

New mentoring project launches in Nottingham

A new community mentoring project aimed at encouraging young people away from drugs, crime and gang culture is being launched at Djanogly City Academy, Gregory Boulevard, Nottingham on Monday 14th September – as part of the school’s Early Intervention Programme.

The new project is being co-ordinated by Roger Henry, Manager of Real United Football Club along with Holly Searson, Director of The Football Coaching Company based in Nottingham, in association with Adidas.

The project is being supported by Hyson Green based charity the Partnership Council, Nottingham’s Crime and Drugs Partnership, Kemet FM, Talk to Frank, Drug Aware and Kick It Out, football’s equality and inclusion campaign.

The project will include a Saturday morning Soccer School for girls and boys in the area, which will run at Djanogly City Academy from 10am – 12 noon every Saturday for the next six weeks, starting on the 19th September. The Soccer School is aimed at youngsters in the area who are keen to start playing football.

In addition, the project is running behaviour management and football coaching sessions for pupils at Djanogly City Academy as part of the school’s Early Intervention Programme, with the aim of using football as a way of encouraging positive behaviour in pupils whilst boosting their self-confidence, minimising the risk of pupils becoming involved in negative activities such as anti-social behaviour, crime or drug-taking.

Roger explains:

“Our project is highly innovative in that it uses pupils who are excellent role models to encourage positive behaviour in their peers. For example, we have pupils that are part of the Government’s Young, Gifted and Talented programme for instance, and a young man who plays for Nottingham Forest Academy. The idea is for pupils to be inspired by their peers, rather than to be told what to do by adults, whilst gaining new skills and confidence through playing football.”

The community mentoring programme will run for six weeks at Djanogly, and if successful, the project will continue at Djanogly, and will hopefully run at other schools in Radford and Hyson Green.

The coaching sessions at Djanogly will give pupils the chance to take part in the Football Association’s Soccer Star Challenge, a coaching, learning and assessment programme for boys and girls aged 6-16 years.

As well as football skills, the new project will give pupils the chance to learn more about the negative effect that drugs and alcohol can have on their lives, through a new initiative for Nottingham called the DrugAware Award.

The DrugAware Award was launched by Nottingham's Crime and Drugs Partnership to support schools and communities in providing drug education and support for young people.

Last but not least, the new project will also give pupils the chance to produce their own songs and find out more about DJ-ing from well-known DJ Spider.

Roger concludes:

"We're hopeful the new project will be the start of something very special for the area. Our aim is to run the project in primary schools as well as secondary schools so we can reach children before they get involved in anti-social behaviour for example.

Plus, we're keen to launch six new football teams at Djanogly for different age groups, including three teams for girls – so young people can continue benefiting.

Real United, has transformed many of the players' lives, including getting people off drugs like crack and heroin and away from crime, which is fantastic, but ensuring that young people don't go down that road in the first place will be even more of an achievement."

To find out more about the new project or Real United please contact Roger Henry on 077908 69324 or Holly Searson on 0845 839 9077.

Ends

Notes for editors:

Real United Football Club gives men aged over 18 the chance to turn their lives around through football. The Club is in Nottingham's Notts Amateur Alliance Division One this season, after winning Division Three last season. Players are given mentoring and support by the club's support workers, councillors and substance misuse practitioners. Real United is supported by Talk to Frank and Hyson Green based charity the Partnership Council. Many Real United players have gone from a life of drug addiction and crime to a life of total abstinence as a result of being involved with the club.

To find out more about the Partnership Council:

<http://www.partnershipcouncil.co.uk>

To find out more about the Football Coaching Company:

<http://www.footballcoachingco.co.uk>

To find out more about Nottingham's Crime and Drugs Partnership:

<http://www.nottinghamcdp.com/>

To find out more about Kemet FM:

<http://www.975kemetfm.co.uk/>

To find out more about the DrugAware Award:

<http://www.nottinghamdrugaware.org.uk>

To find out more about Kick It Out:

<http://www.kickitout.org/>

To find out more about Talk to Frank:

<http://www.talktofrank.com/>