

Halesowen College – ESOL football teams

In 2018 we had a few ESOL students who were keen to start a football team. This project was supported by James Bragg as part of a Sport England initiative and quickly grew to 28 students who attend a training session each week. The interest from so many students enabled us to create an ESOL football team which has FA accreditation. The team participated in 5 tournaments last year. To celebrate World Mental Health Day in October, there was a match between our ESOL football team and the College's 3rd football team which is made up of Sport students – the ESOL team was well supported from the side lines and was victorious. Our ESOL footballers have also had the opportunity to visit Liverpool United Football Club.

Many of our ESOL students would have had nothing to do on Christmas Day, so we organised a Christmas Day football match, which was attended by ESOL students and staff from a large number of College departments. Staff not only cheered on the footballers, but also supplied the refreshments and bought them Christmas gifts. Following the Christmas Day match, ESOL footballers were given tickets to watch West Bromwich Albion play later the same week. This year our ESOL footballers are part of the Birmingham County Flexi College League. This league has enabled us to enter both male and female teams with varying levels of football experience and ability and has encouraged non-sporting students to engage with football activities.

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