



4th April 2022

Dear Parents/carers,

We would like to update you on the developments made within our SUA6 Football Programme, and the enhancement to our vision. As the initial assessment of the programme did not meet our needs, changes have been made. We have been extremely impressed by the progress made by all our participants in the football programme, but also with the maturity and dedication that the group has portrayed so far this academic year. As a sixth form however, we believe it to be in the best interests of the students that we take it back in-house in order to ensure the participants receive the very best level of coaching, opportunities and experiences.

To this end, we now have a former Premier League professional footballer (Derby County), Mr. Greg Mills leading the programme, bringing with him not just the experience of receiving professional coaching but his qualifications within coaching up to UEFA B standard. Already the students have reacted very positively to the sessions, and even in the last few weeks, an improvement in their abilities.

Mr. Mills also brings with him the benefit of an array of relationships from across the football and sporting spectrum from players (Southampton' and Scotland's Che Adams), but also professionals from the backroom teams of premier, championship, women's football and international staff (Aston Villa, Nottingham Forest, St. George's Park). These relationships will be utilised to introduce the group to careers, structures and an understanding from across the industry. As well as this, a programme of strength and conditioning will be used alongside sport science and biomechanics courses supplementing the team's knowledge of not just what they should be doing for their own health and fitness but why they are doing it. This will be further aided through our links with Staffordshire University.

The team will be entered into an under 19s academy league and may face the likes of Aston Villa, West Bromwich Albion youth teams as well as post-16 institutions such as Sandwell Academy and North East Wolverhampton Academy.

Finally, the participants of the programme will be undertaking FA coaching badges and first aid training as additional qualifications. This will allow them to coach, teach in our lower academy but also in the local area in primary schools; an avenue for potential work experience in local football clubs.

We are very proud of the way in which the programme is developing and are looking forward to greater numbers of both male and female students joining us next year, with our current cohort leading the way into their Year 13 studies.

If you have any questions or queries about the content in this letter, please don't hesitate to contact Dr. Silcock, Head of SUA6, NSilcock@suacademy.co.uk.

Kind Regards

Dr. Silcock

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