



Net gain: The Elizabeth College team utilise the facilities on offer in Dubai and put in some work in the nets.

(Pictures supplied by Tom Eisenhuth)

MORE than 80 youngsters are taking part in a junior cricket programme at Elizabeth College.

The initiative to support and develop junior cricket at the college is funded by Standard Chartered, which agreed a three-year sponsorship for 2016, 2017 and 2018.

Under the coaching of Tom Eisenhuth, head of physical education at the school, boys from Elizabeth College and Beechwood – together with 10 other promising cricketers from other island schools – are training and playing on a Saturday morning.

'It's fantastic to see so many of the boys wanting to be involved. Cricket has always been popular and we naturally want to do well, but it's really important to maintain inclusivity so that those who are new to the sport feel like they can come along and try it,' said Eisenhuth.

'Sport, no matter how competitive, should be about having fun.

'The support we have from Standard Chartered means that we can offer the sport to more boys, maintain the

College cricketers test themselves

During their Easter break, a squad of Elizabeth College cricketers from Years 8, 9 and 10 took a trip to Dubai to gain experience and develop their talent

social side but also have the ability to nurture and develop talent by playing other teams, locally and overseas.'

In April, a squad of players from Years 8, 9 and 10 went to Dubai for what is hoped will become a biennial event.

'It was a fantastic experience for all of the boys, both on and off the cricket pitch,' continued Eisenhuth.

'We want them to be well-

rounded individuals and not just great cricket players so we stayed in apartments and they had to be responsible for themselves, including their own washing.

'Those are invaluable life lessons that we can't teach in a school environment.'

The team lost their first three games against the Desert Sevens, Durham County Cricket Club and Desert

Cubs but won their last two games.

Playing against a school from Abu Dhabi, they won off the last ball with 98 runs and in their final game they scored 160, including 50 from captain Ed Miller.

Other notable performances came from Seb Winstanley, Jonty Carnachan, Max Sharpe, Will Martin and Ross Guilbert.

'We hope that will become a regular event now. Dubai is a great location as the weather is perfect for cricket and the teams out there are desperate to play, so we can get lots of game time,' said Eisenhuth.

A number of UK schools have already been to play against Elizabeth College this season, including Bloxham School, Ryde School, Kings Hall School and Warminster School.

The junior team, which features players from Years 7 and 8, will head to the UK next for a three-day tour on which they will face a number of teams.



Players take a break in the heat.



The College squad took on a number of local teams during their time in Dubai.