

April 1, 2018

We have arrived in England and have had a great yet busy first day. After a long day of travel, we arrived to a cold, yet mostly sunny morning in Manchester. The staff on the long-haul flight on Virgin Atlantic was excellent – they provided some nice dinner options and tons of in-flight entertainment options to keep everyone occupied for the 8-hour flight. Some of the players and staff got some (I repeat some) sleep in between some heavy turbulence over the Atlantic Ocean.

After getting through customs quickly and efficiently, we were met by the World Strides tour guides (Yasmin and Lauren) who got us sorted out and loaded quickly motor coaches. We immediately headed to downtown Manchester for some sightseeing. Before heading into the National Football Museum, we walked the city and saw some great shopping and stumbled upon the Manchester Cathedral who happened to be having their Easter service. The Manchester Cathedral was originally built in the 1400's and was absolutely stunning church.

The National Football Museum is England's national museum of football. and preserves, conserves and displays important collections of football memorabilia. As a publicly funded national museum, it's a free museum which is amazing – it would definitely cost \$20-25 in the states. The memorabilia and artifacts were outstanding and such a treasure for all soccer fans and players. A few players hit up the gift shops for some trinkets to bring back home.

By the end of our time at the National Football Museum, two things were evident, everyone was sleepy and hungry. We walked across the street to Printworks, a large collection of restaurants. Everyone split up into small groups up and grabbed a quick bite. After finishing lunch, we headed back to our hotel for the week, the Holiday Inn Express in Leigh.

Once back at the hotel, Adrian addressed the team with some expectations for the week and then everyone got their training gear ready for our first session with the Liverpool Academy Coaching Staff. After two very long days, the players came to the session with a tremendous amount of energy and excitement. The weather had cooled down as the day went on, but the players didn't use the conditions to affect their focus,

After the sessions finished up, everyone headed back to the hotel, cleaned up and then we met as a group for dinner of pasta, chicken fajitas and potatoes with a chocolate and caramel donut for desert. Everyone is tired and looking forward to a great night's sleep.

Below are some photos we posted from today.

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.1015624426366119.1073741835.173232121118&type=1&l=30fae2bdb7>