

## Year 8 Girls Hockey Team Triumph in Hertfordshire County Cup.

After a long campaign, starting back in October 2010, the Year 8 girls hockey squad returned triumphant from the finals of the Herts County Cup. During the pool stages Hockerill had been dominant in all of the 5 games scoring 65 goals and only conceding 1!



Having cruised to the semi-finals a very excited Hockerill team played Kingshott in a tense match – after a nervous start the girls settled and exerted their dominance and easily progressed to the finals by winning 3-0.

On the same day they had to play the final which turned out to be against Queenwood, an independent girls school who offer hockey scholarships to some of the best young players in the country.

Having watched Queenswood's semi-final match Hockerill identified their key players and played a tactical game marking them out of the match. They didn't allow Queenswood to settle and were rewarded with an opening goal from their ever reliable captain, Francesca Pettengell, who shot fiercely from the top of the D. Some excellent defending followed and although Queenswood pushed hard, and had a goal disallowed,

Hockerill broke free with Pettengell linking up well with Miranda Wilson who found the back of the net to make it 2- 0 at half-time. The half-time break allowed Hockerill to regroup and replan for the second half. A few tactical changes met that Hockerill simply had to hang on and defend hard which they did with aplomb with Inka Pearson, Olivia Brookhouse (GK) and Poppy Seaton absolutely outstanding.

The rest of the match was a somewhat scrappy affair with Queenswood dominating but all the Hockerill team rose to the challenge and repelled attack after attack. Queenswood finally broke through to score with 1 minute to go – by then all Hockerill had to do was to keep possession and run down the clock.

A fantastic win to cap an excellent season for the Year 8 girls – their commitment to training and matches, over a long season, has been immense.

I would like to say how proud I am of their achievement to be crowned the top year 8 girls hockey team in Hertfordshire and also thanks to all the parents/carers and teachers who have supported them. I look forward to coaching them again next year and building on this richly deserved accolade.

Mrs Hodder



*Year 8 Girls Hockey Squad:*

*Charlotte Mills, Lili Dawe, Olivia Ryan, Olivia Brookhouse, Olamide Majekodumi, Poppy Walton, Daisy Kershaw, Inka Pearson, Becky Blaxland, Francesca Pettengell (Captain), Martha Pryer, Miranda Wilson, Izzy Budd, Katie Philpott.*