



# ACADEMY



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## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH

### Academy Graduates in the First Team

The Academy were represented in every First Team fixture in October and November with an Academy Graduate either starting or on the bench in all 11 Championship fixtures.

The highlight of the two months for the Academy is Caolan Boyd-Munce making his full league debut for the First Team during the fixture v Bournemouth.



### Academy Graduates International Success

Academy Graduate and former First Team player Jude Bellingham made his full international debut for England against the Republic of Ireland at Wembley Stadium.

In making this appearance Jude became the third youngest player ever to play for England having made his debut at 17 years old.



### October & November 2020

#### U18 PDL North & Youth Cup Update

The U18s have been impressive league form in October and November having only lost 1 game in their previous 9 fixtures, collecting 20 points out of a possible 27. This run of form has left the U18s sitting 2<sup>nd</sup> in the table, 3 points off first placed Wigan, who the Blues will face before the Christmas break.

The goals have been flowing for the age group having scored 4 or more goals in 5 of their last 9 games including 7 in their win against Coventry. Forward Amari Miller has been the main contributor of goals having found the net 9 times in this period.



This vein of form will be needed in the FA Youth Cup. The draw for the third round of the FA Youth Cup has been made and Blues have been handed a tough draw away to last season's winners Manchester City.

The date and time of the fixture are still to be confirmed but the fixture must be played before Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> January in Manchester.

### International Call-Ups

October and November brought the Euro U21 Qualifiers to an end with Blues having participants.

**Caolan Boyd-Munce** was called up to the Northern Ireland U21 squad for their games during October and November. Caolan started all 3 of the qualifiers against Finland and the double header against Ukraine with the 1-0 win at home being the highlight of the 3 results. Northern Ireland finished the qualifying group 5<sup>th</sup> on 9 points.

Another member of the U23 squad involved with the U21 qualifiers was **Ryan Stirk** with the Welsh U21s. Ryan was started in the game away to Belgium as well as making a substitute appearance in the 1-0 win against Bosnia and Herzegovina. Wales finished the qualifying group in 4<sup>th</sup> place and missed out on qualification.



The Academy also had representatives in younger international age groups with **Jobe Bellingham** and **Calum Scanlon** being called up to the England U16 training camp over October half term at St. George's Park as well as **Jordan James** joining up with Wales U17s for their training camp.