

DEVELOPING YOUNG OFFICIALS

FA Whistlers Programme

Throughout the 2022/23 academic year we have delivered the FA Whistlers Refereeing programme to many young people across our member secondary schools. The Whistlers programme aims to help young people develop a basic understanding of football refereeing, as well as an awareness and understanding for the need of figures of authority within sport and society.

These two students from Lancaster Academy have had the dedication to complete the course, working on it throughout the year and attending weekly league fixtures; even when it was freezing cold! Not only has this course given the boys a better understanding of the game, but it also helps to assist in reducing conflict within their own school which had been an issue in the past. The programme has been used as a tool to engage young people with behavioural issues in positive diversionary activity. The Lancaster students are excellent role models to the younger children in the league and they portray the principles of fairness & respect to support the primary players to enjoy and excel whilst representing their schools.



In recognition of their achievements the students were invited to referee at the Inspire Together Primary Football Shield Finals. Supported by their teacher Mr Hajat, they stayed calm & composed in a pressured environment - especially during the penalties! They were confident, communicated well and made a big contribution to a very successful day.

We will work with the boys to support the next step in their officiating journey, hopefully progressing them onto a FA Level 1 Refereeing course in the new year.