Fingal County Council

PRESS RELEASE

October 24 2017

Fingal County Council and FAI launch second year of TY Football Development Course

Fingal County Council and the Football Association of Ireland have launched the second year of the Transition Year Football Development Course which gives participants an opportunity to meet their educational requirements while developing football skills.

The 2017-18 programme was officially launched by former Republic of Ireland senior international Keith Andrews, Mayor of Fingal Cllr Mary McCamley and Fingal County Council’s Chief Executive Paul Reid, and FAI Vice President Donal Conway at Corduff Community Centre today.

Over the course of the 2017-18 schoolyear, the 26 Transition Year students participating in the programme will mix academic subjects such as Maths and English with Kick Start 1 and 2 coaching courses and modules in Fitness Instruction, Media Skills and Personal Development as well football training and strength and conditioning work. In addition, the participants will undertake an ITEC Fitness
Instructors Course delivered by Litton Lane Fitness Training. They will also return to their local primary school one day a week to work with teachers in the delivery of physical education and gain valuable work experience.

“Participants from last year’s programme were given the opportunity to immerse themselves in football for a year while also meeting their educational needs. Following this success, the second year of this programme is designed to allow the students to commit to the development of their football skills as well as engaging with their communities without compromising their education,” said course co-ordinator, and co-funded FAI Development Officer with Fingal County Council, Denis Hyland.

The programme is being jointly delivered by Fingal County Council’s Sports Office and the Football Association of Ireland with assistance from Blanchardstown Area Partnership as well as the participants own schools who have released the students to the course for the 2017-18 academic year.

The Mayor of Fingal Cllr Mary McCamley praised the programme: “Fingal County Council’s partnership with the FAI has proven hugely beneficial to our residents once again. Education and sport are both demanding and important to young people. I’m delighted to see the implementation of a programme that allows participants to pursue their passion without sacrificing their educational opportunities.”

Fingal County Council Chief Executive Paul Reid welcomed the second year of the TY Football Development Course: “The first year of this programme has shown the benefits that can be reaped when there is investment put into the young people of Fingal. Not only are they developing the skills to balance sport with education, they are given the opportunity to engage with the community through weekly work experience which, as we have seen, contributes positively to their overall personal development.”

The Vice-President of the Football Association of Ireland, Donal Conway echoed the Chief Executive’s comments: “The FAI fully supports this programme and its participants. The TY Football Development Course has been able to offer talented young footballers an opportunity to pursue their football ambitions in a setting that also promotes their wider educational development. The first year of this programme saw great success and the FAI are delighted to work with Fingal County Council to offer it to another 26 students this year.”

The course ran last year in partnership with the support of Blanchardstown Area Partnership and Sport Ireland. It was extremely well-attended and recorded an impressive average attendance rate of 93% throughout the school year.

Marion Brown, Principal Sports Officer with Fingal County Council said: “The success of this project’s first year has attracted a lot of positive attention from other local authorities who would also be hugely interested in delivering it to students in their
area. I’m confident that the work, preparation and experience brought to this project by Fingal County Council’s Sports Office and the FAI will deliver another beneficial course for the programme’s participants”.

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For further information please contact press@fingal.ie or media@fai.ie

Photo caption: Fingal County Council Chief Executive Paul Reid, Mayor of Fingal Cllr Mary McCamley, Former Republic of Ireland senior international Keith Andrews with participants of the TY Football Development Course
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