

U8s on for cup double after Valencia trip

Congratulations to our Year 8 football team who have reached the final of the Sefton Cup and the semi-final of the Merseyside Cup. Shortly after securing their place in the prestigious Sefton Cup final, they promptly followed it up by beating Halewood 9-0 to put them within touching distance of a cup double. Their successes came following a specially arranged soccer camp for 34 of our footballers, from all the age groups, at the home of Valencia. The players spent five days at the Spanish club last month where they took part in training sessions, played matches and took in a game at the famous Mestalla ground. Accompanying the boys on the trip was Mr Summerfield. His account of their visit is on p2. Meanwhile, our Y8s will face local rivals Chesterfield in the final of the Sefton Cup later this week. The game will take place on Thursday at Bootle FC's ground. Kick off is 4pm. Good luck.

News in brief

Year 11 GCSE exams start this week. There are also A Level French speaking tests taking place on Thursday, whilst on Friday, the Year 8s start their examinations.



Young footballers make the most of the Mestalla



A party of 34 left Sacred Heart during the early hours of Friday, April 27, for a football tour to Valencia, *writes Mr Summerfield.*

We arrived at school for 5am, before heading to Manchester Airport for an 8.45am flight.

After arriving at Alicante Airport, we then had a two hour coach journey to our hotel, Mas Camarena, with a quick stop off for lunch.

After checking in and enjoying a quick dip in the hotel pool, we had our evening meal before visiting Valencia's training complex. Here, we received a warm welcome from the Valencia coaching staff before starting the first of five training sessions.

The first and only evening training session was with some of the very best coaches in Spain and lasted for 90 minutes, with some fantastic drills.

After training, we went back to the hotel for our first night's rest, as we had an early start the next morning.

On the morning of Day 2, we had breakfast at the hotel and, in between two training sessions at the Ciudad Deportiva de Paternahad, we had lunch back at the hotel.

Just before the afternoon session, a professional photographer was arranged to

take individual and group photographs of the players, to be given out later as a souvenirs.

Following Training Session 3, we went back to the hotel to change before heading into Valencia for a behind the scenes tour of Estadio de Mestalla. The actual stadium was so open and fantastic to see from pitch level and the stands.

We then went along to visit the official club shop to buy souvenirs before heading back to the hotel for our evening meal. This was followed by some free time spent in the hotel games room..

Day 3 started with a nervous breakfast for some, as we were going play two matches against some very good players and strong opposition from a club called Athletic Union Catarroja.

The U13s played first and won a very competitive game 5-3.

Some great goals from Adam Caddick 2, Jacob Slater, Shea Kinder and a great piece of skill and movement from Luis Lacey.

The second game against the same club was even more competitive for the U15s. Some tough tackling and a really close first half, with a one-sided display during the second half from Sacred Heart but they couldn't find the goal their play deserved, before eventually losing 2-0.

After the games, we had lunch at the hotel, followed by some free time, using the facilities available. After getting ready, we were picked up around 5pm to head towards the Mestalla to attend Valencia's match against Eibar.

The atmosphere was amazing in the stadium with some great football being played during the second half. Valencia missed chances to win and the game ended in stalemate.

An early wake up call again on Monday, Day 4, for breakfast, with two more training sessions.

After the presentation and certificates ceremony, we headed back to the hotel to get ready for our final night. We went out for a lovely meal within a complex called Heron City.

A few hours free time was enjoyed after the meal, with plenty of activities available. We went back to the hotel for our final night's stay.

Day 5, and our final day in Valencia. Early breakfast was followed by a room inspection before heading towards Alicante Airport. We enjoyed a smooth flight home before embarking on the coach journey back to Upper Site.

I would like to thank all the staff who helped out on the trip. Hopefully next year will bring a new venue in Spain.