

Dear parents,

We are writing to you as your child has chosen to play hockey at school, and we wanted to inform you about the exciting launch of a new Parents' Association to promote hockey at Abingdon.

For several years now a group of parent volunteers have worked with school to organise an annual Hockey Fundraising Awards Dinner. The time has come for this 'informal' Parents Association to take its place alongside the Rugby Touchliners and the Abingdon Boat Club and become a fully-fledged Parents Association – the **Hockey Griffens**.

Hockey already has a highly successful track record at Abingdon, recent successes include:

- 1st XI 100% win record for 2018 and 2019
- Regular representation at GB U16 and U18 levels
- Strong representation at County and Regional level
- Large numbers of students playing at local clubs
- Regular winners of ISHL leagues

We want to help build on this enviable level of success but perhaps as importantly grow the support and enthusiasm for hockey across all the teams throughout the school.

The purpose of the Parents' Association is to provide general support to the club and ensure our players have the best opportunity to enjoy their school hockey careers. We believe the association should aim to be as inclusive as possible and our initiatives should focus on all teams in the club. The association will aim to raise the profile of hockey in and outside of the school and maintain its position at the forefront of Abingdon sport.

For several years now the funds raised by the Hockey Griffens Dinner have been used to pay for:

- Improved team identity - New 1st XI strip as well as new goal keeping smocks for all teams
- England Hockey Goal-Keeper training
- Bow ties for all Abingdon Hockey sixth form leavers

We plan to grow these initiatives to support our players for the 2022 season and for future seasons ahead. Some of the current proposals include the following:

- A new Hockey tie for all Abingdon hockey players
- Abingdon Hockey training t-shirts for all hockey players



- Improved profile - Weekly updates with team news and results throughout the season produced by the players
- Build upon the highly successful Hockey dinner with another social event earlier in the term
- Hockey Griffens branded items for sale at Tilsley Park - eg Hats, umbrellas, grips etc.

Annual family membership costs £35, and all membership fees will be directly invested into the development of hockey at Abingdon. To join, please complete the **google form**. The membership fees will then be added to your next school bill.

As parents you can invariably find us on the side-lines, cheering on the players. Please do come and find one of us if you have any questions regarding the Hockey Griffens, or drop us an email on abingdonhockeygriffens@gmail.com. We also hope to see you at the Hockey Awards Dinner, which will take place on **Saturday 26 March 2022**.

Hockey is a game for life – many of our players go on to play at university and within the many thriving hockey clubs across the country. Hockey at Abingdon is in a great place and I hope you will all join with us to provide extra support, impetus and enthusiasm for our hockey players.

The Hockey Griffens Committee

Julie Bignone (yr 5), Jeanine Ferguson (yr 5), Pete Conway (yr 5), Sheila Bury (Yr 5)