



Physical Education Department

The department consists of six full time specialists who all teach across the full 11-18 age and ability range. The Head of Department is Mr Mark Harvey the other members of the department are Mrs Sue Thompson-Clemow, who is second in department Mr Paul Greenway, Assistant Head, Mr Phill Amor, Head of Ottewell House, Miss Hayley Davies and Miss Ella Langford. Tom Streeter is our school based SSCO who is also attached to the department and there are several other staff who assist in Year 12 recreation lessons and the running of school teams. Following an Ofsted Survey inspection on Competitive School Sport, the PE department were seen as being exceptional in their provision of competitive sport.

The facilities at the school are amongst the best in the area. We have a full sized astro and a large field with space for 5 full size rugby/football pitches, outdoor cricket nets, netball/tennis courts, a large sports hall, a gym, a specialist teaching classroom with computers and a fitness suite. We also have a low level climbing wall, fitness trim trail, further hard court areas, outdoor basketball court and outdoor table tennis tables. So we are very fortunate!

Sport is an integral part of school life at Balcarras. We have a house system and there are regular house matches throughout the year. We offer an extensive extra-curricular programme with teams in all of the major games as well as individual sports, dance and fitness. Many of our pupils have gained district or county representation and one or two have gained national honours. We run trips to major sporting events held at Twickenham, Wimbledon and the NEC, as well as being involved in running the school camp and a variety of ski and world challenge trips.

The Curriculum

In Key Stage three pupils receive 4 lessons per fortnight and participate in the following activities: rugby, football, netball, hockey, basketball, dance, badminton, health related exercise, trampolining and gymnastics. The summer term consists of athletics, cricket, rounders, and tennis. In Years 8 and 9 we have an additional lesson for health and fitness.

In Key Stage four pupils follow a curriculum which still has a strong games background but also includes elements which help them develop a lifelong interest in physical activity. We introduce fitness and aerobics alongside the activities from the previous key stage. In Key Stage 5, we have recreation lessons for students and run regular fixtures in all of the major games, entering the local district tournaments.

Examinations

The academic side of the department is also very strong. We study the AQA course at GCSE level and OCR at A level. The GCSE course is popular, with 100 students taking the course across the two year groups. The department consistently achieves over 90% with a high percentage of 7, 8 and 9 grades.

We offer popular courses at A-level, often taking in students from other local schools. The department achieved ALPS 1 at A level last year which means that the value added was the highest for any school in the country. The results at AS were also strong and we are confident that they are on track to achieve highly. We have never had less than a 100% pass rate in both courses. We also assist in the delivery of Health and Social Care.

This is an exciting and motivated department to join in a very friendly school. The students are keen to learn and are excited by the opportunities offered to them. We continue to develop as a department and are fully supported by an effective senior management. If you are an outstanding practitioner with a commitment to extra-curricular sport we would welcome your application for the post.

Mark Harvey
Head of Physical Education
January 2019