



# **Kelso RFC**

**Transition & Retention**

**U18 Players to Senior Rugby**

# U18 Players to Senior Rugby

## Planned and recorded support to Players and Volunteers

Over the past few seasons, Kelso RFC have witnessed a significant number of U18 players at our club making the transition to senior rugby and playing vital roles in both our 1st and 2nd XV squads. Recognising the importance of providing a clear pathway and fostering a welcoming environment for these players stepping up, we have dedicated substantial time and effort to address this.

To facilitate a smooth transition, we have invited the U18s to join our senior preseason activities and have organised numerous joint training sessions throughout the year. These collaborative sessions have allowed coaches to work together and learn from each other's expertise. They have also provided an opportunity for the U18 players to establish connections and learn from the more experienced senior players at the club.

Off the field, we have actively engaged in conversations about the players who will be moving up to senior rugby next season. These discussions have taken place during training sessions or in our rugby working group meetings. To gather valuable information, we have created a Google form to understand the players' plans for the upcoming season and whether they require support in finding employment within the local community. Furthermore, our director of rugby and senior coaches have held a dedicated meeting with the U18 players, encouraging and motivating them to become part of the senior rugby setup at the club.

In line with our commitment to providing a clear pathway, we have organised a U20s squad to participate in a 10-a-side transition event at Lasswade on Friday, June 2nd. We have identified a group of 20 eligible players, and we are optimistic that the majority of them will be able to attend the event. Prior to the competition, we have arranged a training session, which will be facilitated by one of our current Kelso Harlequins coaches, Kelso Sharks (2nd XV) managers, and two senior players who will be present to offer support and guidance throughout the night. This event serves as another step towards solidifying the connection between the two sections of our club and provides an additional opportunity for our coaches to collaborate before the players make the leap to senior rugby next season.

**Club webpage:** <https://www.kelsorfc.co.uk/>