

Prep Schools' Lions - Selection for 'A' Squad

Dear Parents,

Congratulations on your son's selection. Please ensure that you complete the Registration Form by **6pm on Wednesday 20th November** to confirm your son's place in the squad. I appreciate it is a quick turnaround but it's necessary to be able to select the Development Squad.

The 'A' Squads are for the most outstanding players at the trials. We expect the team to have around four games in the spring term. You will be contacted once the team's schedule is published on www.districtfootball.co.uk. No matches will take place before January.

There are no costs for the matches however parents are asked to purchase kit for the players, which is personalised, and the players then keep. The kit might make a good Christmas present! Although we initially supplied kit for the players at matches, the feedback we have had from parents is that players prefer their own kit which they can keep. Our kit supplier is setting up a website so parents can order directly, and I will forward details of the website and of your son's squad number once the squads are all in place.

Players selected for the 'A' Squad are given priority for places to represent England in the Gothia World Youth Cup, which is currently planned to take place in Gothenburg next July. You may be interested in the website www.gothiacup.se.

Parents can choose whether players fly with the team, accompanied by our coaching staff, or to take the players themselves and meet the team there. We have to book group flight tickets which are in very high demand, so you may be able to find cheaper seats yourself if you are planning to go to Sweden to support, although we have found the players often like to travel as a team. I am unable to confirm the team's specific flight details just yet, but the team flights are likely to leave a London airport on Friday 11th July, Saturday 12th or Sunday 13th July and return the following weekend.

The Gothia Cup teams are based on calendar year of birth (the Gothia Cup uses the international age system, starting the academic year on 1st January). Therefore, additional players from the trial will be selected to go to the Gothia Cup. These players are known as Development Squad players.

Parents will need to pay the cost of the player's place on the trip to Gothia World Youth Cup and the Training Camp. We also divide the cost of the staff attending between the players. At this stage we just require a deposit. The balance is due for the Camp at the end of January and for the trip to Gothia Cup by the end of April.

The cost of the trip to the Gothia World Youth Cup is £1,285 for players born in 2011 which includes accommodation in a hotel. The cost is £874 for those players born in 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015 who will be staying in a school. As well as accommodation, the cost includes meals, all transport around Gothenburg, a Gothia Cup Card and all tournament entry fees and Opening Ceremony ticket. Please note that there will be an additional cost for flights for those flying with the team's coaches.

Parents are welcome to attend the tournament, although it is not necessary as the players will be looked after by the experienced Coaching team staff as well as Physiotherapists and Sports Therapists. There are official hotels for those supporting England and we would recommend staying in these hotels. Again, more details about parents booking to attend will be forwarded once the squads have been finalised.

We run a Training Camp in the Easter holidays to allow our teams to train together and prepare for the tournament prior to the trip to Sweden. The Camps are residential and take place at Tonbridge School. The cost including all accommodation, food and activities is £395. Players can choose to attend either Camp dates.

If you have any questions, please refer to our website at www.districtfootball.co.uk.

Congratulations again on your son's selection in the team.

Best wishes,

Dan Abraham

