



## Uddingston Grammar School – Hockey Academy – Invite Letter

(For school year 2019/20 - current P7 pupils)

Dear Parent / Guardian,

As a feeder school P7 pupil who will join Uddingston Grammar School as a new S1 pupil for school year 2019/20 we would formally like to invite your child to apply to join the schools Hockey Academy.

The Academy is run jointly by the school and the hockey club to provide pupils with the option of selected 6 hours of hockey a week instead of none core subject classes with the view of developing international class players via dedicated coaching in conjunction with their education.

The school year 2019/20 will be the third year of the academy with 18 pupils currently attending the academy from 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year at the school while still receiving their full education requirements.

If the academy is of interest to your child, please see over a testimonial from one of our existing players parents and a fact sheet about the academy.

### Key dates to note as below:

- **1<sup>st</sup> March 2019** – Email a note of interest to join the academy to [uddingstonhc.doh@gmail.com](mailto:uddingstonhc.doh@gmail.com) to receive an application form.
- **17<sup>th</sup> March 2017** – Attend the information evening 4pm to 5pm at Uddingston Hockey Club Clubhouse (Castle Avenue, Uddingston G71 7HJ).
- **18<sup>th</sup> March 2019** – Return completed application form to [uddingstonhc.doh@gmail.com](mailto:uddingstonhc.doh@gmail.com).
- **19<sup>th</sup> or 27<sup>th</sup> March 2019** – Attend first or second trial day 5pm to 6pm at Uddingston Hockey Club Pitch (Castle Avenue, Uddingston G71 7HJ).

Please note that the hockey academy is an Uddingston Grammar School run programme that is supported by Uddingston Hockey Club with the pupil's education needs at the forefront of its aims.

Both the school and the hockey club are happy to discuss any aspect of the academy with any interested parties to remove any education or sporting doubts you may have.

Your sincerely,

**Michael Evans**  
Uddingston HC – Director of Hockey

**John McKay**  
Head Teacher – Uddingston Grammar

To discuss any aspect of the academy further please feel free to contact Director of Hockey Mick Evans at [uddingstonhc.doh@gmail.com](mailto:uddingstonhc.doh@gmail.com) or Head Teacher John McKay at [jmckay@uddingston.s-lanark.sch.uk](mailto:jmckay@uddingston.s-lanark.sch.uk)



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## **Uddingston Grammar School – Hockey Academy – Parent Testimonial**

**(For school year 2019/20 - current P7 pupils)**

**This is the testimonial from the parent of a child that has been in the academy for the last two years.**

Our child joined the inaugural Uddingston Grammar hockey academy in 2017 and although from the uddingston area and had taken part in hockey at primary school taster sessions it wasn't an easy decision to let him join for a number of reasons.

The academy was new and was starting from a standing start. There were many unknowns about how the programme would run and what the children would get from it, or more importantly potentially lose by being at the academy instead of other school lessons. However, the Uddingston Academy management team having practical knowledge of other similar sports academy programmes had prepared well and it became a fantastic opportunity for our child.

Core subject areas, such as Maths and English, were never removed for academy sessions. It is inevitable that some school elements and classes will be less to those not on the academy programme but in our opinion these were less academic subjects and we felt that overall the academy sessions would more than make up for that and add more to the development of our child.

That development is wide ranging, and we've seen our child develop in several ways at the academy. Their hockey skills and general fitness and health are obvious areas, but they have also developed in important life skill areas such as team working, commitment to practice and social skills meeting others from different backgrounds and ages. Our child is now the eldest on the programme and this is now presenting leadership and coaching opportunities as they help and supports the coaches to inspire and encourage those at a younger age or lesser ability to work harder and achieve more.

The sessions whilst close to the school at the local hockey clubs excellent facilities also help to create a bit of independence as the children make their own way between the school and hockey club after the initial weeks of each new term however the hockey coaches walking them to and from school for the first few weeks eased any concerns we had.

Academically our child was competent at primary school achieving higher than average results and it is pleasing that they have maintained those levels whilst being an academy pupil, and as an example is currently in the advanced Maths class in 3<sup>rd</sup> year. Although a naturally sporty person and has aspirations after school to maybe pursue this as a career and the academy is only supporting that desire.

We can see the academy progressing each year and by their own admission there are a number of areas for improvement, but the team are always open to ideas and suggestions to further shape and improve the programme. The communication from the academy is generally good as regards logistics particularly in times of bad weather but as regards progress of the pupils could be a little better, and they are working on that.

All in all it has been a positive experience for our child and one we plan to continue and if your son or daughter has an interest in developing as a hockey player I would very much recommend finding out more, discussing the opportunity with the academy team and ultimately applying to join Uddingston Grammar School Hockey Academy.



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## Uddingston Grammar Hockey Academy – Information Sheet

(For school year 2019/20 - current P7 pupils)

This information sheet is meant to explain what the Academy is while also answering any questions.

### Q. What is the Academy ?

A. The academy is a joint venture between Uddingston Grammar School and Uddingston Hockey Club. The aim is to take ten P7 primary school pupils each new school year who have shown an interest in hockey and grow them as a group over the remaining 4/5/6 years at the Grammar into international standard players via increased time on task.

### Q. What is the long-term aim ?

A. The aim is to have 60 pupils within the academy across 6-year groups training in three training groups. 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> year, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> year and 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> year. The groups would then play matches and hopefully progress to District and National teams.

### Q. Is the academy open to boys and girls ?

A. Yes, we are looking for an even split of boys and girls each year but if uneven numbers this is not an issue either. The academy is open to all feeder schools to Uddingston Grammar unless the pupil has another reason to transfer from a non-feeder primary school.

### Q. What primary schools can P7 pupils apply from ?

A. The academy is open to all feeder schools to Uddingston Grammar unless the pupil has another reason to transfer from a non-feeder primary school. These schools are Aitkenhead, Bothwell, Muiredge, Newton Farm and Tannochside.

### Q. How many hours will they train ?

A. The academy athletes will train weekly during school term time. 6 hours during in-school time all based at Uddingston Hockey Club (Castle Avenue, Uddingston, G71 7HJ).

### Q. What does this 6 hours currently look like ?

A. The current S1 & S2 come direct to the club on a Tuesday 8am to 11am and then join the school at 11.30am and on a Thursday leave school to attend the club 12 to 3pm. These times and days may change to suit school timetable and year group.

### Q. Will they miss subjects in S1 and S2 ?

A. No core subjects such as maths and English will be missed. Also, no full subjects will be missed. Single periods of non-core subjects will be missed however Uddingston Grammar will arrange their programme, so the pupils only miss one period of 3 planned periods etc. Existing academy pupils in S1 to S3 have had no issues with subjects or programme to date as the school has accommodated them fully.

### Q. Will they miss subjects in key education / exam years S3 onwards ?

A. No. All pupils will be able to select exactly as any other pupil and Uddingston Grammar plan to arrange it that Academy pupils can for instance do the academy instead of PE or free periods, so their education would not be interrupted or reduced in any way.



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**Q. Has the Academy got the full backing of the Grammar and the Head Teacher ?**

A. Yes 100% backing from both. The Head Teacher John McKay in fact see's the academy as assisting pupil's education as it gives them a support group of friends within the school from day one plus via sport it assists their focus on education and studies.

**Q. If I want to apply for the academy what do I do ?**

A. You email Mick Evans our Director of hockey to make a note of interest on behalf of your child by 1<sup>st</sup> March at [uddingstonhc.doh@gmail.com](mailto:uddingstonhc.doh@gmail.com) and he will send you an application form by return.

**Q. Once I have noted my child's interest what do I do then ?**

A. You will be invited to attend one of the following trial dates that will be held at the hockey club on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 5pm to 6pm or Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March 5pm to 6pm. Notes of interest are required as soon as possible however no later than 1<sup>st</sup> March.

**Q. Will there be any open day or information day held ?**

A. Yes. We will hold an information event on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March 4pm at Uddingston Hockey Clubhouse prior to trials. One to one sessions can then be requested with Mick after trials.

**Q. What happens after trials ?.**

A. The hockey club will advise those being offered a place by 29<sup>th</sup> April with you then having to confirm acceptance of the place by 13<sup>th</sup> May.

**Q. If I join and don't like it can I opt out ?**

A. Yes. We accept moving up to secondary school can be hard so the option to opt out for a period or fully is always an option however we are looking for players to be fully committed.

**Q. What do the pupils do during their 6 hours of hockey per week ?**

A. Currently the sessions are technical skills focused but once the group numbers grow we would look to involve specialist coaches to include strength and conditioning, Nutrition, Sports Science, Specialist skills such as drag flicking, indoor skills all with the aim of developing international quality athletes.

**Q. What interaction will the academy players have with the club ?**

A. The hockey club would like all academy players to join the club and take part in their youth coaching and teams with the view of graduating to senior teams in the coming years.

**Q. Will the academy players get kit to train and play in ?**

A. Yes, all academy members get Uddingston Grammar badged kit in school colours.

**Q. My child likes hockey but still isn't sure he wants to commit to this level and as a parent we are still concerned about the education side ?**

A. Email Mick Evans and arrange a sit down with him to go over the academy and he can explain further the hockey side or the education side plus you and your child could speak directly to existing S1 pupils within the academy. Also, John McKay the Head Teacher of Uddingston Grammar would be happy to take any questions as he very much sees the Academy as a great programme for his pupils to be part of. Email John at [jmckay@uddingston.s-lanark.sch.uk](mailto:jmckay@uddingston.s-lanark.sch.uk).

**To discuss any aspect of the academy further please feel free to contact Director of Hockey Mick Evans at [uddingstonhc.doh@gmail.com](mailto:uddingstonhc.doh@gmail.com) or Head Teacher John McKay at [jmckay@uddingston.s-lanark.sch.uk](mailto:jmckay@uddingston.s-lanark.sch.uk)**



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