



Airbus Academy Review 2021/22



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After a difficult 12 months where the Covid 19 Pandemic gripped the nation, it has been a relief that all squads that represent Airbus Academy have been able to play a full season and complete all fixtures as planned. The season commenced in July 2021 and ran until May 2022. This a review from our coaches for the Airbus Academy squads U8 – U16:

U8's



Airbus Academy U8s have had a fantastic season with a squad of players who have all developed vastly over the year. In April 2021 as soon as covid regulations permitted, we held trials over a 4-week period with over 50 players attending. As we were the first local FAW Academy to undertake and organise these trials, we were able to view all the local talent that was available, which was the first step into building a very strong talented young squad.

Once our team was selected, we started training immediately due to the dedication and commitment from all player's, parents & coaches. We started to grow into a squad, which enabled us to develop players individually, thus creating 2 excellent teams that were successful throughout the seasons FAW Academy league fixtures. The players enjoyed their new challenges within the Academy set up, with visits to Bala Town FC and Caernarfon Town FC along the way.

We have also attended numerous pro club academies with our favourite visits to West Brom FC, Stoke City FC & Liverpool FC just to name a few. Since the season has completed, we have started to play u9s grassroots teams learning the format of 7v7 to further help their development going forward.

The Airbus U8s squad are all looking forward to progressing next season to the U9's. This will see further player & squad development. The aim is to keep up the momentum as this squad has many positive experiences ahead.

U9's



The U9's had an overall brilliant season. It's been really encouraging to see the squad progress not only as a player's but as people as well. They are always willing to learn, put 100% into every session/match and as a coach you can't ask for any more than that. The squad try to take on board the detail that they are given and are happy to receive feedback. Their enthusiasm throughout the year has been great.

From our FAW Academy fixtures to playing in Pro Club fixtures against teams such as Nottingham Forest FC, Wigan Athletic FC and Liverpool FC, the lads haven't looked out of place at all, putting in

good display's, expressing themselves and working hard for one another. It has been a pleasure to coach this group of lads this season, from the commitment of the parents to the attitude of the players – we can't fault them at all. We now look forward to next season U10's. We progress to 7 aside fixtures. We are looking forward to seeing them all adapt to this format and this will see us progress once again as a group. Well done U9's

U10's



The under 10s have progressed so much this year. They have worked hard on their skill acquisition individually throughout & as a squad have begun to learn a style of play in possession that is based on brave mature play. Being compared to Barcelona and Manchester City from opposition coaches along the way was a nice compliment for the boys.

Both individually and collectively the boys have developed into a team, a unit and a solid group of friends. So many different successes with amazing memories of trips to pro clubs and football displays that any coach would dream of witnessing. It's been an absolute honour of being part of such a marvellous group of children who have an amazing talent.

U11's



The under 11s have had a fun-filled season, making great progress in many areas of the game. Their performances have improved week by week and they have been a great group to work with. The Standout moment includes our 'Fun Bus' away day at Macclesfield FC – this was fantastic. An outstanding performance on the pitch was rounded off nicely when we bumped into Welsh Football

legend Robbie Savage!! We also went to Blackpool FC, where we were able to show our skills in a futsal competition. We rounded off our fixtures with a great weekend in Sheffield, where we played in the Worksoop Town FC festival on the Saturday and West Ham United on the Sunday.

U12's



The past season has been successful in terms of player development. Numerous players have taken on board the technical detail that they have been coached during their Foundation Phase years in the Academy and have now started to express themselves whilst applying numerous different principles of play during their 9 a side FAW Academy Youth Development Phase fixtures.

There has been improvement made across the entire squad in many areas. The lads are a credit to themselves, their parents & the Academy with how hard they all work at their game. Attendance at training & on match days is excellent & they all enjoy the individual & team challenges.

We are looking forward to next season immensely. This will be a big season in terms of development as the squad plays 9 a side football for the final year, thus transitioning into 11 a side football the year after.

Well done everyone - exciting times ahead for this squad.

U13's



After a difficult 12 months across 2 seasons due to Covid, the U13 had to recruit several players during the summer. This worked well for the 1st half of the season - with a plethora of fixtures being organised for all players & promising performances shown in the FAW Academy Cup, which saw the squad reach 2nd place at Christmas time.

Highlights during this campaign were the 2-1 away win against TNS and the 2-0 home victory v Llandudno. It was against Pro club opposition where the squad excelled with fantastic performances & results away at Manchester City FC, Everton FC & Bolton Wanderers FC. The squad was well rotated throughout this period and this ensured that everyone enjoyed their football.

101 goals were scored in 31 matches prior to Christmas which was a great achievement given the standard of opposition that we faced week in week out.

Also, during this time 2 of our squad were asked to sign for Pro Clubs. and we were proud that Damian Dziadkowski signed for Shrewsbury Town FC & Levi Kendrick signed for Everton FC. A great achievement by both players & a fantastic development opportunity.

The U13 squad endured a slightly rocky period from January onwards in the FAW Academy Cup, but had an excellent fixture and couple of good team performances away at Liverpool FC where they all played well. Several players have now departed since Christmas, but the lads that will play for the U14 will continue to develop and be a credit to Airbus Academy.

U14's



The season for the under 14s overall was very successful with a large amount of progression from the start of the season until where we are now. The first half of the season was a real rebuilding job from the previous season, where several players had moved on or left the team. 6 new players came in over the summer, and while it took a while for the team to gel, by Christmas time the team were in a much stronger position than they were in the previous summer and the performances were vastly improving.

Over the Christmas period, a couple more additions were added to the already improving squad which boosted the fire power in the team and added the little bit extra we needed to leave the

squad in a very strong position for next season.

In the second half of the campaign we more than doubled our points total from the first half of the season, and this was right up there with the top 4 teams in the league. The end of the season has almost come too quickly but this squad are now in a real good position to challenge the top teams at this age next season. Overall the under 14s have scored over 100 goals in 40 games across the season, with Fixtures being played against the likes of Macclesfield FC, Rochdale FC, Wrexham AFC, Louisiana Fire, Burnley FC and Wolverhampton Wanderers FC.

Highlights of the season include going to Wolverhampton Wanderers FC and playing on their full size indoor 3G, playing at Burnley's first team training ground twice, including playing on there indoor training facilities and one of there superb training pitches, a team bonding footgolf competition over Easter and beating Wrexham AFC 2-1, which was a real turning point in terms of the teams belief in themselves.

The lads have grown so much with their confidence and belief in themselves, and are now in a real strong position going forwards into next season. I'm so proud with every single one of them and I look forward to seeing how they progress and get on next season.

U15's



My first year as a coach at the club and one I've truly enjoyed. I think it's been a brilliant season for the u15s. They can be very pleased with what we've done this year.

Finishing in fourth place only a win away for a play-off spot is a remarkable transformation for the team. Hopefully we can kick on next year.

We are looking forward to pre-season already. We'll be looking to try and get as many of these as close to the first team as possible because that's obviously the end goal. If we keep working hard let's see what happens next year.

U16's



After a turbulent start to the season with several players deciding to move on, the attitude and commitment of the U16 players really showed, as they made many identifiable improvements on the pitch by taking on the information given. Only dropping points in two games in the Academy Cup until Christmas was an unbelievable effort.

A slower start after Christmas cost us in the Academy Cup but saying that, the most important thing the season would be the amount of players stepping up into the U19s training and friendly games.

We have enjoyed some very memorable games for the lads this season including Notts County, Liverpool, Rochdale and Bolton Wanderers.

Well done to everyone