

Minsthorpe Year 10 Football team travelled to Newcastle Upon Tyne last Friday, for a chance to make it to the Quarter-Finals of the ESFA National Cup. Standing in their way was Gosforth Academy, a strong team with a good track record in the competition.

The team, along with a minibus of supporters made the long journey straight up the A1 at the beginning of the school day, giving ample time for the best preparation. A break at a service station followed by a stop off at the Angel of the North, allowed the players to stretch their legs, before crossing the Tyne bridge and eventually making their way to Gosforth.

Upon arrival, the players and supporters had time to marvel at the fantastic facilities the school had to offer. It was clear to see why the school had such a glowing reputation for sport; notable past students included Newcastle United legend Alan Shearer, whose shirt and birth certificate were displayed on the wall of the 'Alan Shearer Sports Centre', where the players relaxed and changed before the game.

After a good warm-up, the game got underway. Straight from the off, Gosforth displayed their physical superiority, winning aerial duels and tackling strongly. However, the Minsthorpe players rolled up their sleeves and challenged for everything, making it difficult for the home team to generate any rhythm.

Eventually, Gosforth's persistence to break the Minsthorpe back line paid off. 3 pieces of individual brilliance saw them surprisingly 3-0 up before the interval, adding another shortly before the half time whistle, leaving Minsthorpe with a mountain to climb. 4-0 down at half-time.

The reaction of the Minsthorpe boys in the second half though, was superb. Their resilience and continued fighting spirit was commended by even the opposition manager. The character shown by all the players' who continued to fight saw them close the gap to 4-2, with a fantastic volley from Mason Kilmartin and a great solo effort from Bradley Binns. The supporters on the sideline playing their part in rallying their team.

Unfortunately, it was too little too late, and in the latter stages Gosforth added a further 2 goals. Final score 6-2.

The Year 10 Minsthorpe football team have been an absolute credit to themselves and to the school and have created memories that will last a lifetime.

Well done to all the boys.