



PFA Membership



The Professional Footballers' Association is the world's oldest professional sports union with over 4000 current members and 50,000 former members worldwide. Member services include, Education & Training, Coaching, Commercial, Contract advice and negotiation, Hardship grants, Legal advice, Medical Insurance, Financial Management & Pensions.

Member services are available for life so make sure you have joined your trade union to take full advantage of all The PFA can offer you. Remember once a member always a member so you can take advantage of their numerous services even after you've left the professional game.

For more information on what The PFA can do for you or to join please call **0161 236 0575** or visit www.givemefootball.com

Signing Professional

If you are offered a professional contract by your Football Club and wish to obtain any advice about the terms and conditions of this contract please remember to contact The PFA. As a member of The PFA you will be entitled to free advice from The PFA who are able to provide hands-on representation in contract negotiations, give free financial advice and offer a number of other free services that could benefit you.

Website

Remember to access www.lfe.org.uk for all news relating to your Apprenticeship. The website regularly features:

- Youth Alliance and Academy Fixtures, Results & League Tables
- Apprentice & Football News
- Apprentice of the Month
- Online Polls & Prize Draws
- LFE TV
- Apprentice Blogs
- Progression



Coming Soon...

Vote for you Goal of the Month from the Youth Alliance and Academy Leagues - this footage will be shown exclusively on LFE TV at www.lfe.org.uk

Review and Reward

Review your current football boots at www.equipio.com and enter in to a competition to win £100 towards your sporting wish list. Simply sign up and then review your boots - the most recommended review will win the £100 prize. Closing date for reviews is **31st October 2010**.

Online Store



LFE is now pleased to have engaged in a partnership with Genesis to offer Apprentices a unique opportunity to purchase Puma's latest fusions of performance, technology and style from their extensive range of Kit, Trainingwear, Boots and other football accessories - **25%** below recommended retail prices.

To take advantage of this offer Apprentices need to visit www.lfe.org.uk and click through to the shop website. Details of the promotional code that you will need to receive the full discount will be emailed to you directly for use.

*** Please ensure that you have updated your VLE profile to receive this offer (see below).**

Communicating



During the course of your two years as an Apprentice and in the years that follow LFE would like to be able to communicate with you directly to keep you informed about the various opportunities and services that you can access as current or ex Apprentice footballers.

In order to do this effectively LFE need to be in possession of correct contact details for you so if you haven't done so already, please log on to the VLE and update your profile with the most relevant **phone** and **email** details.

Apprentice of the Month

This month sees LFE re-launch the 'Apprentice of the Month' award to celebrate the success of Apprentices that have excelled educationally or in the workplace and have showed commitment to the ASE programme.

The awards will run from September 2010 through to April 2011 and each month LFE Regional Officers will be asked to nominate Apprentices that they feel best match some or all of the criteria. The nominations will then be judged by LFE and the winner will be presented with a trophy and prizes.

Last season's winners included:

Ashley Palmer (Scunthorpe United), Edward Adjei (Peterborough United) Lee Hodson (Watford, pictured above), Danny Taberner (Rochdale), Callum Wilson (Coventry City), Charlie Mann (Crystal Palace) and Jacob Webster (Rotherham United)



Student Services & Advice

Remember that as an Apprentice footballer you are entitled to access the Student Support Services and Advice Centres at the College/Education Provider where you study your BTEC qualification/A-Levels. The student support services on offer are usually wide ranging and are designed to support students during every stage of their course.

Be aware of your entitlement, listen carefully to opportunities your group tutor will bring to your attention and take notice of weekly bulletins and student notice boards. Typical areas that Student Services and Advice Centres cover include:

- Accommodation
- Benefits Advice
- Careers Advice
- Counselling
- College Chaplains
- Course Guidance
- Drugs Counselling
- Financial Advice

- Student Loans for H.E.
- Learner Support Funding
- HE Advice and Help
- Learning Support Tutors
- The Student Union
- Childcare

The National Union of Students (NUS)

As a registered student of the College you attend to study your BTEC/A-Levels you will be entitled to apply for an NUS Extra Card which will entitle you to a range of exclusive discounts and offers.



Companies that currently offer NUS Extra discounts include Cecil Gee, JJB Sports, Halfords, Play.com, Odeon Cinema's, Pizza Hut and Top Man.

Higher Education & US Scholarships



A Guide to Higher Education Applications will be available from 1st October to all players who are interested in applying for a Higher Education course starting in September 2011. The 22 page guide currently covers topics that any prospective HE applicant would need to know about and should be used by every Apprentice considering applying to go to University.

Remember if you are considering going to University - this is an important document that should offer you a full guide to the application process including Clearing and information regarding student finance and support.

A copy of the booklet will be downloadable from www.lfe.org.uk/downloads/apprentice-brochures



A Guide to American Scholarships is also available on the website. This offers practical and independent advice to young players who are considering taking up a sports scholarship in the United States of America. Last year's publication will remain on available for information purposes; however this will be revised during the course of the season.

A copy of the booklet is available at www.lfe.org.uk/downloads/apprentice-brochures

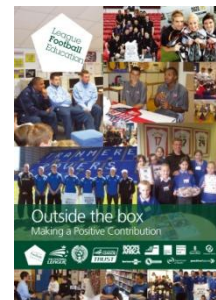
*** Please note, information in the Guide to American Scholarships will be subject to change during the season as per individual Collegiate Athletic Association guidelines on eligibility criteria.**

Making a Positive Contribution

Last season over 200 Apprentices took part in charitable initiatives and in doing so helped their Clubs support key government department agendas around education, equality, health, and social inclusion.

Therefore LFE will once again be making the Outside the Box publication available to Apprentices and Clubs to help facilitate this work. The materials will be available for you to access on the VLE and this work can often be used to compliment your education programme and as a stepping stone in to a Club's community department or other longer term community based work.

These activities will also help you increase your knowledge and awareness of the social responsibilities you will be encouraged to show if you become a professional. LFE, The Football League Trust and The PFA are pleased to endorse the activities covered in this material and we hope that you are able to use these suggested ideas to make a positive impact.



You Said, We Did



Finally as part of our never ending cycle of improvement LFE will ask for your views continuously over your two year Apprentice Journey. This will include questions about induction, your education programme right through to your future career plans if you don't make it in the game. The ultimate aim of course - being to strengthen our offerings and services to you and the programme.

Our most recent feedback, for example, on our website revealed that Apprentices would like to see a top goalscorers chart, match footage and a goal of the month competition on the site. This is something we are now working on trying to provide!

So please continue to feedback in an honest and reliable manner and we will do our best to meet any appropriate recommendations.