

Physical Education Department

Contextual

As a large mixed comprehensive school in a selective area Stratford upon Avon School is proud to offer a broad and balanced curriculum where sports and fitness play a central role alongside the more traditional core subjects. The school is on a journey of improvement, we are proud to be a good school, but aspire to be even better and we continue to strive to find ways to improve and achieve even greater things in the future.

The department has a great atmosphere and was proud to be commended for its practice during a 'deep dive' in the school's last OFSTED inspection. Inspectors commented on the consistently strong subject knowledge of staff and praised development of wider skills and appropriate progression routes for students at KS4. They were impressed both with work samples and how positively students spoke about the array of clubs and extra-curricular activities in the department.

We are seeking to recruit a PE Teacher with a good overall knowledge of team and individual sports, to help us expand our expertise within the department to add to our developing successes both through the curriculum and through our extra-curricular offering.

We look forward to welcoming an energetic and enthusiastic teacher who will work with us to build on established strengths and make a significant contribution to the continuing success of the department and school.

Teaching and Learning Resources

The facilities within the school are second to none and the Sports facilities are arguably the best within the County. Combined with some excellent club links, students have excellent routes to further sporting development and pathways to continue their sports in their personal time.

Every classroom at Stratford upon Avon School has the capacity for data projection via staff laptops, alongside good access to other IT facilities for students. Linked with the enhancement of these state-of-the-art facilities is the continuation of our programme of staff training and professional development in order to maximise benefits to students.

The Physical Education Department

Staff

The PE Department includes eight members of staff, six full time PE teachers; the other two are either part time or have other responsibilities within the school that shares their time, such as being part of the Senior Leadership Team. The PE team is a positive, enthusiastic and forward looking one, with a depth of experience, and several members of the department have whole school responsibilities and involvement beyond the department. All of these strengthen the bond between staff and students and help to make the school an enjoyable and fulfilling place to work.

The teacher of Physical Education will help the team in meeting the needs of all learners and provide broad and balanced curriculum that offers students an opportunity to learn, contribute and lead. The successful candidate will be expected to be a competent practitioner across all the Key Stages 3-4 and show a depth of ability in both practical and theory-based sessions.

Members of the department make full use of the opportunity to attend appropriate courses at local and national level to ensure that we are delivering the best quality provision to our students.

Sports Facilities

Facilities include a large four badminton court sports hall, with basketball match / practice goals and cricket nets, plus a well-equipped modern gymnasium. The All-Weather Pitch was opened in January 2002, and resurfaced in 2018, and is widely acclaimed as an excellent hockey-playing surface; other facilities include 4 netball courts, 4 tennis courts, and grass pitches for football, rugby and rounders; with further plans to build a MUGA later this year. The school is one of few in the country to have an all-weather 400-meter athletics track, also resurfaced in 2018, with associated field sports areas such as Long and High Jump areas, a Javelin track and Discus/Hammer nets. Within the sports block there is a large classroom / community room, used for PE theory lessons at Key Stage 4 and 5 which like other classrooms, is equipped with data projection facilities. There are four changing rooms and other offices within the sports hall.

Curriculum

Currently, in Key Stage 3, students receive two hours of Physical Education per week; groups are generally taught in mixed gender classes. The timetable of activities is varied, promoting Physical Literacy, offering a breadth of experience and learning. The department currently follows a programme of study including Games, Athletics, Gymnastics and Outdoor and Adventurous Activities. In Key Stage 4 all students are expected start level 2 qualification in PE, entering a smaller options process at the end of year 9, and as such all students follow an examination course towards either GCSE or OCR National Sports Studies or Science qualifications. Most recently we launched our Football academy building on our relationship with Stratford Town FC where students are taught both on site and off site using the facilities and coaches offered by STFC.

At Key Stage 5 pupils study the Pearson A-Level course. Our Key Stage five students also have the opportunity for PE enhancement which enables them to access competitive sport alongside additional qualifications, such as The Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award and L3 Sports Leaders.

Extra-Curricular Activities

The department has a strong tradition of lunchtime and after school sport. Clubs and teams exist in a wide variety of activities. Currently in a typical week students have the opportunity to attend 20 – 30 different clubs across the school. In addition, teams regularly compete in local and regional competitions with a number of students representing both district and county teams. Recent alumni include professional footballers in both the male and female sides of the sport, and international level athletes. Presently, the school supports teams in netball, hockey, rugby, football, basketball, athletics, gymnastics and trampolining, cross country, tennis, rounders, and cricket. There are also many opportunities for students to get involved in other activities such as dance, table tennis, volleyball, and rowing. Further to these sports students are also offered the opportunity to take D of E and level L2 sports leaders, which the department are heavily involved with. The department enjoys very strong links with several local clubs, many of whom use our community sports facilities.

Sports Day

Often a highlight of the school year we have the tradition of a fully inclusive sports day which sees the whole school participating in a range of sports in the morning, followed by team challenge activities in tutor groups in the afternoon. Points from these activities are awarded by college and culminates in the awarding of the sports cup to the winning college at the end of the day. It is always a pleasure to see the whole school out on the field all enjoying sports activities.

We hope that you are excited by the opportunities and challenges that this role has to offer. If you have questions about the role of PE Teacher or the wider department or school context, please do get in touch. I look forward to meeting you.

Guy Wnuk Curriculum Leader – Physical Education October 2024