**SPORTS STUDIES DEPARTMENT**

The Sports Studies department consists of a team of enthusiastic, innovative, hard-working and committed specialist teachers who give very generously of their time. We aim to work collaboratively to give each other support to provide a stimulating and challenging environment for all our students. We firmly believe that all students can have a successful and rewarding learning experience in this subject. We take the health and fitness of our students seriously and aim to give them positive experiences in school and equip them with a desire for lifelong learning in the subject. One of the highlights of the year is the whole-school Sports Day at Hillingdon Athletics Stadium. As well as all the traditional athletics events, students compete in alternative events and recreational sporting activities such as bungee running, gladiator duels and total wipe-out.

We complete our year of sport with our annual Sports Personality of the Year Awards Assembly. Over 300 students are invited to celebrate the sporting seasons and present medals and trophies. Past guest speakers include the former England ladies football captain and Casey Stoney.

Students have two 50-minute lessons per week of Core PE taught in doubles in Years 7 to11. There are 162 students in each half year group block, with 6 groups timetabled together with 6 teachers. Engagement and participation levels are extremely high. Lessons are taught predominantly in single sex groups throughout the Key Stages and the groups are arranged by ability. At KS4 the department also offers GCSE PE following the OCR exam board and the vocation OCR Cambridge National Sports Studies qualification. We also run OCR A-Level PE at KS5.

The department is very well resourced with a large sports hall, gymnasium, all weather courts, a 3G Astroturf pitch and a fitness suite. The changing rooms and department office space were upgraded in 2021. All students have more than enough equipment in each lesson and benefit from a generous budget to ensure all students experience high quality Physical Education. The department also benefits highly from having three full time Department Teaching and Learning Assistants/technicians who are valuable in-class support as well as helping to set up and maintain equipment for lessons.

To enhance the learning experiences of the students, the department makes use of the local leisure centre and athletics centre for GCSE practical lessons where appropriate. To aid the teaching of the theory element of the GCSE courses, all classrooms are fitted with interactive whiteboards and all colleagues are provided with their own tablet computer. The department makes use of a wide range of subject specific software and is constantly producing interactive teaching resources.

The department experiences regular success in a wide range of Borough, District, County and National Levels. Nower Hill High School has a strong tradition of high performance stemming from a wide and diverse extra-curricular program judged outstanding by OFSTED. As well as the many team successes, we have individual athletes who are currently in the National set up for their sports and are waiting to compete at English School events in addition to individuals at sporting academies.

The Sports Studies department is fast paced and progressive. We have a clear vision for our curriculum and aim to instil a love of physical activity in all of our students so that sustained involvement in sports and physical activity is promoted. The successful candidate will find the environment in the department positive, supportive and friendly reflecting the school culture at Nower Hill.

**Samantha Sheppard**

**Head of Sports Studies and Physical Education**

**04/23**