



NORTHAMPTON TOWN F.C.

ACADEMY

Shadow
Squad and
Development
Centres

For more details, email
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@NTFC_Academy



Northampton Town FC Academy

ntfc.co.uk

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Our youth development programme, which includes our Academy and Development squads is hugely important to us here at Northampton Town Football Club. Over the past few seasons, several players have come through the programme to be handed professional contracts and many of them have gone on to play for our first team. All too often, players and parents get blinded by the opportunity to go and be part of an Academy set-up at a big Premier League club. They love the thought of saying "my son plays for xx". However, the chance for a young player to break through into the first

team squad at a Premier League club, dominated by international players, can be quite small and they often end up being released and lost to the game.

Young players have a far better chance of carving out a professional career for themselves at a club where they have a realistic chance of breaking into the first team squad and where their footballing and personal development is looked after by top level coaches. This is very much the situation here at Sixfields.

I am well placed to say that Northampton Town Football Club has a youth development programme to be proud of, with the list of players - both past and present - now playing at all levels of the professional game an example of that. Ivan Toney and Carney and Caleb Chukwuemeka - who play in the Premier League all came through our Academy, as did Glenn Middleton, who won the Scottish FA Cup in 2021. That's before you even consider the likes of Shaun McWilliams and Scott Pollock, who are important members of our first team squad today.

We have a programme of perfect balance, where excellence meets opportunity.

Kelvin Thomas
Chairman

A MESSAGE FROM IAN SAMPSON

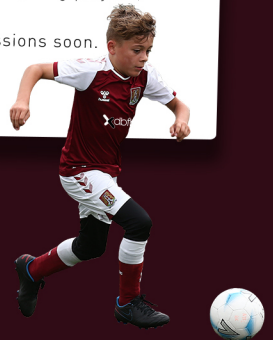
Our fully integrated youth pathway gives every child a chance to develop their skills at any level. Our foundation courses for the beginners lead into our Skills Centres - this is the first step along our development pathway. Coaching players to be comfortable with the ball at their feet and enjoying playing is key to their future participation and development.



Once they gain the right level of individual ability, we can progress them into our Development Centres. This is where we can start to develop a game understanding and craft that will mean the young players will begin to play within the team. Again, as they become comfortable making decisions and start to excel at this level, we can move them into our Shadow Squads. This is where we can start to develop awareness, speed of play and thought in order to give the players the best chance to move into our prestigious academy and have the opportunity to earn a professional contract.

At every level, we have our Academy coaches delivering high-quality sessions for our young players, and with our recruitment being focused on a 30-mile radius, we hope to see your son pulling on a Northampton Town shirt and developing his skills at one of our sessions soon.

Ian Sampson
Academy Manager



Player Performance Pathway

Our Player Performance Pathway is an integral part of our Progressive Youth Development System. As a club, it is our passion to develop local players and develop them to train and play games for Northampton Town. It is our aim to allow all players to join our sessions at the Foundation Level and via our Skills Centres. Our expert coaches, who work within our Academy System will provide the essential advice and environment for players to learn and enjoy their football whilst learning individual technique and ball mastery.

Players who achieve a high level of ability will be invited to join our prestigious Development Centres. Located within the local communities, our Development Centres are a perfect opportunity for players to continue with their local club whilst also training with our expert Academy coaches and playing games for Northampton Town, helping them develop and to take their game to the next level. These centres are run for players aged between U7-U14 throughout the week. As players progress within the Development Centres, they will have the chance to progress into our Shadow Squad. The club runs shadow squads from age U7-U16 and play regular games, including against our Academy teams. The function of this player pathway is to provide local players for the Academy who have the potential to then move on to our first team.

The success this pathway benefits from is down to the use of expert Academy coaches at all levels who understand how to develop players, while maintaining maximum enjoyment.



Enquiry form

Name:

Club:

Age:

D.O.B:

Position:

Email:

Contact no.:

Address:

Postcode:

Brief playing history (please include clubs played for & other sessions attended):

Recommended by:

Please note that all players must live within a 30 mile radius of the ground to be considered for any level of our Performance Pathway, Development Centres, Skills Centres & Foundation Courses are operated in several locations within the 30 mile radius. Locations are subject to availability & space & are offered on a first come first served basis. We will however offer sessions as close as reasonably possible to your address.
In order to enquire about joining our Player Performance Pathway, please complete the form below & return it to: **Darren Norton, Northampton Town FC Academy, Sixfields Stadium, Walter Tull Way, Northampton, NN5 5QA.**
On receipt of your enquiry, your request will be considered & a response via email or post will be made

For more information, call **01604 683766**
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