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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH

Academy Graduates in the First Team

In February, two Academy Graduates made debuts in First Team competitions.

Caolan Boyd-Munce made his League and FA Cup debut this month coming off the bench against both Coventry City and Bristol City. While **Jack Concannon** made his debut in the First Team starting the FA Cup game against Coventry City and was also involved in two other matchday squads.

There were also another three Graduates who participated in the First Team. **Jude Bellingham** made seven appearances and registered two assists in the month of February. **Wes Harding** also made four appearances while **Connal Trueman** was included in every matchday squad.



U11/U12 Cell Social

The U11 & U12 Cell Social this cycle was attending the First Team game against Sheffield Wednesday.

One of the hospitality suites was opened for the social to allow players and staff to have a bite to eat before the game.

The game was one to enjoy with the Blues taking the lead twice and then scoring an equaliser in injury time with the game finishing in a 3-3 draw.

February 2020

Premier League Tournament

The U10 age group participated in a Premier League Tournament this month in Nottingham.

The In & Out of Balance Tournament provides players with the unique challenge of playing three different formats throughout the course of a single game. With formats varying from 7v7 to 7v5 and 5v7 in each game it provides both an attacking and defensive challenge.

The Blues, Lead by Academy Development Coach Aaron Hill, came home with the trophy beating Reading, Nottingham Forest and West Brom to top spot.



International Call-Ups

There were two international Call-Ups in February.

Jobe Bellingham played his second game for England's U15s, this time out against Belgium.

Jordan James received a Call-Up to travel to Spain with the Wales U16 squad for games against Slovakia, Norway and the Czech Republic.



Pre-Academy Futsal Tournament & Social Event

Our Pre-Academy also enjoyed watching the First Team in their social event this cycle.

The day started with an indoor Futsal Tournament playing against Peterborough United and Wigan Athletic. From the tournament the players and parents from all teams were given tickets to attend the First Team fixture against Brentford.

An opportunity like this gave the players to watch First Team players such as Jude Bellingham and Wes Harding who started on similar journeys as these players have just started on and aiming to emulate them.

The game ended in a 1-1 draw and the feedback from the event was a big success, especially from the visiting players, staff and parents who were very grateful of being invited and given the opportunity to watch the game.

Pre-Academy Coordinator, Carl McNally, organised the event and commented that everyone had a great day both at the futsal event and at the First Team fixture. To see the all of the players from all teams mixing in together was a great moment.