

May 2026

Dear Colleague,

Teacher of PE – 1 year contract from 1st September 2026 until 31st August 2027.

Thank you for your interest in this important post. Balcarras is an excellent school and PE is one of our strongest, most vibrant departments. The teaching is lively and purposeful, pupils enjoy the subject, numbers and results are strong at GCSE and A-level, and just as importantly the extra-curricular activities are numerous and are well-attended and enjoyed. The girls' teams are of a high standard and we hope that the person appointed will contribute to raising their levels of achievement still further.

We are looking for a well-qualified, highly professional person to join this friendly, successful department – an all-rounder who can contribute across the full range of girls' teams and someone who will make a major contribution to the teaching of the subject and the sporting life of the school.

Balcarras is an excellent place to teach. We have friendly staff, pupils who are keen to learn and supportive parents. We work in attractive buildings, superbly-equipped, on a beautiful site. We are a teaching school so professional development is one of our major strengths. The post is open to both experienced and early careers teachers and you will be assured of an excellent induction programme if appointed.

Having perused the details and our website with the Applicant Pack, I hope you will be keen to apply. Please submit an application form by **Monday 1st June 2026 at 9am**. Interviews will follow shortly afterwards.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Dominic Burke
Headteacher

Physical Education Department

The department consists of seven PE 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, and Ella Langford who are joint second in department, Miss Liza McCarthy, Assistant Head, Mr Phill Amor, Head of Ottewell House, Miss Hayley Davies, Head of PSHE and Mr Jamie Weller. 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.

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, Muga, 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, 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. Several of the department are 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, handball 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 3 at A-level in the last set of external examinations which means that we are in the top 10% of schools nationally for adding value to student grades. 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
May 2026