



# COMMUNITY SPORTS & EDUCATION TRUST

REGISTERED CHARITY NO: 1102239

## Volunteering Case Study: Joe, Alex and Stephen

Local to the Meriden Community Centre, teenagers Joe, Alex and Stephen have all excelled in voluntary roles. The boys, from the Meriden Community Centre's closest

Secondary School Frances Combe Academy, began their volunteering journey after attending the Trust's Premier League Kicks sessions. All three are regular attenders at those Monday night football sessions and quickly gained a strong relationship with Trust coaches including the Trust's Football and Sports Development Officer, Richard Bulling. With the relationship built, Richard then offered them all the opportunity to volunteer with the Trust on the Premier League Mini-Kicks programme, engaging with primary school children. Joe, Alex and Stephen proved to be great help, as they took registers, assisted the delivery coaches and supported the children in the session. The three boys now also assist on various other Trust initiatives such as our very popular holiday courses and back in November 2016, they helped with the grand re opening of the centre.

As well as volunteering in practical sessions, the boys are also part of the Meriden Community Centre's youth management board where young people discuss various ideas with Meriden Community Centre's funders to gather ideas to help the community hub thrive for young people. Plans for Joe, Alex and Stephen now will be for all of them to achieve their Junior Football Leaders award through our local County Football Association. In just a short period of time, all three have gained valuable skills, which will undoubtedly, help them when it comes to future employment.

**"As volunteers they are showing selflessness and a willingness to contribute to a shared goal, hopefully in the future they will be able to build on the experience to benefit them not only with their sporting interests but also in their early working lives." Mr Sutton, Sport and Health Department, Frances Combe Academy**

**"Our volunteers play a very important part in helping us to make a positive difference in our local communities. We are committed to supporting our volunteers and to helping them develop new skills in a welcoming environment" Derrick Williams, Volunteering & Quality Assurance Officer, Watford FC CSE Trust**

UPDATE: Joe & Alex have now successfully completed their FA Junior Football Leaders Award. All three received a certificate for their hard work from the Trust on national volunteer week in June 2017. Joe & Alex will also be completing a week's work experience with the Trust at the end of June 2017.

“As an academy, we are a part of the local community and we see volunteering as an important aspect of development for a young person. Understanding community needs helps foster empathy and self-efficacy in students, making them more ready for an independent life.

Through working with local non-profit agencies, volunteers learn about the functions and operation of our government. In the local community, volunteers gain knowledge of local resources available to solve community needs.”

Mr Doody - Assistant Principal in charge of Intervention at Francis Combe Academy



Joe guiding visitors around the centre at our grand re-opening back in November



Joe & Alex meeting the late Graham Taylor at the grand re-opening of the Meriden Community Centre.



Alex, Joe & Stephen receiving their certificates from the



Joe & Alex receiving their Football Associations Junior Football Leaders award in June 2017.