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New academy aiming to help young climbers reach the heights



Going up in the world – some of the 20 young climbers who have been selected to join the new Foundry Academy based at the city's Foundry Climbing Centre



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AN ACADEMY has been set up in Sheffield to help 20 young climbers get to the top.

Acclaimed climbers such as Neil Bentley, Jerry Moffatt and Ben Moon are helping the youngsters, aged seven to 19, to achieve their potential at the Foundry Climbing Centre in Mowbray Street. Neil, who is also known for his stunt work, including doubling for Matt Damon in The Bourne Identity's embassy climbing scene, is the chairman of the new Foundry Academy. He said: "This is a chance for promising young climbers to develop their skills and get some support into competitions. I'm really pleased to have so many people giving it their support."

Other experienced climbers are also supporting the academy, with many instructors giving up their free time to do coaching. Academy secretary Danny Brown said: "We've really pleased to have the city's climbing community behind us and we hope these young people will continue the spirit of climbing which is so much a part of Sheffield."

"Sheffield is known as a world centre for climbing and The Foundry is at the heart of that but up until now we've never had a Foundry climbing team. Many of us felt we needed to do something about that, which is how the academy has come about and we've been really lucky to get so much support and enthusiasm."

"We've also had sponsorship from Ben Moon, Foundry Mountain Activities and CragX sports shop so we could get it off the ground but we'll need more to keep going. In the meantime it's great seeing these young climbers working with some of the best climbers around and we're looking forward to seeing them do well in climbing competitions next year."

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