

## WHAT MAKES BUKAYO SO GOOD?

Great imagination. Can pick out sudden passes or make a dynamic run in attack.

Great balance to weave past defenders and keep the ball.

Surprisingly tough tackler for a winger.

Brilliant at feinting to go one way, then sprinting off in a different direction.

Excellent at crossing the ball into the penalty area to create chances for teammates.

Superb dribbler who frequently keeps hold of the ball even in tight spaces.

Terrific stamina. Bukayo can run and run for 90 minutes or more.

Everyone loves Bukayo. In 2024, Arsenal legend Thierry Henry described him as his favourite player. WOW!

Even fans of rival clubs rate the Arsenal attacker as one of the country's most talented footballers.

England fans have  
TWICE voted him their  
**MEN'S PLAYER  
OF THE SEASON.**

On the second occasion, in September 2023, he beat Jude Bellingham into **SECOND** and Harry Kane into **THIRD PLACE!**





# HIGH SCHOOL AND ACADEMY

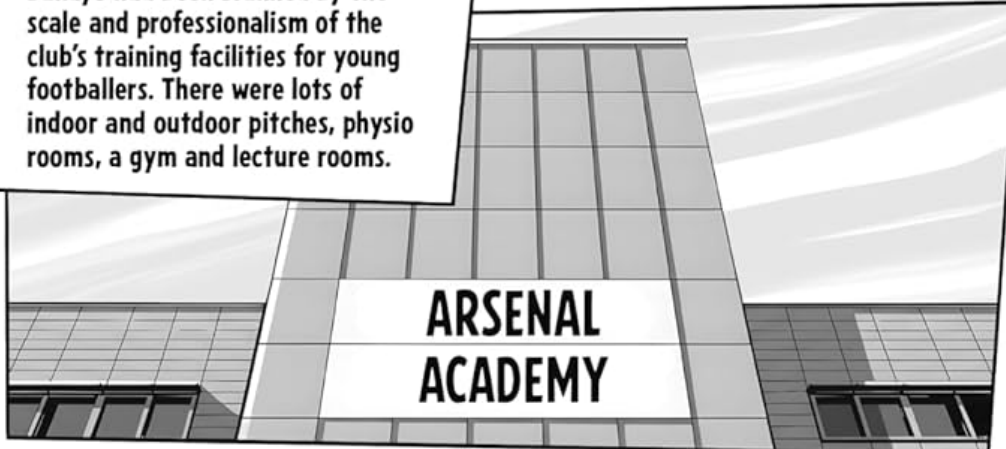
As Bukayo was approaching his teens, he moved schools to Greenford High School whilst still training and playing at the Arsenal Academy. Bukayo's days were filled with football and schoolwork.

The Arsenal Academy was based at Hale End, on the other side of London from Greenford. It could be a good hour's drive by car when the traffic was heavy. Mum or Dad drove Bukayo there every week.

He would sometimes complete his homework on the drive to the Academy. He might be too tired after training or another game.



Bukayo had been stunned by the scale and professionalism of the club's training facilities for young footballers. There were lots of indoor and outdoor pitches, physio rooms, a gym and lecture rooms.



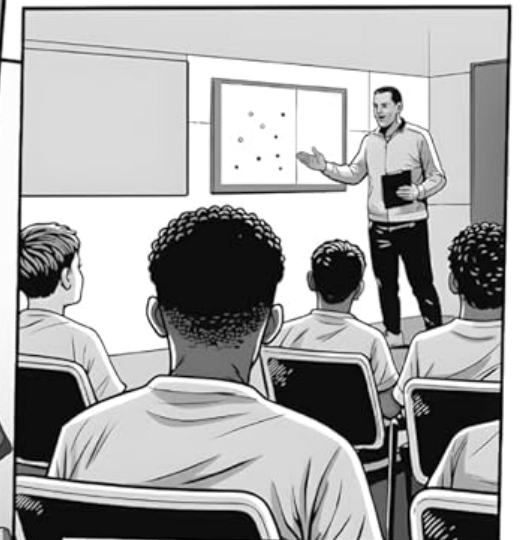
More than 90 players at the Academy had played for Arsenal's first team. These included top talents like Ashley Cole, Cesc Fàbregas, Jack Wilshere and Tony Adams.



There were a large number of coaches who showed the boys how to train and prepare for matches properly. This included warming up and stretching muscles to help avoid injuries.



There were lots of short, sharp drills to improve receiving and cushioning the ball, moving with it under perfect control and choosing the right pass.



At other times, the young players were taught about tactics or listened to visiting coaches and professional footballers.

# THE EUROS

The UEFA European Championships (the Euros) began in 1960. All the nations of Europe enter a team in qualifying with the leading 24 teams competing in a tournament every four years. Before 2021, England had never reached the final of the competition.



Cristiano Ronaldo has played more Euros tournament games than any other footballer – 30 over six different Euros competitions.



Spain's Lamine Yamal is the youngest player and youngest goalscorer at the Euros when he appeared and scored in Euro 24, aged 16.



## Euro Champions

1960	USSR
1964	SPAIN
1968	ITALY
1972	WEST GERMANY
1976	CZECHOSLOVAKIA
1980	WEST GERMANY
1984	FRANCE
1988	NETHERLANDS
1992	DENMARK
1996	GERMANY
2000	FRANCE
2004	GREECE
2008	SPAIN
2012	SPAIN
2016	PORTUGAL
2020	ITALY
2024	SPAIN

Denmark's footballers were on holiday in summer 1992, when the country got the call up to replace Yugoslavia at Euro 92. The Danes went on to win the tournament!



The fastest penalty kick conceded at the Euros happened in 2016. France's Paul Pogba fouled Ireland's Shane Long less than a minute after kick-off!



The biggest scoreline in a Euros match occurred in 2023, when France hammered Gibraltar 14-0 in a qualifying game.



# A NEW SEASON

The 2021-22 season was an important one for Bukayo. He was determined to build on his early success, put the woes of Euro 2020 behind him, and become an even more vital member of the squad.

Arsenal had signed a number of new players including Ben White in defence and Martin Odegaard from Real Madrid. Bukayo enjoyed learning how this incredibly skilful midfielder played, so they could work well together.



In March, Bukayo again proved a match-winner when he scored the only goal of the game at Villa Park. It was a cracking shot from outside the penalty area.

Bukayo celebrated his 100<sup>th</sup> appearance for Arsenal in December, then played Norwich on Boxing Day. He scored two goals in a Premier League game for the first time in a comfortable 5-0 win for the Gunners.



He performed a knee slide into a forward roll goal celebration. It was a special strike and Arsenal's 2,000<sup>th</sup> goal in the Premier League.

Mikel Arteta relied on Bukayo more and more now. He selected him to play 40 games for Arsenal that season, more than any other player at the club.



Bukayo had had a fine 2021-22 and Arsenal fans knew it. They voted him Arsenal's Player of the Season.

# FACING SPAIN

Spain were a team packed with talent and offered lots of different threats to opponents.

## Marc Cucurella

A buccaneering full back who loves to join in attacks, Cucurella is also a physical defender who can make sharp tackles and win the ball back. Chelsea paid £63 million for him in 2022.



## Dani Olmo

A midfield dynamo. The Barcelona player just keeps on running and running and running. He loves an accurate shot from long distance, but can score goals from inside the box, too.



## Lamine Yamal

One of the hottest young talents in world football. This Barcelona starlet is Spain's youngest ever goalscorer (16 years, 51 days). An extraordinary dribbler and flair player who can do things other top players can only dream of.



## Rodri

The Manchester City midfielder is a master at breaking up play and launching his own team's attacks. In 2024, he won the highly prized Ballon d'Or.



## Nico Williams

A fast, athletic, right-footed player who mostly plays on the left wing. Williams is an amazing dribbler and uses feints, footwork and sharp acceleration to leave opposing defenders for dust!

