wing | 5ft 2'

Abigail **TRAORE**
Prop | 5ft 8'

Henriquet **SIMBU-BIN MONTA**
Stand - Off | 5ft 2'

Sidney **BRAIMAH-OBOH**
Second - Row | 5ft 7'

Kelly **OKEKE**
Loose Forward | 5ft 8'

Martina **VANDUNEM MARIO**
Wing | 5ft 4'

Sofia **ERIN**
Prop | 5ft 7'

Victoria **ADEILYI**
Wing | 5ft 2'

Tiana **MURWIRA**
Centre | 5ft 3'

Abigail **AJONYE**
Prop | 5ft 5'

After placing first in their National festival group, an 18-14 semi-final victory against Workington Academy followed for St Peter's – coach Ceris Mellor has been blown away by the team's success so far, saying: "The girls have done extremely well in the competition this year. Rugby League was a new sport to these girls with them joining St Peter's for Year 7, and with their natural born athleticism they have shown dedication and desire to do well in a sport they haven't known much about previously."

With the sport as a whole being new to a lot of players, the players devotion to each other on the pitch has gone a long way, says Ceris: "The girls work really well as a team and the communication that they use throughout the games they have had has been key to their success. Kelly makes us a lot of yards in attack, Sionah and Devine have great footwork and speed and have outwitted opponents throughout the competition to get us to where we are, Keisha and Henriquet have been vital at marker, shutting down the oppositions attack."

Ahead of what will be a memorable day in Newcastle, the coach also said: "The focus is for the girls to enjoy themselves and do the best that they can do."

They're all very excited for the final and can't wait to represent their school in a National Final, we are all very proud of them!"





MALET LAMBERT

KO: 10:40AM

COACH: Stu Beadle & Emma Genter

Malet Lambert's route to the Champion Schools final is a remarkable story – the Hull outfit only formed as a team in December 2021, just in time for the Hull qualifying tournament, yet they find themselves in a final at Kingston Park Stadium.

Looking back on such an impressive feat, coach Stu Beadle, who has been at Malet Lambert for twenty years now, said: "We didn't know what to expect as we had only just started playing, and for the vast majority of our players, it was their first ever rugby match."

After unbeaten runs in both the Hull qualifying tournament and the Yorkshire Cup festival, Malet Lambert shone once again, with Beadle reflecting on a memorable day: "On arrival at the National festival they were incredibly excited to see how they would fare against opposition from further afield, that were vastly more experienced than ourselves.

"Once again though, they took the festival in their stride and went unbeaten!"

Looking ahead to the final, the Malet Lambert coach said: "We are going to be playing a very strong St Peter's side. After seeing them play in the semi-final, our defence is going to have be on point – hopefully we have the technique and skill to tackle effectively and complete our own sets to get us over the line."

Mr Beadle once again expressed his delight at how the players managed to create such a formidable team in such a short space of time, stating: "Each player has played a huge part in this collective team journey, and some standout performers were Caitlin Middleton, Ava Smith and Anya Jackson. Their defence and organisational skills along with their athleticism make them key components of the team.

"But our strength really does come as a collective, and each player is integral to our success."

Anticipation has been building for a while now, with Stu highlighting the excitement levels:

"The excitement builds with every training session and the girls can't wait for the whistle to blow, and the match to start. Each and every girl wants to do their best and show everyone what they can do."

"Through each of the local, regional and national stages of this competition we have had the support of the school, parents and local community throughout and we hope we can do you all proud."

SQUAD:

Anya **JACKSON**
Prop | 176cm

Caitlin **MIDDLETON**
Hooker | 161cm

Ava **SMITH**
Prop | 174cm

Emily **FLYNN**
Second - Row | 167cm

Indie **TINDALL**
Second - Row | 169cm

Alexia **ROBERTS**
Centre | 174cm

Abbey **FIELD**
Wing | 163cm

Lilly **BARON**
Centre | 167cm

Poppy **LAKE**
Wing | 160cm

Darcie **DEAN**
Hooker/Wing | 152cm

Aimee Leigh **GRANNON**
Centre/Wing | 161cm

Daisy **ELLIS**
Centre/Wing | 159cm

Nahya **MADLEY**
Wing | 154cm

Isabelle **BROWN**
Wing | 155cm





CASTLEFORD ACADEMY

KO: 12:30PM [SATURDAY 9TH JULY]

COACH: Tom Sanigar

SQUAD:

Drew **WILBY**
Fullback | 166cm

Josh **WOODHEAD**
Wing | 149cm

Reece **BREAR**
Centre | 158cm

Jackson **KESIK**
Half - Back | 164cm

Archie **LUNN**
Prop | 174cm

Harry **STONE**
Second - Row | 169cm

Charlie **CARTER**
Centre | 165cm

Kayden **HUSBAND**
Centre | 149cm

Max **RICHARDSON**
Second - Row | 172cm

Ellis **JOHNSON**
Loose Forward | 169cm

Noah **LONGDEN**
Wing | 147

Ralf **LEE**
Hooker | 145cm

Gabe **FAMUREWA**
Centre | 160cm

Tom **BLEZZARD**
Prop | 160cm

Fletcher **SHELDRAKE**
Scrum - Half | 158cm

Nathan **ANAMAN**
Wing | 158cm

Tom **LLOYD**
Prop | 160cm

Joshua **KARL**
Wing | 160cm

Craig **TSUMA**
Prop | 169cm



Castleford Academy secured their place at St James' Park for the Steven Mullaney Memorial Game after some hard-fought encounters in their run to the final. Reflecting on a tough Champion Schools campaign, coach Tom Sanigar said: "The route to the final really tested the team. We had a long journey for the quarter final to Wales, which proved to be the team's first real test.

"We got off to a great start, going 0-10 up, but the second half saw the defence put under a lot of pressure. The score was 6-10 with 5 minutes to go but resolute defending saw us hold onto the lead.

"The semis saw the side down on the scoreboard for the first time in the competition, but the team dug deep and found a way to win with a superb last minute try from Archie Lunn."

A tough route to Champion Schools success won't be getting any easier according to Sanigar, who was keen to point out a real challenge awaits: "We expect the final to be just as hard as the previous two games.

"We had one eye on the other semi-final and witnessed a fantastic comeback from Bridgewater High to make the finals.

It's a brilliant advert for Schools rugby being the curtain raiser for the Magic Weekend, and a fantastic opportunity for the boys to put on a real show."

No side can make a final without playing as a unit, and solid performances are needed across the entire squad from everyone – Castleford Academy has gained a reputation for nurturing young Rugby League talent, though, and this Year 7 side is no different: "Every member

of the team has had a real impact on the success so far. However, there has been some exceptional stand out performers. "Fletcher Sheldrake has been a real leader on the pitch and his knowledge and game-management earned him the captaincy.

"Max Richardson has been a real powerhouse, his speed and athleticism has proven difficult for the opposition to stop and will be a huge player for the final.

"Archie Lunn has the ability to take the game into his own hands – he can score a try out of nothing and his tackle count in a game is second to none.

"Jaxson Kesik and Drew Wilby have shown some raw ability in the games so far, and they give us some real structure in our play – definitely ones to watch out for in the final, and they'll definitely rise to the occasion.

"A huge positive for the team is Craig Tshuma coming back from a three-month injury, he adds strength and power in both attack and defence."

"As you can imagine, the Year 7 boys are ecstatic to be in the final at St James' Park. The whole occasion will be one to remember for the team, staff, family and friends. We hope to put on a good show."



BRIDGEWATER HIGH SCHOOL

KO: 12:30PM [SATURDAY 9TH JULY]

COACH: Paul Mackay

SQUAD:

Daniel **AYLOTT**
Prop | 5ft 5'

Freddie **O'NEIL**
Half Back | 5ft 5'

Mac **FINN**
Centre | 5ft 6'

Christian **MORRALL-SANTANA**
Full Back | 5ft 6'

Austin **NICHOLSON**
Centre | 5ft 10'

Tobias **BIRCHALL**
Hooker | 5ft 4'

Toby **DITCHFIELD**
Second - Row | 5ft 11'

Isaac **LYDON**
Centre | 5ft 10'

Patrick **DAINTITH**
Winger | 5ft 7'

Teddy **HASTINGS**
Half - Back | 5ft 8'

Lucas **ORGILL**
Loose Forwood | 5ft 9'

Gonzalo **CARRERA BRIEGAS**
Prop | 5ft 7'

Sam **PALFREYMAN**
Wing | 5ft 5'

Charlie **MULDOWN**
Wing | 5ft 5'



Paddy **HENNESSEY**
Prop | 5ft 5'

Samuel **FARQUHAR**
Second Row | 5ft 8'

Archie **CORBYV**
Wing | 5ft 6'

An impressive Champion Schools run saw Bridgewater High School book their place in the Steven Mullaney Memorial Game, where the players will take to the St James' Park pitch.

Looking ahead to what will be a memorable occasion at an historic venue, coach Paul MacKay said: "Both players and staff are very excited about the final. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to play at the highest level on the greatest stage."

Mr MacKay also highlighted the team's resilience in a fantastic cup run: "We have had an excellent run up to the final.

"The team have really bonded and have developed as a squad more and more with each game. The last few rounds have been exceptional and both times we have come from behind to win the games in the second half."

With Bridgewater High School clearly having a knack for not downing tools, Paul put it down to the strong team spirit within the squad, and that they're ready for what's to come: "We have played as a squad since we started in September and all players have stood out at different points within the year. I am sure that the team will once again perform outstandingly in the final."

Champion Schools success is always something to be proud of and the coach is well aware of what it means to everyone, giving a nod to all those who will be in attendance supporting the boys on such a big day: "Both the players and staff are really looking forward to the final. The occasion and the location will ensure a fantastic experience for players, coaches and all the parents who will be attending.

"I would like to thank all the parents for their continued support over the past year!"



MALET LAMBERT

KO: 11.45AM

COACH: Stu Beadle & Emma Genter

SQUAD:

Elly **MANN**
Prop | 176cm

Lexi **QUAIL**
Prop | 172cm

Edie **BARTON**
2nd Row | 162cm

Nell **WOODALL**
Centre | 160cm

Lilly **SATCHWELL KIRK**
Wing | 172cm

Kacey **WHITE**
Centre | 166cm

Paz **COOPER**
Hooker | 165cm

Maddison **POWLEY**
Wing | 161cm

Honey **YEAMAN**
Centre | 170cm

Mia **Baldry**
Wing | 157cm

Phoebe **CHEESBROUGH**
2nd Row / Centre | 173cm

Charli **HOWARD**
Wing | 169cm

Darcie **HALL**
Wing | 165cm

Betsy **CLARK**
2nd Row | 168cm

Millie **DAWSON**
Wing | 154cm

Malet Lambert girls clearly have a knack for finals – with the Year 7's already confirming their place, coaches Stu Beadle and Miss Genter also lead the Year 8's to Kingston Park.

Like the Year 7's, this is a side that were only formed in December, but have taken huge strides. After unbeaten runs in local and regional competition, a comfortable semi-final win saw them progress. Looking back on their Champion Schools campaign, Mr Beadle said: "The semi-finals provoked both excitement and nerves as nobody wants to lose a semi-final of this magnitude, but once again the team excelled, beating a very well organised and committed Hexham team."

After an impressive run, the coach is also well aware of the challenge ahead: "We are playing a very strong Castleford Academy team who we have already played in the Yorkshire Cup final.

"We know they are very good defensively, in attack they have good, strong runners with a quick play of the ball that will catch you out if you're not back, set and ready for them.

"We have worked on a few things since the Yorkshire Cup final and we hope we can put these plans into action in the National Final."

With Malet Lambert being such a new side, team spirit and togetherness have been key, as have some mesmerising individual performances: "We have a host of strong runners and tacklers that lead by example. Players to watch will be Elly Mann, Betsy Clark, Lexi Quail and Edie Barton.

"It must be said that for both teams our strength comes as a collective and each player is integral to our success. We cannot wait to take to the Kingston Park pitch."

CASTLEFORD ACADEMY

KO: 11.45AM

COACH: Danny Holmes

SQUAD:

Lexi **HUNTER RIDING**
Centre | 165cm

Olivia **SIDDONS**
Half-back | 169cm

Beth **HIGGINS**
Hooker | 169cm

Beau **OWEN**
Second Row | 171cm

Alexa **KENNEDY**
Second Row | 170cm

Lisa **GREGORY**
Prop | 163cm

Sophia **ROBBINS**
Centre | 177cm

Mylie **HOLMES**
Prop | 175cm

Evie **GEE**
Winger | 169cm

Ruby **DARLEY**
Centre | 168cm

Olivia **HOBBS**
Second Row | 168cm

Abigail **CHENG**
Centre | 153cm

Abi **TOWLER**
Prop | 165cm

Baylee **HARRISON**
Centre | 168

It's a massive day for Castleford Academy, who have multiple teams from different year groups all making it to respective Champion Schools finals.

For the Year 8 girls lead by Danny Holmes, though, their trip to Newcastle is their reward for such a huge effort dating back to over a year ago: "This bunch of girls have been working hard since Year 7 – now their effort, commitment and enthusiasm has paid off.

"Leading up to today's big game, they're unbeaten in all competitions which is a huge achievement. It was clear to me the girls wanted to play in big games and be part of occasions like today when the champions school started again this year – they have been a pleasure to coach this year, and we're all so excited."

Looking ahead to the game, Mr Holmes said: "The opposition are a great team – they have quality players and they are a team that can score a lot of points.

"After playing them in the Yorkshire Cup final earlier this year, I can definitely say it's going to be an absolute cracker."

"There has been a few stand out performances this year throughout the festivals – to name a few, Beau Kenny with her strength and speed, Olivia Siddons with her game management, Lisa Gregory carrying through the middle and also Beth Higgins with her blistering pace from dummy half."

The occasion has not been lost on Mr Holmes or the players, with the coach highlighting everyone's excitement: "The girls are so excited around school – there's been a real buzz leading up to the finals for many of the players, and playing at a stadium like Kingston Park is something they may never do again. Days like today really will stay with you forever."





RYBURN VALLEY

KO: 12:50PM

COACH: Ryan Duffy & Richard Cole

SQUAD:

Brady BOTTOMLEY Prop 6ft2'	Harry SPROSON 2nd Row 5ft8'
Connor HANSON 2nd Row 5ft8'	George SWALES Prop 5ft5'
Jack INGHAM Loose Forward 5ft1'	Ted CASALE Wing 5ft1'
Josh COOKE Scrum Half 5ft8'	Tobias STANSFIELD Prop 5ft3'
Harry MERVILL Full Back 5ft7'	Tyler FAULKNER Wing 5ft7'
Tom BURNS Stand Off 5ft9'	Beau STAUNTON THOMAS Wing 5ft6'
Alfie THOMAS Centre 5ft7'	Archie SINCLAIR WILLIS Centre 5ft7'
Riley WEBSTER Hooker 5ft1'	Freddie WYLDE Hooker 5ft1'
Juelz OLDROYD Wing 5ft2'	Charlie THOMIS Prop 5ft8'
Freddie WALTERS Wing 5ft6'	George HUGHES Wing 5ft9'



Lead by Ryan Duffy & Richard Cole, the West-Yorkshire outfit put together a magnificent string of results to earn themselves a place in the final.

A 36-12 victory over Rainford set up a quarter-final with Westcliffe of London, where a dominant 50-0 win meant they were one game away from a trip to Newcastle.

Of course, the Ryburn Valley boys made no mistake once again, and another comprehensive performance saw them run out 38-14 winners against St John Fisher.

Looking ahead to a memorable day on Tynside, coach Mr Duffy said: "The Ryburn players are looking forward to the final, but they know the opposition will be tough!

"Preparation has been going well and some of the less experienced players have made great improvements.

"The school are very proud of the squad and we appreciate the opportunity to play at Kingston Park."



Dominant local and regional competition performances saw Standish Community High progress to the National stages as a first seed, where another run of impressive wins saw them secure their place in the Champion Schools final.

With full focus on a trip to Kingston Park, coach Mark Devine said: "The final itself should be an incredibly tight game, as we face Ryburn Valley who themselves have won local and regional competitions already, and like ourselves remain unbeaten this season!"

Mark was keen to highlight the progress that every player has made this year, and the strides they've taken as a team to get to where they are. Some standout performers have not only caught his eye, but the eyes of professional clubs: "This year has seen a number of outstanding players progress, but Matt Halton has been our star man at loose forward.

"Try scoring, assists, and some incredible defending has made him a player that many professional teams close to the school have started to monitor.

"Honourable mentions should also go to the pair of second rows, Charlie Jeffery-Stott and Ellis Corfield, who have both contributed in the most important of moments in the biggest of games."

It's a huge occasion for the players, staff and parents, but also the school as a whole – Standish Community High are no strangers to these types of games, as Mr Devine pointed out: "Players, parents and staff cannot wait to get to Newcastle! Our school still has posters of our last visit to a National Final at Wembley in 2019, and so the Year 8 are desperate to get there and this time be on the right side of the result!"

STANDISH

KO: 12:50PM

COACH: Mark Devine

SQUAD:

Ellis **CORFIELD**
Second Row | 180cm

Charlie **JEFFERY-STOTT**
Second Row | 177cm

Matt **HALTON**
Loose Forward | 182cm

Max **PEARSON**
Wing | 159cm

Callan **JONES-BROWNING**
Second Row | 168cm

Oliver **SAMMONS**
Prop | 184cm

Sonny **ASTLEY**
Halfback | 161cm

Tom **LOWE**
Full back | 164

Oliver **PEARSON**
Wing | 159

Toby **HOUSLEY**
Centre | 163cm

Alfie **SILCOCK**
Centre | 164cm

Toby **CALDERBANK-MANNIX**
Wing | 172cm

James **WILSON**
Halfback | 164cm

Rhys **CHEETHAM**
Halfback | 162cm

Daniel **QADERI**
Prop | 181cm

Mike **MCCLARNAN**
Hooker | 150cm

Charlie **DORAN**
Prop | 163cm





ARCHBISHOP SENTAMU

KO: 2:05PM

COACH: Pete Grayburn

SQUAD:

Grace **ANTCLIFFE**
Front Row | 5ft6'

Isobelle **PLATTEN**
Hooker | 5ft4'

Amelia **MOLNAR**
Centre | 5ft6'

Levi **BOSWELL**
Half Back | 5ft3'

Lexie **HINDS**
Half Back | 5ft5'

Ella **HOWE**
Half Back | 5ft6'

Tilly **IRVINE**
Front Row | 5ft9'

Tillie **HAWLEY**
Front Row | 5ft6'

Brooke **HODGINS**
Back Row | 5ft5'

Amy **MASLIN**
Full Back | 5ft2'

Abigail **BARR**
Front Row | 5ft6'

Ria **POTTER**
Back Row | 5ft6'

Skye **PHILLIPS**
Wing | 5ft4'

Megan **TURNBULL**
Centre | 5ft5'

Emily **SMITH**
Wing | 5ft19'

Alisha **BEILBY**
Front Row | 5ft5'

Another school with multiple teams in the finals, the Year 9 girls of Archbishop Sentamu have achieved an incredible feat. This is all new ground for a lot of players, with coach Pete Grayburn saying: "This group of girls, many who don't play Rugby League, have shown real togetherness and grit to achieve their place in the final.

"Going unbeaten throughout all fixtures is remarkable, and hopefully we can capitalise on this and replicate this in the final."

The sides will be familiar with one another, as today's final won't be the first time they've met this season. Mr Grayburn reflected on their previous encounter: "In the preliminary rounds of the National competition, we came up against Ysgol Glantaf who we will now meet in the final.

"The game was extremely close, with a 10-8 score line in our favour. Glantaf play very free flowing expansive rugby and are great to watch. In comparison, we are defence orientated and like to respect the ball, which I believe will make for great viewing in the final!"

Reaching a Champion Schools final at Kingston Park is an achievement that cannot be understated for this group, with Pete keen to emphasise that fact whilst noting a standout performer: "We have a relatively small intake of rugby league players in our Year 9 girls cohort, making this feat even more special.

"Ella Howe controls the speed and tempo of our game and although small in stature makes up for this in heart, desire and determination."

"We are all so excited for the occasion, and the team can't wait to show what they're made of on the Kingston Park pitch."



YSGOL GLANTAF

KO: 2:05PM

COACH: Rhydian Garner

SQUAD:

Megan **JONES**
5ft 5

With the school already holding a strong place in the Champion Schools history books, Ysgol Glantaf are in the hunt once again.

Hannah **CHARITOS**
5ft 9

With a catalogue of achievements in the competition, coach Rhydian Garner said: "Glantaf made history in 2015, winning the Year 7 Champion schools Final at Wembley in their debut season.

Gwennan **EVANS**
5ft 4

"Since then, Glantaf have competed in the Champions Schools competition multiple times, reaching the final in 2016 and 2017.

Mabli **GRIFFITHS**
5ft 4

"This season, Glantaf made history once again becoming the first ever girls' national champions. They defeated Ysgol Rhydywaun to qualify for the National rounds of the Champion Schools, thus becoming the second girls' team from Wales in history to achieve this, after Glantaf under 16's qualified earlier this year."

Lili-nel **STEVENSON**
5ft 7

Looking back on a memorable run with plenty to be proud of, Rhydian stated: "The highlight of the campaign was a tense affair against a very strong Manor Croft team in the semi-final. Both defences were on top in a high tempo, highly skilled game in difficult conditions in Warrington – the 0-0 half-time score line didn't reflect the excellent standard of rugby played by both sides, but some heroic rugby in the second half secured the win!"

Grace **RAYER**
5ft 4

Erin **LIA-WILLIAMS**
5ft 6

"It has been a very good season for this talented group of girls from Ysgol Glantaf, who earlier in the year reached the semi-finals of the Rosslyn Park National 7s tournament.

Lily **O'NEILL**
5ft 5

"Although many are playing their first full season of rugby, they won't lack final day experience as many of the squad members have won multiple regional and national titles this year in other sports as well. They're ready!"

Olivia **RAWNSLEY**
5ft 6'

The opportunity to take to the pitch in a professional stadium doesn't come around often, and excitement levels are soaring, but it wouldn't have been possible without the contribution of everyone associated with the school – Mr Garner said: "The department would like to thank Mr Matthew Evans, our headmaster, for his continued support throughout the year, providing the school with the means and the opportunity to compete in such a prestigious competition.

Elan **HALL**
5ft 4'

Alexa **FISHER**
5ft 10'

"The PE department would also like to thank all the parents and carers for their continued support!"

Romilly **BENNETT**
5ft 4'

Genevieve **MILES**
5ft 7'

Evie **COLLINGWOOD**
5ft 3'

Imogen **EVANS**
5ft 4'



ARCHBISHOP SENTAMU

KO: 3:10PM

COACH: Pete Grayburn

SQUAD:

Alfie **SAWYERS**

Full Back | 5'10'

Ben **BROCKLEBANK**

Wing | 5'10'

Ceegan **YOUNG**

Centre | 5'10'

Josh **CHAPMAN-HILL**

Centre | 5'9'

Charlie **BIBBY**

Wing | 5'6'

Evan **ADAMSON**

Half Back | 5'6'

Ellis **CHAPMAN**

Half Back | 5'6'

Alfie **EBOT ENOMBI**

Front Row | 5'10'

Jake **GAWTHORPE**

Hooker | 5'5'

Spencer **GEORGE**

Front Row | 6'1'

Ashton **BLANCHARD**

Back Row | 6'0'

George **MCKEAN**

Back Row | 6'2'

Leon **TRENNWOLF**

Loose Forward | 5'9'

Charlie **MCBRIDE**

Front Row | 5'2'

Billy **MAGEE**

Hooker | 4'10'

Kory **SHEPPARD**

Front Row | 5'10'

Josh **LYON**

Back Row | 5'11'

Alex **SALTAN**

Wing | 4'11'

Taylor **DRINKALL**

Wing | 5'4'

Lawson **EDWARDS**

Back Row | 5'9'

Reggie **WAITES**

Back Row | 5'9'

Alfie **BROWN**

Front Row | 6'0'

Travis **ROBINSON**

Front Row | 6'3'

Tommie **HANCOCK**

Hooker | 5'6'

Tommy **FOWLER**

Wing | 5'0'

Carl **MILNER**

Centre | 5'7'

Riley **WITHERS**

Wing | 5'10'

Josh **TOWNSEND**

Half Back | 5'6'



Archbishop Sentamu have had an outstanding Champion Schools campaign. It was one stern test after another for coach Pete Grayburn's team, and the man himself offered his take on a solid run: "We are extremely proud of this talented group of boys.

"They had a tough route to the final with an away visit to the Welsh ranked number one side, which we prepared for as professionally as possible by staying over – it was a great experience for the students, and along the way we've also beaten some brilliant teams from Warrington, Cardiff and Wigan."

The tough tests don't stop coming for Archbishop Sentamu, though, with Mr Grayburn making it clear he and the boys know what they're up against: "Going up against Castleford Academy is always a challenge regardless of the age category, as they are a fantastic Rugby League school.

Mainly due to the pandemic, we have not yet had the opportunity to play against them in any competition but we're buzzing for the opportunity to challenge ourselves both individually and collectively."

As Pete said himself, the collective is key – with such a big squad, pulling together is essential, and Archbishop Sentamu do just that: "We have a rotational system within our squad of 27 students who have all played their part in reaching the final.

"An individual that springs to mind is full back and captain, Alfie Sawyers. A natural born leader who takes us round the park from the back and is a threat each and every time he has the ball in his hands."

With most of the hard work done, a memorable occasion awaits. It's all eyes on the Champion Schools final, with Mr Grayburn looking ahead: "First of all, we would like to thank the RFL and Newcastle Thunder for organising and hosting the event.

"These experiences are heightened by playing at professional grounds, and there is a real buzz about the whole weekend from the students, and again we are making the weekend as exciting as possible by staying over and soaking up the Magic Weekend atmosphere – we can't wait!"



CASTLEFORD ACADEMY

KD: 3:10PM

COACH: Danny Holmes

SQUAD:

Tylor **SHARPE**
Full Back | 182cm

Altay **OZCELIK**
Winger | 165cm

Jacob **LONGDEN**
Centre | 177cm

Alfie **STEEL**
Centre | 177cm

Alfie **SMITH**
Winger | 179cm

Jacob **HARDY**
Stand Off | 184cm

Brynley **BELLWOOD**
Half Back | 170cm

Kye **ADDY**
Prop | 172cm

Travis **MORSE**
Hooker | 181cm

Clayton **DWYER**
Prop | 178cm

Jayden **POLLITT**
Prop | 173cm

Jack **EGLEY**
Second Row | 178cm

Rhys **FIRTH**
Loose Forward | 176cm

Will **JEX**
Hooker | 171cm

Tommy **COWELL**
Half Back | 175cm

Robin **SMITH**
Second Row | 186cm

Harley **ORR**
Centre | 177cm



It's an extra special occasion for the Year 9 Boys of Castleford Academy. It was heartbreak a couple of years ago when this same group of boys fell short in the Champion Schools competition, and coach Danny Holmes reckons it spurred them on to get to where they are now: "The Year 9 boys were devastated back in Year 7 not making the national competition. From then on, it's been the team's main goal to try and reach the National finals.

"It's a small, tight-knit group and I can't fault the boys this year for their commitment and effort leading up to the semi-finals last month. It was the game that just summed up how much this team want to win, and as a coach I got to see what the boys can really do – it's just exciting.

"Going down by fourteen points and then winning the game in Golden Point just proves the resilience and never-say-die attitude the team have. It's a fantastic achievement what this group have accomplished together, and we are all working hard to finish strong."

Bouncing back from the disappointment of the Year 7 campaign has seen some real progression within the squad – "One of the standout players this year have been Tylor Sharpe, his game awareness and solo effort have been phenomenal. Jacob Hardy for his role as captain and leading the team by example too, forward Rhys Firth, and Kye Addy toughing it out in the middle" Holmes said.

"The boys are very excited for today's game. The opposition are a class outfit, and really well





ST JOHNS FISHER

KO: 4:25PM

COACH: Lauren Egan

SQUAD:

Chantelle **COTTINGHAM**
Wing | 5ft6'

Weronika **KURIATA**
Centre | 5ft6'

Charlie **CURTIS**
Second Row | 5ft8'

Amy **CUNNINGHAM**
Centre/Second Row | 5ft7'

Courtney **LETTICE**
Hooker | 5ft5'

Kelbie-Rai **WILKINSON**
Halfback | 5ft7'

Ruby **WALKER**
Halfback | 5ft5'

Lelia **HARRAP**
Prop | 5ft1'

Caitlin **LETTICE**
Wing | 5ft5'

Holly **ROURKE**
Centre | 5ft4'

Charlotte **MCDIAID**
Prop | 5ft7'

Imogen **HALLAS**
Fullback | 5ft1'

Lilly **TAYLOR**
Second Row | 5ft4'

Lacey **LONGSTAFFE**
Loose Forward | 5ft1'

Dewsbury's St John Fisher have had a mightily impressive Champion Schools campaign – after placing first in their National festival group, a dominant 42-6 semi-final victory secured their place in the final.

Looking back on their route to Kingston Park, coach Lauren Egan said: "It was really pleasing to see how excited the team were to get back into rugby following the long break due the pandemic.

"The team were really keen to play against local schools again, and that is how the journey to the final started. Going through as Kirklees representatives was a challenging tournament, but the team stepped up and enjoyed every second.

"The Yorkshire Cup final was a really tough game for the team against Castleford Academy, who we'll now be facing in the National final! We know they are a tough team to beat, but I think having played them before, the team are ready for the challenge.

"Castleford Academy are strong opposition, but it's also nice that both teams are from Yorkshire! Many players know each other from playing outside of school so there is also some friendly rivalry which is nice."

Lauren was keen to highlight how well the team have gelled together this year, with team spirit high – there's also been some standout performers that have caught the eye:

"Imogen has stepped up a year group as there wasn't a Year 9 squad this year, and she's played a really important role within the team.

"This has inspired others to play, so the current Year 9 team looks strong for next year too. Our captain Ruby has also had a great run up to the final, remaining focussed and a constant source of encouragement for the team."

It's set to be a memorable day for the team and everyone associated, with the coach summing up the anticipation levels nicely: "This is a new venue for the team, not having played here before – they are very excited. Families are travelling up for the weekend, so this has also increased the level of excitement. The school are also really supportive and proud of the team, so it feels like a whole school effort!"

CASTLEFORD ACADEMY

KO: 4:25PM

COACH: Danny Holmes

SQUAD:

India **THORP**
Second Row | 70cm

Charlotte **WHIPP**
Hooker | 160cm

Faith **THORP**
Centre/Wing | 172cm

Kaitlyn **PYCROFT**
Fullback | 160cm

Grace **JOHNSON**
Centre | 171cm

Lilly **CAMBELL-BOYER**
Prop | 165cm

Chenai **MATEKO**
Prop | 160cm

Olivia **PHELAN**
Half Back | 165cm

Lillie **SUTTON**
Half Back | 160cm

Mataya **DALE**
Prop | 159cm

Lenni **HODGSON**
Centre | 170cm

Isabell **KILGALON-PORTER**
Wing | 164cm

Casey **LANCASTER**
Wing | 155cm

Ebony **HARE**
Wing | 170cm

Becky **CORDINGLEY**
Centre | 165cm



Another impressive representative for Castleford Academy in the Champion Schools finals, the school's Year 10 girls are also led by coach Danny Holmes. Reflecting on a challenging campaign, Mr Holmes said: "I have had the privilege of taking on the Year 10 girls this year, who have given the Champion Schools a real good go.

"I'm so proud of them all for what they have achieved – they are a tough bunch and have come up against really strong opposition in this year's festivals but have shown great resilience, and thanks to their amazing attitude they've managed to earn themselves a place in the final!"

They line up against some familiar faces in today's final, as revealed by the coach who also noted how good the opposition are: "Today's opposition are a great side. Many of them are friends outside of school at their amateur clubs, which just makes it that little more exciting for the girls.

"They have pace throughout the team and can score from anywhere on the field – it'll be a real tough test."

When you consider Castleford Academy's consistent successes in schools Rugby League, it's no surprise that there's some real talent amongst the squads: "Standouts for the team this year in the festivals have to include Kaitlyn Pycroft, for her ability to score from anywhere on the field.

"Both halves Lilley Sutton and Olivia Phelan, as well as the two middles Mataya Dale and Lilley Campbell Boyer for their solid performances in taking the team forward also deserve praise, but none of them could do what they do without the full commitment from the entire team, working together," said Mr Holmes.

With Castleford Academy bringing four different teams to the Champion Schools finals, he has high hopes it can be a day to remember for the team: "The girls are so excited for this game. They had hard-fought encounters with the opposition earlier this year, so they know it'll be a challenge.

"We have four teams in the finals, and the Year 10 girls will be the last game for Castleford Academy on the day, so hopefully everyone can get behind them and create a great atmosphere!"



SPEN VALLEY

KO: 5:40PM
COACH: Kyle Audsley



SQUAD:

Joe **DISKIN**
Full Back | 5ft7'

James **GOODALL**
Wing | 6ft'

Sam **SPENCER**
Second Row | 5ft9'

Harley **THOMAS**
Half Back | 5ft11'

Dominic **BROWN**
Left Wing | 5ft11'

Harley **RHODES**
Prop | 5ft6'

Alfie **LEE**
Second Row | 5ft7'

Marshall **LAND**
Half Back | 5ft10'

Dylan **HALL**
Left Centre | 6ft'

Nicoli **FAWCETT**
Wing | 5ft8'

Sam **BEETY**
Loose Forward | 6ft3'

Patrick **HOUSTON**
Prop | 6ft'

Lucas **SHEARD**
Right Centre | 5ft8'

Jack **SANDERSON**
Hooker | 5ft6'

Kayle **ASTON**
Prop | 5ft11'

Harrison **STOCKS**
Hooker | 5ft7'

Lewis **WOOD**
Right Wing | 5ft5'

Harvey **MCCABE**
Centre | 5ft6'

Joe **KIRBY**
Wing | 5ft5'

Jake **HATFIELD**
Prop | 5ft10'

Looking back on their route to the Champion Schools final, and how well they've done to get here, Spen Valley coach Kyle Audsley said: "It has been a difficult route. Just getting out of the Yorkshire qualification route is difficult, there are some brilliant teams that do not get in the top 4 to qualify for the Nationals.

"We have had two tough, hard-fought games against Standish and Castleford Academy that stood out. The last game against Castleford Academy was a battle, and they had some real quality.

"As a group we have done brilliantly to get to the National Final, and the squad look forward to the experience. We have had fantastic backing from the parents and carers who continuously support me and the squad. They are extremely lucky but deserve everything and will create memories for life!"

Ahead of the big occasion, Mr Audsley perfectly outlined what it meant to be here: "We are over the moon to have reached the final, it's something we've really worked towards.

"We have a special set of young men at Spen Valley, and we are extremely proud of them. The squad have several other rugby commitments, but they are extremely committed to training and reflective after each training session and game."

Despite having a team full of talented players, Mr Audsley is a strong believer in the importance of unity, and how it is worth way more than any individual quality: "We have a number of players that have different qualities to win games whether these are physical or mental attributes, and they complement each other.

"Some of the students represent professional clubs at scholarships level but I feel many more will get their chance in the future. The one thing we do as a team is smile and enjoy the rugby!"

"Most importantly, I am proud of how respectful the squad are and their sportsmanship to others. One example of this was after the Yorkshire Cup final win, everyone in the squad shook the hands of the teachers and Headteacher who travelled to support them. This makes me prouder than the performances!"

Spen Valley can hardly contain their excitement for the trip to Newcastle, with the coach encapsulating the giddiness amongst everyone involved: "The players, parents, staff, and the local community are really excited about playing at Kingston Park.

"It is a great opportunity for the squad to play on some first-class facilities, and this is the first time in the history of Spen Valley High School that someone has reached the National Cup final, so win or lose it will be a special moment for the community.

"We are bursting with pride and look forward to the whole experience including the Magic Weekend with the RFL!"

GREAT SANKEY HIGH SCHOOL

KO: 5:40PM

COACH: Stuart Garry

SQUAD:

Lachlan **WEBSTER**
Full back | 5ft8

Oliver **GARMSTON**
Second Row | 6ft1

Jack **SPENCER**
Winger | 5ft9

Kaden **JOHNSON**
Second Row | 6ft

Alfie **HILL**
Centre | 5ft8

Harlie **BARLOW DEAN**
Loose Forward | 5ft10

Billy **HUGHES**
Centre | 5ft0

Lewis **HALSALL**
Centre | 6ft

Harvey **KEHOE**
Winger | 5ft8

Jesse **BROOK**
Prop | 5ft8

Junior **WESTWOOD**
Half Back | 5ft1

Ronnie **MURPHY**
Winger | 5ft11

Daniel **REGAN**
Half Back | 5ft11

Jack **BUTTERWORTH**
Prop | 6ft

Oliver **EVANS**
Prop | 5ft9

Ben **EDGAR**
Winger | 5ft9

Lucas **MULQUEENEY**
Hooker | 5ft10

Evan **GREEN**
Winger | 5ft1

Joseph **WILLIAMS**
Prop | 5ft11



After Champion Schools success in Year 7, Great Sankey head to Newcastle with high hopes of recapturing the title.

Reflecting on their journey here since then, coach Stuart Garry said: "Following on from their National Final success in year 7, the team have continued to go from strength to strength. We are so proud to be back here today with the opportunity of even more success.

"After two disrupted years, it has been fantastic to see the boys back out on the field regularly, playing some brilliant rugby!

"It has been a fantastic effort to get here, with some stunning performances, most notably the semi-final win over Wade Deacon; our best performance to date."

With full focus on Spen Valley, Mr Garry stated: "I have only heard positive things about today's opposition; we look forward to a tough challenge in what I'm sure will be a great contest!"

The coach was also keen to express his gratitude for all involved at Great Sankey: "A huge thank you must go to the Warrington Wolves foundation for their support; not just to our Year 10's, but to school Rugby in Warrington.

"Thanks must also go to Mr Wilcocks and the OMEGA Multi Academy Trust, along with Mr Shannon and the school, for the support provided on route to the final."



2022 CHAMPION SCHOOLS FINALISTS



YEAR 9

YEAR 9



YEAR 10

YEAR 10



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