

# NSCG

NEWCASTLE  
AND STAFFORD  
COLLEGES GROUP



**Ofsted**  
Outstanding  
Provider

Since 2019



# The Andy Griffin Football Academy

It begins at  
**NSCG**

# Kick start your success

**Join the Premier League. If you are disciplined, hardworking, committed and passionate - it's game on!**

**Welcome to the Andy Griffin Football Academy (AGFA), a two year full-time programme aimed at talented young male and female players who have aspirations to play football at a high level or work in the football industry, but also appreciate the value of a top class education.**

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Our dedicated NSCG Academy of Sport, with unrivalled facilities, top notch coaches and a pretty impressive trophy cabinet is home to the best of the best in male and female footballing talent.

If you want to play and train at the highest level, you'll be coached by professionals who are at the top of their league, bringing a wealth of experience and transferring that passion to the classroom, where you will be able to gain recognised academic and vocational qualifications.

If football's in your DNA and you're talented enough to be playing at a high club level, involved in county trials or at a professional football academy or centre of excellence, we've got unrivalled opportunities to develop your talent, both on and off the pitch.

**Andy Griffin**  
Head Coach, AGFA

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Discover  
our upcoming  
AGFA Trial dates:

[nscg.ac.uk](https://nscg.ac.uk)





# Learn from the experience

**At the helm of the Academy is our Head Coach Andy Griffin, ex-Premiership footballer and former Stoke City Captain, who has played in the Champions League with Newcastle United.**

At the peak of his game, he played for the great Sir Bobby Robson, Kenny Dalglish and Ruud Gullit.

He captained Stoke City to promotion to the Premier League under Tony Pulis, and was fortunate enough to play for the flamboyant Harry Redknapp at Portsmouth.

Assisting Andy, are a team with a wealth of football experience at semi-professional and local level, including Men's 1st Team Coach, John Johnston who has previously played for Crewe Alexandra, Altrincham F.C. and Chester F.C.

The team is completed by current Derby County F.C Women and former England midfielder Sherry McCue, who heads up our Ladies' Academy.



# Sports.



## Academy Kit

As a successful member of the Andy Griffin Football Academy, you'll be provided with our Nike match-day kits. A contribution towards our Nike training and presentation kit is also currently provided to all players.

This includes personalised:

- 1 x Home AGFA Kit\*
- 1 x Away AGFA Kit\*
- 1 x AGFA Match Day Shorts
- 1 x AGFA Training T-Shirt
- 1 x AGFA Training Shorts
- 1 x AGFA Training Joggers
- 1 x AGFA Socks

\*Kit may vary in design



# Molly Newton

“The staff at the AGFA have been amazing. They have played a crucial part in where I am today.”



## How did you do at school?

When I was at school I didn't enjoy sitting in a classroom all day. I have always preferred physical activity and liked to be playing sports instead. Whilst I didn't really enjoy the academic side of things, I passed all of my GCSEs and achieved mostly grades 6 and 7.

## Why did you choose to study at NSCG and join the AGFA?

I chose to study at NSCG because of the facilities and opportunities available. Being a part of the Andy Griffin Football Academy (AGFA) allowed me to train alongside my studies and I felt I had more of an equal balance between training and studying which really suited me.

## How does college compare to school?

Being at college is lot more relaxed as you have more independence and are given the freedom to manage your time. You have to be responsible and you are expected to study and complete your assignments on time, but you are given the support and guidance to reach your potential.

## How have AGFA staff supported you during your time at college? Have you received any additional support?

The staff at the AGFA have been amazing. They have played a crucial part in where I am today in my footballing career and helped bring out aspects of my game I didn't know I was capable of. They have encouraged and supported me and really helped to build up my confidence.

## What has been your proudest moment as part of the AGFA?

Representing the England Colleges Football Association (ECFA) at St George's Park and receiving my first national cap was something I will never forget.

## What would your advice be to those considering joining the AGFA?

Just do it. You don't want to have any doubt or regret on what might have been if you don't take up the opportunity. Being part of the AGFA can open doors, it's a good opportunity for networking and can help you get noticed for your ability.

If it wasn't for joining the AGFA, I wouldn't have been put forward to play for EFCA. This gave me the opportunity to play against Everton F.C. Women's U21 and after the game I was approached and asked to go to train with them at the end of last season. Without that opportunity I may not be where I am currently.

**Previous School**  
Alsager Academy

**Studied**  
Level 3 Diploma in Sport & Exercise Science (D\*D\*D)

**Current Club**  
Stockport County F.C.

**Previous Club**  
Everton F.C. | Derby County F.C. | Stoke City F.C.





# Train like the professionals

**Let's face it. If you're serious about your sport, you want the best facilities to train and compete. And here at NSCG, that's exactly what we give you.**

## **Best Of The Best**

We've invested over £3M to make sure our campuses have the best sporting facilities in Staffordshire.

Our Sport England-approved 3G pitch is ready for action day or night, with a spectator space for supporters to cheer you on.

In addition, both Newcastle and Stafford campuses include brand new 4-court sports halls with capacity for an increased range of sporting activities.

We give you the best so you can be the best.

## **On-site Gym Facilities**

At both campuses, you'll have access to first-class gym facilities, whether that be at Newcastle or Stafford, we've made sure alongside your training programme you have the ability to train like the professionals do.

As part of the AGFA, you'll also receive a personalised nutrition and gym training plan.



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## PlayerTek Technology

Our PLAYERTEK Performance Vests, track in-game progress for post-game analysis. Utilised within training sessions, these hi-tech vests will track your movement and allow greater insight into your match performance and areas of improvement.

## Analysis Sessions

Coupled with your weekly analysis sessions, you will reflect on your in-game performance using match day footage, in-game data and coach feedback. All designed to help you achieve your full potential.



# First class opportunities

**At the AGFA, we believe in going the extra mile to ensure you get the most out of your course. That's why we provide a range of unique opportunities and experiences to complement your studies, allowing you to develop both on and off the pitch.**

## International Tours

Our commitment to your development includes a variety of international tour opportunities; past tours have included destinations in Spain, Italy and Portugal. These tours are much more than a holiday, they're designed to give you a genuine taste of playing football in a new cultural environment. You'll have the chance to train in world-class facilities, compete against local teams, and learn from different coaching styles, giving you a valuable perspective on the beautiful game.

## Represent Your Country

For our most talented and dedicated students, we offer the chance to be nominated for the English Colleges Football Association (ECFA) and English Schools Football Association (ESFA) national teams.

This is the highest level of football available for college students in the country. If selected, you will represent England in a variety of domestic and international fixtures, competing against other national teams.

Our students have previously taken part in prestigious tournaments such as Il Cacio E' Rosa in Italy. These experiences provide incredible exposure, not only for your footballing ability but also for your personal growth, as you'll be part of a professional squad environment.

## A Pathway to Success

In addition to these opportunities, you'll also get invaluable advice on applying for football scholarships in the USA. This is a great pathway for those looking to continue their football career while pursuing higher education.

We also arrange visits to professional clubs, top sports universities and St. George's Park, the home of the FA, to give you a first-hand look at the professional landscape and help you set your sights on your next steps.

By combining high-level coaching with these incredible experiences, we ensure our students are well-rounded and prepared for a successful future in football.



Each year

... huge success, talent. Do you have what it takes to join the Andy Griffin Football Academy?

Opening our doors to FirstPoint USA, our learners got all the tips and tricks on how to apply for scholarship opportunities at American universities.

Students interactive FootLab, L

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Joining the AGFA gets you first-class training opportunities with some of the best football coaches in the world.

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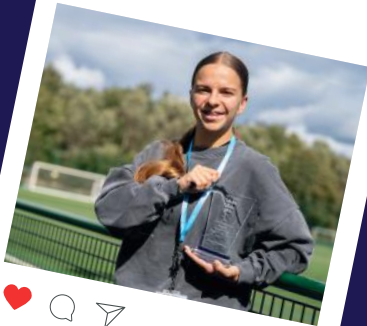
A busy few days at St. George's Park, home of the FA, with our players utilising the incredible world-class facilities to aid with their training.

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Our Newcastle AGFA team Leek College to the family football friendly, resulting 8-0 win!

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A huge congratulations to Ruby Millington, who has been named as English Colleges FA (ECFA) Player of the Season!

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AGFA students take a once in a lifetime trip to Benfica, Portugal - touring the stadium and playing competitive matches against local teams.

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Seasoned pros battle it out against our student teams in an AGFA Staff Vs Students match, seeing who really has the best skills on the pitch.

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nscgnewcastle







# Lewis Gordon

“AGFA definitely enabled me to progress in my football career which helped me realise my ambitions of becoming a professional football player.”

## How did you do at school?

I loved school, I left with 9 GCSEs including a 7 in maths and an 8 in P.E. and I got on with the teachers. Although I was fairly academic, I knew I didn't want to do A Levels as I wanted to focus on sport and achieve my ambition of becoming a pro-footballer.

## Why did you choose to study at NSCG and join the AGFA?

The standard of football I'd seen with AGFA was a lot higher and the coaching on offer was far better than I'd seen elsewhere. Andy Griffin was a big pull too as there is nothing in the area that can compare - to have someone of his calibre with his CV to coach and learn from was fantastic.

## How have AGFA staff supported you during your time at college? Have you received any additional support?

Being a part of AGFA definitely enabled me to progress in my football career which helped me realise my ambitions of becoming a professional football player. The coaching I received was fantastic and I became a better player due to having one-to-one reports and improvement meetings.

Andy and John really helped to keep me motivated throughout my time on the course and at college. Having their support also helped me make links with local clubs and they encouraged us to train outside of normal training hours to push us to improve on certain aspects.

## What activities or competitions have you taken part in as part of the AGFA programme?

Taking part in the English Schools' Football Association (ESFA) U18 Colleges' Cup final was the biggest and most memorable competition I took part in. I was named 'Man of the Match' for my involvement in all three of the goals. I scored two and assisted with the third against Godalming College and we went on to win 3-1. The final was at Stoke City's Bet365 Stadium and it was a game I'll never forget.

## What would your advice be to those considering joining the AGFA?

If you want to achieve good results and celebrate success, you need to put in 100% effort. That goes for both on and off the pitch.

**Previous School**  
Moorside High School

**Studied**  
Level 3 Diploma in Sport Development Coaching & Fitness (D\*D\*D\*)

**Current Club**  
Alfreton Town F.C. (National League North)

**Previous Clubs**  
Nottingham Forest F.C.  
Altrincham F.C.



**Step up.  
Stand out.  
Move forward.**

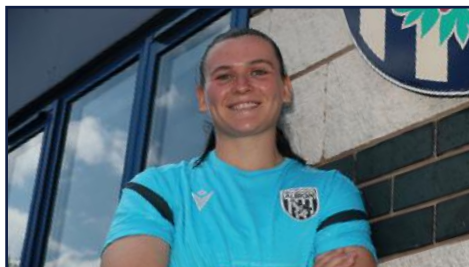


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# Superst of the future.

**Since forming the Andy Griffin Football Academy we have been privileged to nurture and develop some serious footballing talent.**

With many of our male and female academy players going on to sign professional contracts, represent their country in international football and play at both professional and semi-professional level.



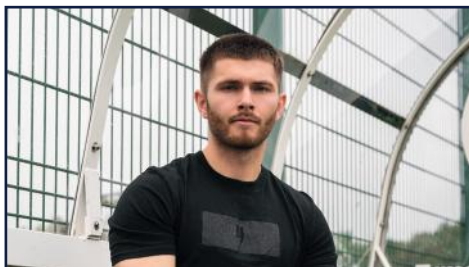
## **Charlotte Clarke**

**Former School:** Madeley School

**Studied:** Level 3 Diploma in Sport Development Coaching & Fitness (D\*D\*D\*)

**Current Club:** West Bromwich Albion F.C.

**Previous Clubs:** Birmingham City F.C. | Liverpool F.C. | Aston Villa F.C. | Stoke City F.C.



## **Ethan Cartwright**

**Former School:** The Orme Academy

**Studied:** Level 3 Diploma in Personal Training & Instruction

**Current Club:** Irlam F.C.

**Previous Clubs:** Basford United | Matlock Town F.C. | Chester F.C.

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## **Ruby Millington**

**Former School:** Madeley School

**Studied:** Level 3 Diploma  
in Sport & Exercise Science

**Current Club:** Stoke City F.C.

**Awards:** English Colleges FA (ECFA)  
Player of the Season



## **Beth Roberts**

**Former School:** The Orme Academy

**Studied:** Level 3 Diploma  
in Sport & Exercise Science (D\*D\*D\*)

**Current Club:** Wolverhampton  
Wanderers F.C.

**Previous Clubs:** Stoke City F.C.



# Make your next move.

**Have you got what it takes to be part of the Andy Griffin Football Academy (AGFA)?**

**Membership to the AGFA is by application, and is only open to the best in footballing talent.**

You'll be playing at a high club level, involved in county trials, or at a professional football academy or centre of excellence - you'll demonstrate your footballing talents to us during our selection process.

This is a tough programme and requires equal and serious commitment to both your football skills development and education.

## **Choose your pathway Vocational\***

BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Sport/Sport Science (AGFA)

*You'll need 4 or more high grades (9-4) at GCSE, ideally including maths and English.*

BTEC Level 2 First Certificate in Sport

*You'll need 4 or more grade 3's at GCSE.*

## **Sixth Form (A Levels)**

Go ahead and choose four of your favourite A Level subjects and you will study three of them alongside being a member of the AGFA.

*You will have a minimum of five GCSEs at grade 5 or above, including maths and English Language.*

*\*If you're interested in being part of the AGFA but not studying a Level 2/3 Sport course at NSCG, register your interest via our application form.*

“ If you are disciplined,  
hard-working, committed  
and passionate – it’s  
game on! ”

Andy Griffin



### Application

First, you'll need to complete an online application form at [nscg.ac.uk/AGFA](https://nscg.ac.uk/AGFA). Once you've done this, you'll need to make contact with our AGFA team:

**01782 254198** or [agfa@nscg.ac.uk](mailto:agfa@nscg.ac.uk)

To register your interest or arrange a trial session.



It begins at:  
**nscg.ac.uk/AGFA**



NSCG  
**ACADEMY OF  
SPORT**



**Newcastle College**

Knutton Lane  
Newcastle-under-Lyme  
Staffordshire  
ST5 2GB

**T:** 01782 715111

**E:** [info.newcastle@nscg.ac.uk](mailto:info.newcastle@nscg.ac.uk)

**Stafford College**

Victoria Square  
Stafford  
Staffordshire  
ST16 2QR

**T:** 01785 223800

**E:** [info.stafford@nscg.ac.uk](mailto:info.stafford@nscg.ac.uk)

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