



## **For Immediate Release**

# **City of Birmingham Rockets and Birmingham Metropolitan College Announce Performance-Level Partnership**

**Birmingham, June 17, 2022:** As part of our post-16 programme, the City of Birmingham Rockets are delighted to announce a performance-level academy partnership with Birmingham Metropolitan College (BMET).

The Academy will provide student-athletes, both boys and girls, with an outstanding basketball and academic regime, enabling talented young players (aged 16-19) to realise their full potential on and off the court.

This exciting new programme offers an outstanding daily student athlete experience, allowing players to compete in the Elite Academy Basketball League (EABL), the premier junior basketball college competition in the UK, alongside their academic study.

In conjunction with flexible academic options, select players in the programme will have the opportunity to complete the Diploma in Sporting Excellence (DiSE) qualification at BMET College in partnership with the club.

With the college being one of only sixteen current DiSE basketball providers nationally, this programme will provide a unique opportunity for the club and eligible players in the region.

Those selected will have the opportunity to compete in the EABL and Association of Colleges (AOC) leagues every week delivered by club coaches and will form an integral part of the club's performance pathway.

We are now inviting talented year 11 & 12 players to attend our Rockets Academy Open Day on Saturday 2nd July from 12 pm – 2 pm to explain our academy programme in more detail and what we will be offering the student-athlete.

## **What is DiSE?**

The Diploma in Sporting Excellence (DiSE) is a two-year programme that provides a unique sporting qualification designed to meet the needs of young athletes who have the realistic potential to achieve excellence in their sport and are seeking to perform at the highest level.

Athletes progress through a series of face-to-face and online workshops, progress review meetings, and observations of training and competition.

The programme's focus is the principles required for the development of a performance athlete, alongside mentoring support and guidance for further education and employment.

The programme aims to complement and enhance their club coaching programme.

As a student athlete, you will benefit by understanding the necessary skills and abilities required to become a performance athlete, such as nutrition, critical psychological skills and physiology etc.

The DiSE programme will empower student-athletes to impact their training and the outcome of each session significantly, thus making the most of their potential.

After the completion of the programme, successful students will have a level 3 Diploma in Sporting Excellence with UCAS points available for completion of the course.

Commenting on the partnership, Chair, Kirk Dawes QPM, said: *“As a club, we are pleased and excited to enter a partnership with Birmingham Metropolitan College to provide a ‘Dual Career’ offer involving education and basketball for those who wish to compete at the sport's top level.*

*“Education is critical to the Rockets organisation; this partnership demonstrates this”.*

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City of Birmingham Rockets Basketball Club CIC

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