



• THE FA GIRLS' FOOTBALL CENTRES •

# Wildcats in North Tyneside

An innovative, multi-partner approach to Wildcats has revolutionised girls football in North Tyneside.

TyneMet College, North Shields Juniors AFC and John Spence Community High School joined forces to launch a centre – providing important development opportunities for older girls as well as giving younger ones their first taste of the game.

Students from the college develop their coaching skills and are able to access for formal qualifications, while school students can also get involved and develop their leadership skills.



The partnership has launched lots of initiatives to recruit and retain players – a schools' football festival where 300 girls played football for the first time, taster sessions at local schools and a Wildcats Plus for girls up to the age of 16 who want to play recreationally.

School aged girls are able to explore football in a welcoming environment, while the club has been able to establish new girls teams and create a base of female coaches.

Hannah Marshall, Sports Development Officer at Tyne Met College said: “This collaboration has been fantastic for our female students, allowing them to gain their first coaching experience in a safe, supportive and female only environment without the pressure of coaching a team. In turn, the students have helped to inspire the next generation of girls' footballers in North Tyneside and are fantastic role models.”

Simon Brown from North Shields Juniors AFC added: “When we first started planning the Wildcats Centre we had no idea the impact it would have on girls football locally. As a result there are now girls playing in teams, who maybe never would have, and young female coaches with the confidence to run their own teams, with the next generation ready to follow. Absolutely fantastic.”



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