

# Sutton United FC College Programme PROSPECTUS 2023/24



A unique 16+ BTEC pathway which blends dynamic and focused football training with a match programme alongside an excellent college education.



**SGI**

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# WELCOME



**“The programme is really strong and delivers high quality training to players, high personal standards, respect and a huge team ethic. All what we require as attributes to break into Sutton United's first team”**

**Matt Gray - Sutton United Manager**

**"Why Sutton United? It provides the perfect learning environment at John Ruskin and East Surrey Colleges, with a fantastic football programme here at Sutton United; Delivered by very well trained, UEFA B coaches"**



**Tim Allison - Sutton United COO & Club Secretary**

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**“Learners understand the importance of getting good qualifications as well as their English and Maths qualification to help with their future prospects if being a professional footballer doesn't work out”**

**Steve Moore - SUFC Education Tutor**





# WHAT IS THE SUTTON UNITED COLLEGE PROGRAMME?





**The Sutton United College programme has been running successfully for the best part of a decade.**

**The programme offers really strong footballing pathways whilst providing an excellent education.**

- Post-16 education programme (BTEC in Sport). This is the equivalent to A-levels and provides pathways to further education
- Offers a combination of over 10 hours per week of football training, coaching and matches
- Develops players' as people and footballers
- Combines sports with a full-time study programme.
- Enhances physical fitness and mental agility
- Builds teamwork and leadership skills
- Provides professional (UEFA B) coaching and mentoring
- Offers career opportunities in sports industries
- Provides FA Level 1 coaching for all players so that you can earn whilst you learn

**Enables students to pursue their passion for football while continuing their education.**

*“It’s a great football club and gives you that professional footballer feeling being able to train, play football and get your education.”*

Stefan Aiwone, a current Sutton United College Academy player.





# FOOTBALL PROVISION



# TRAINING

**Players train two to three times a week receiving top level coaching from dynamic, professional and experienced Sutton United coaching staff.**

*“Playing for Sutton United is brilliant, it’s a great programme. It gets you through the week knowing you’ve got football Monday, Tuesday and Friday”.*

Archie Foy, a current first year in our SUFC College Academy

**Players receive coaching across all aspects of football, including technical and tactical training sessions as well as strength and conditioning which is highly encouraged, with training taking place at top quality Sutton United and partner facilities.**

**Sutton United coaches have adopted a play-centred approach to coaching and endeavour to create a fun, technically-based and pressure-free learning environment with a high degree of professional standards and disciplines dedicated to the holistic development of our players.**

*"With the staff we have at Sutton United, we believe we can really develop players individually. If they approach the project with the right attitude and right commitment, then we have the right staff on board to develop those players and see them progress”.*

Programme Lead, Harry Martin





# FACILITIES

**At Sutton United we are very lucky to be able to both play and train at one of the best facilities in Surrey. South Park football ground is a perfect community hub, with a FIFA Quality-approved 3G football pitch and clubhouse situated in a convenient location within Reigate.**

The ground is the home of Isthmian South Central side South Park FC and plays host to a wide variety of other football and community activities, as well as staging a number of cup finals.

South Park football ground is the venue for all of our football training sessions and is our home ground for both SCL and Tactic League fixtures. Boasting a state-of-the-art 3G pitch, 360 goals, seated stands, four separate changing rooms and floodlights.



**A great opportunity to train and play at one of the best facilities in Surrey.**



# LEAGUES & FA YOUTH CUP

**Players get the opportunity to represent Sutton United in both the SCL College League and Tactic league AND to participate in the FA Youth Cup and the Bostik Central division**

The SCL College League and Tactic Leagues are the only competition of their kind and unlike other college courses, players compete against some of the top development clubs in South East England including Bromley, Dulwich Hamlet, Dartford, Crystal Palace & West Ham Utd.

Any player registered on our post-16 education course with Sutton United is eligible to play for both our SCL League squad and Tactic League squad within the U19's age band.

Our partnership with non-league South Park Football Club enables any of our college academy players to participate in the FA Youth Cup. As part of our pathway at Sutton United, any player on our current 16-18 programme will also be eligible to sign for South Park FC U18's squad who compete in a midweek league in the Bostik Central Division, one of the most competitive leagues in youth football. This also gives players the opportunity to showcase themselves to the South Park FC first team management, another progression pathway. South Park FC currently play Step 4 football in England.

**The aim is to provide playing opportunities for young people with a passion for football as well as helping them achieve their education goals through football.**

**By partnering with South Park Football Club, all players will have the opportunity to support their transition from youth to adult football, a key stage in any players development.**



# SURREY FA YOUTH CUP

**We were delighted to see our College Programme players crowned champions of Surrey whilst representing South Park FC. All players are part of our programme and this represents a tremendous success with many in their first season with us.**







# EDUCATION PROVISION



# DEVELOPMENT

**With ten hours of football a week, players will naturally develop as footballers across all areas of the game - tactical, technical, physical, psychological and social.**

Whilst with Sutton United, every student will complete their FA Level One Coaching Qualification enabling students to take their first step on the coaching ladder.

The qualification will provide an introduction to the Football Association and teach how to deliver coaching sessions. The course includes practical development-focused drills and is a perfect way for students to begin working with younger players. Once this qualification is achieved this will give students the opportunity to apply for part-time coaching jobs where they can develop their coaching skills and progress.

## Case Study – Scott Sharrod



- Scott Sharrod achieved a BTEC extended diploma in Sport (Level 3), the equivalent of 2 A Levels.
- Scott is currently playing for Sutton United Disability First team and is in the process of progressing into higher education studies at university.



# LEARN

Studies are conducted via our partnership with  
'Sports Group International'.

**Our partnership offers a BTEC in Sport (level 1, 2, 3). This is delivered with a combination of classroom and practical work and covers a range of modules including leadership, fitness and team-working.**

In the main, this is achieved through practical football sessions. Players participate and learn a range of football-based topics including fitness, performance techniques and team leadership. Evidence is collected using up-to-date video technology which evidences unit requirements whilst also being available for players and coaches to analyse performance.

The timetable below is typical for players who enrol on a course.

## **\*Example Timetable**

\*Subject to course level, learners who have not achieved grade 4 in Maths and English will be expected to complete these as additional study. This will be incorporated into your timetable.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Morning	Group 1 Team Training	Group 1 Team Training	Group 2 Match Day	Academic Studies	Group 1 Match Day
Afternoon	Group 2 Team Training	Group 2 Team Training	Group 2 Match Day	Academic Studies	Group 1 Match Day





# COLLEGES & COURSES

**Sports Group International is a dynamic forward thinking training provider, who specialise in sports qualification at F.E and H.E Level. SGI is able to offer a wide range of sport and fitness based qualifications, from Level 3 NCFE Sport's Diplomas to Level 3 Personal Training Diploma's. The organisation has sites across the UK, partnering with some leading brands in professional football."**

**"Partnering up with Sports Group International will bring some unique benefits to the learners at Sutton Utd Football Academy. These include access to a fully interactive learning platform, a series of guest lectures by leading industry experts, plus access to SGI international base in Marbella, Spain."**

## **Level 2 Extended Certificate in Sport–**

This course will develop your skills and knowledge in the areas of coaching, fitness instruction and the effects of exercise on the body. You will learn how to plan and organise a sports event and run it efficiently. This qualification will give you experience in a wide range of skills from teamwork and communication to being able to assess someone's fitness level.

### **ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**

- 4 GCSEs grade 3 or above (or equivalent)
- Pre-induction interview/assessment to ensure right level of study

## **Level 3 Extended Diploma in Sport –**

This course will develop the necessary skills, knowledge and understanding to provide a successful progression route to working in the sports industries. In previous years the course has included taking part in professional sports science testing, water sports, rock climbing and further outdoor activities as well a work experience to further develop your skills.

### **ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**

- 4 GCSEs grade 4-9 (or equivalent), including English and Maths
- Pre-induction interview/assessment to ensure right level of study





# WHY CHOOSE US?



# ADDED VALUE

**In addition to football and education provision, players in the Sutton United College Academy can enjoy a variety of additional benefits including:**

- FREE access to physiotherapy support
- FREE Sutton United EFL League Two tickets to home game (subject to availability)
- Opportunity to complete FA Level One Coaching qualification
- Training and travel kit available
- Transport provision for training and matches
- Play and train on South Park's FIFA approved 3G pitch
- Play an end of season game at the VBS Community Stadium
- An opportunity to play in a showcase game vs. our EFL U18 Academy
- Work experience, volunteering/work opportunities
- End of season awards evening to celebrate your achievements with trophies handed out by first team manager Matt Gray.
- Official photographs



*"I was very impressed with the standard, the players were working on their 1v1 and 2v2 defending and all sorts of tricks started coming out. You can just feel it's a positive environment for the boys to learn and express themselves in. It's another great programme that seems to be thriving."*

**Sutton United Captain Craig Eastmond commenting on a training session.**





# SUFC PATHWAY

**We at Sutton United have created a pathway for the students to support them in reaching their full potential, whatever their goals. Some players want to play football at the highest level, some want university options and some want jobs in sports.**

**As a club we can give them opportunities and knowledge to support their development.**

Our pathway begins when the players are put into either the SCL squad or the Tactic squad. There is no difference in playing ability, this is decided on the player's education timetable. The SCL & Tactic squads are known as our 'club sides' this enables the players to excel in their teams, express themselves and transfer everything learnt in training into a game situation. Our South Park Bostik squad is known as our 'international side' playing in this enables the players to play in one of the most competitive midweek leagues in youth football. Every player on the programme is eligible for the Bostik team and players progressing well in their 'club sides' will have the opportunity to play Bostik football in order to develop their skills and progress at a more competitive level.

Our Bostik team also play our Sutton United EFL U18 Academy side three times a year which gives the Sutton United Academy staff an opportunity to look and scout players from the College Academy programme and offer trials to players they would be interested in. In the 2022/2023 season alone the college programme had five players go on trial with the U18 squad and two players making competitive appearances for the EFL U18 side.

We also have the option of loaning out our College Academy programme players to local men's sides in order to gain experience of men's football whilst working with us during the week.



# AIMS

**At Sutton United we want to give players the opportunity to reach their highest potential both within the game and as individuals. The programme allows young people to develop their life skills whilst forming and sustaining positive relationships with a variety of people.**

**We want to build strong local communities where everyone has the opportunity and support to achieve their goals. Participation in the Sutton United College programme undoubtedly increases physical well-being, consequently having a positive impact on mental well-being too.**

**We want to increase the sporting, education and employment opportunities for young people within our local community and this course provides the ideal opportunity for players to do this.**



# ACHIEVEMENTS

## KYLIAN KOUASSI

Kylian was a striker with the Sutton United College Programme who was scouted by SUFC EFL U18 academy. He trained with the academy for one year and was rewarded with his first professional contract with Sutton United at the start of the 2021/2022 season and is now a regular in the Sutton United squad.



## TEIJE BROWN-BAMI

Teije is currently in his first year with us on the Sutton United College programme, he has already achieved so much in a short space of time with him being the current top goal scorer in the SCL league and has trained with U18 EFL Academy on a number of occasions so far this year. Teije is also a regular player chosen to represent the Bostik squad having scored eight goals in ten appearances so far this season.



## DEONDRE DATE

Deondre is another player in his final year with us, in his first year on the programme he was scouted by our EFL Academy team and both trained and made appearances. He has recently joined South Park FC men's team at Step 4. He is the current top goal scorer in the Bostik League with 23 goals in 12 games.





# PLAYER EXPECTATIONS

**We at Sutton United Football Club, John Ruskin and East Surrey College, are providing a top class football and education programme for players. In return, there are some player requirements and expectations:**

- **Communicate with coaches** – we use an app, ‘Microsoft Teams’, to communicate events, receive player availability and post any relevant messages.
- **Compliance with players' Code of Conduct** – this is vitally important for participating in the programme, formed in partnership with players, coaches and college tutors.
- **Commitment** – Training and matchday is timetabled like college lessons, attendance to all in a timely manner is crucial as education facilitates football.
- **Good work ethic** – Players must give 100% effort and show desire to develop
- **Correct kit is worn to both training and matchdays** – you represent Sutton United Football Club, John Ruskin College, East Surrey College and yourselves.

**It is important to look and feel like a professional**



# HOW TO APPLY

If you would like any further information or would like to speak to any of our Sutton United College programme staff, contact details can be found on the next page.

If you're not sure yet and just want to know more we run development days in most school holidays so look out for our next event on the Sutton United website,  
[www.suttonunited.net/teams/sufc-college-team/](http://www.suttonunited.net/teams/sufc-college-team/)

*"You'll get a fantastic education and you'll enjoy the experience of being involved with Sutton United Football Club."*

**Programme Lead, Harry Martin**



**We look forward to meeting you and for you to join our programme for the next academic year and become part of the Sutton United family!**



# CONTACT DETAILS

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# FURTHER DETAILS

For further details scan the QR code below:



**#ForeverAmber**

