

Prep Schools' Pumas - Selection for 'A' Squad

Dear Parents,

Congratulations on your son's selection. Please ensure that you complete the Registration Form by **6pm on Wednesday 2nd October** 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 play around four sessions in the spring term. You will be contacted once the team's schedule is published on www.southeastdistrict.co.uk. No matches will take place before January.

Parents are required 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 and wear outside of matches. 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 cost of the trip includes accommodation in a school (the plan is for our teams will be on the only ones staying on campus), meals (Sun – Sat morning), transport, and all tournament entry fees as detailed on our website.

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

There is no cost for the matches during the spring term. Parents will however 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 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, some additional players from the trial will be selected to go to the Gothia Cup. These players are known as Development Squad players.

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 Training Camps are residential and take place at Tonbridge School. Players can choose to attend either camp. Players will be allocated into teams for the Gothia Cup by which camp they can attend. Those that can make either camp will be allocated to a camp shortly.

If you have any questions, please refer to our website at <https://southeastdistrict.co.uk/>

Congratulations again on being part of the Prep Schools' Pumas. It is a fantastic experience which will provide memories of a lifetime.

Best wishes,

Dan Abraham

