

Hockey Programme

I hope this message finds you well. I wanted to inform/update you our hockey programme for this season.

At Surbiton High School, our hockey programme aims to foster a lifelong love for the sport. Our goal is for pupils to continue playing hockey post-school, whether at university, in clubs, or even at the international level. Success is defined by their continued engagement with hockey. We are unique in offering flexibility within our programme, giving students the choice of how intensively they wish to participate. Whether they are looking for a nationally competitive environment or simply to enjoy the sport recreationally, we cater to both in a fun, inclusive, and immersive team setting.

Our programme is overseen by myself Jonny Gall, a former England International, and is supported by a team of full-time teachers, Mr Close (SLT), Miss Rickards (Head of Y9), Mr Sayer (English) and specialist hockey coaches, including Olympians Tim Nurse (GB and Surbiton) and John Shaw (GB), as well as current international players Miss Ellie Mackenzie (Scotland and Surbiton), Miss Katie Birch (Geography) (Scotland and Wimbledon) and Jake Payton (GBU21 and Surbiton). We are incredibly lucky to have such an amazing team.

Team Leads:

- U18 and U13: Mr. J Gall
- U16 and U12: Miss E Mackenzie
- U15: Mr Shaw
- U14: Miss K Birch

U12-U15 Parents

Term 1 - Hockey for All

We offer a range of teams to maximise the opportunity for our students to play. We have weekly games lessons, a club training night, midweek and Saturday matches.

Our Saturday fixtures include teams from U12 A-D, U13 A-D, U14 A-B, U15 A-B. The teams' fixtures are all on SOCs if you wish to find them. We see real value in pupils being able to play competitive ladies hockey at Club level. To this end there will be a limited number of weekend fixtures for pupils in Years 10 & 11 and no Sixth Form fixtures.

Saturday Selection and Fixture Goals

- **Commitment:** We reward dedication to the sport, valuing pupils' consistent attendance at club sessions and games afternoons. If we have more than four teams worth of pupils, we will rotate players to ensure that they all have the opportunity to represent the School
- **Inclusivity:** Our goal is to form extensive squads, enabling greater pupil participation.
- **Beyond Winning:** While winning is a goal, we place higher value on participation, sportsmanship, and personal development.
- **Support for Excellence:** Pupils who have opportunities to play at the national league level or in a women's performance team will receive the School's full support.

Weekend Transport

Unfortunately, there will be no organised transport available for the weekend fixtures.

The reason for this is that we employ specialised hockey coaches rather than using academic staff to accompany the teams. This allows us to provide the best possible coaching experience for our pupils during fixtures.

Term 2

It has become increasingly difficult to arrange fixtures against Schools of the required level, as many boarding schools have shifted to Netball during the boys' Hockey season. As a result, we will not schedule Saturday fixtures. This time will instead be devoted to training teams that are still competing in Cups. We will, however, continue to hold mid-week training, clubs and fixtures, but will encourage our pupils to participate in club hockey during the weekends where possible.

Selection Policies

Weekend Fixtures

- Players registered at club are rewarded for their commitment
- Aim for large squads to allow flexibility
- Ensure game time for all students
- Results are not the only focus
- Pupils eligible for national leagues or women's performance teams can be released by the school as needed
- Pupils who fail to communicate their unavailability twice may be replaced in future selections

Tournaments/Cup Fixtures

- We select from all pupils, even those involved in other sports (a certain level of commitment is still required).
- Players from other year groups may be called up.

Seniors

In recent years, only our 1st team has participated in the U18 England Hockey and U19 Independent School's Cup competitions.

This year, we have decided to expand our participation. Our 2nd team will be entering the Tier 2 National Competition, and we will also be competing in both Tier 1 and Tier 2 of the U16 England Hockey. Consequently, the number of pupils involved in national competitions will increase from 16 to 64, allowing more pupils to represent the school in these prestigious events.

While this is indeed an exciting development, it does mean that some players will become "cup-tied" to specific competitions. Therefore, although I would prefer the flexibility to adjust teams based on form and injuries, we will need to adhere more strictly to maintaining consistent team line-ups during cup fixtures.

Here is how we plan to prioritise team selection:

Cup Games – England Hockey – (In priority order)

1. 1st team: Open to any pupil from U16 or Sixth Form
2. U16a: A combination of U16 players not in the 1st team and U15s
3. 2nd team: Comprises Sixth Form pupils
4. U16b: Includes U16/U15 players not selected in above teams.
5. 3rd team: Players on Senior registers. We try to ensure as many pupils play as possible throughout the season so some rotation will occur.

Friendly Games

For our Wednesday friendly fixtures, the team composition will differ from cup games. Selection will be from pupils who have registered for the Hockey Games Register only. As we have over 50 pupils on this register, priority will be given to these pupils due to the limitations of pitch space and availability. This includes friendly competitions such as the Hockey Spring Term League post-Christmas.

Indoor Hockey

U18 – Sixth form students.

U16 – Year 11 and 10 pupils.

Should you have any questions or wish to discuss this further, please feel free to reach out.

Yours sincerely

Jonny Gall
Head of Hockey