



ACADEMY



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Highlights of the Month

West Midlands Police Talk

The West Midlands Police came to Wast Hills Training Ground to give a presentation about hate crime involved within football to the Under 23 age group.

The talk, which was presented as part of their Safeguarding and Education programme, covered topics such as racism both on and off the pitch and how players can combat against hate crimes such as online abuse.



PC Stuart Ward presented to the Under 23s showing them how to report hate actions that occur online, this also allowed the players to see that there is help available for players who are experiencing these types of abuse.

Media outlets such as Sky Sports and ITV came to the presentation to highlight how clubs are trying to combat the cultural issues that are taking place while also highlighting the good work of the Academy players and staff.

There was also a presence from the First Team as Troy Deeney joined the Under 23s to give his perspective on the matters discussed and to talk about his experiences that he has encountered during his time in professional football.

September 2021

Academy Graduates in the First Team

The Academy produced three players who have made First Team matchday squads this month.

Connal Trueman was on the bench for every game this month and was joined by **Marcel Oakley** for the Preston fixture alongside **Alfie Chang** who also was on the bench against QPR.

U11 Premier Fives Tournament

The Under 11s made the trip to Bury to play in the Premier Fives Tournament.

During the tournament the Under 11s would face tough opposition in teams such as Liverpool, Manchester United and West Brom.

On the day both teams had great results and both managed to make the final to face one another with The Blues winning in the final to bring home the trophy.

Both teams did the Club proud by managing to make it an all Birmingham final of the tournament.



International Call- Ups

Jobe Bellingham helped England U17s reach the final in the Syrenka Cup in Poland. England narrowly lost out in the final losing to the Netherlands 3-2.

Jordan James represented Wales U18s against England U18s in a friendly match at Newport's Spytty Park Stadium.



U9 & U10 Welcome Festivals

In September, The Blues Under 9s and Under 10s age groups attended the Welcome Festivals at Loughborough University.

The Festival, which was run by the Premier League and is only open to Category 1 Academies, normally is only for the Under 9 age group to introduce and celebrate them now being part of the Academy football programme. This year however, the Under 10s were also invited having missed out on the festival last year due to COVID-19.

The feedback from the Premier League, club and hotel staff was that all of the players in attendance represented the Club and Academy perfectly and were a pleasure to have at the festival.

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