

## Old schools celebrates England star Ben White's call-up



### ***Ben White, England star, aged 9 at St Michael's Middle School***

St Michael's Middle School in Colehill and Wimborne's QE school have achieved yet more sporting success with old boy Ben White called up to the England squad.

The Brighton and Hove Albion centre half was named by Gareth for the European Championships after Trent Alexander-Arnold was injured and withdrew.

After studying at St Michael's, White went on to Queen Elizabeth (QE) School before embarking on his football career.

Both schools are part of Wimborne Academy Trust (WAT) which has a superb sporting record at its schools.

The Chelsea FC player and now European Champions League winner Tino Anjorin attended St Michael's and QE.

The middle school's former pupil James Williams plays professional rugby for Hartpury RFC and was formerly on the books at Sale Sharks.

And Kelly Snook who plays for Southampton FC, swimmer Piers Copeland and Hampshire cricketer Tom Prost also went to St Michael's.

And QE school boasts former AFC Bournemouth player and manager Eddie Howe as an old boy.

Ron Jenkinson, headteacher of St Michael's Middle School, said: "Obviously we're thrilled for Ben and it's taken a great deal of effort and hard work for him to get to this stage.

“He is an inspiration to current pupils and I know they’ll be watching the Euros this summer, cheering him on.

“He was here between 2007 and 2011 and was always talented and clearly had the necessary desire as well.

“Along with the trust’s other sporting success stories Ben’s achievements prove that there is a pathway to professional sport from east Dorset.

“We have some great sports coaches at St Michael’s who know how to get the best out of everyone.”

Katie Boyes, headteacher of QE school said: “Both Ben and Tino attended QE and were supported with their football through our successful Junior Athlete Education programme.

“We are incredibly proud of the achievements of both students.”

And WAT chief executive Liz West added: “All our schools promote sport and sportsmanship as part of a rounded education and every success inspires others.”