

## Josh Traynor - Class of 2018

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Four years ago, Josh Traynor said at Penwortham Priory Academy his dream was to play pool for England – and he has earned himself a national call-up.

Josh, now 16, started playing pool when he was five as his family had a pool table in their garage but it became serious when Josh was 12.

Josh, who trains at Stephen Hendry's Snooker and Pool Club, was selected for Lancashire youth (U18) trials when he was 12 and helped his county win the regional title. He had England trials then but didn't quite make the grade as he competed against players much older. However he took part in a tournament in Leicester and clinched his England shirt.

"I am really proud as it's always been my dream to play for my country," said Josh, who now attends Cardinal Newman College and is studying A-Levels in Film and Sociology and a BTEC in Business.

Josh puts a lot of his success down to his time at Priory as Headteacher Mr Eastham gave Josh time off to practice and attend tournaments.



"They were really good with me, they let me have days off and supported my dream. I really appreciated it all," said Josh.

"I also want to thank my mum and dad as well as family and friends and everyone who has supported me on my journey so far.

"I couldn't have done it without financial support from various people, including my sponsors. Everyone has played their part."

Josh has a big tournament in Great Yarmouth soon where he will represent Lancashire U23s in a team of five as they strive to win a National title – they have got the main final once while Josh has been involved, two years ago, and hope to go one step further this time.

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He will then face a tough play-off against his England Under 18 team-mates in Leicester in April in a bid to make the top eight, who will then travel abroad as the world team to represent their country.

“I am in the England squad but this tournament would mean I would qualify for the world team and play abroad, something I have never done before. It will be really tough but you just have to do your best.

“To play pool for England is special. My dad cried when I was picked for Lancashire but thankfully there were no tears when I got selected for England,” added Josh.



*Josh in his school days back in 2015*