

Kingdown School Physical Education Department Information for Applicants

Kingdown School has a highly successful and passionate Physical Education Department. We are driven, enthusiastic and committed to improving all students' Physical Education experiences with an aim to develop a lifelong passion in physical activity. We are always striving to improve and develop our practice by sharing ideas and working well as a team, allowing us to provide students with the best possible outcomes. I hope you gain a clear impression from the information provided below, the ethos of the department and what we believe makes us a forward thinking, innovative and a successful team. I look forward to receiving your application.

Henry Haydon
Curriculum Leader of Physical Education

1. Department Structure and Main Responsibilities

We are a large Department with 11 teachers along with an SGO. Teaching and Learning Responsibilities (TLR's) in the PE Department are as follows:-

- Curriculum Leader & Head of Department : Henry Haydon
- Assistant Head of Department : Emily Lewis
- Assistant Head of Department : Dan House

A number of smaller responsibilities also exist within the Department for example: PP/SEN co-ordinator, Literacy co-ordinator, Numeracy co-ordinator, AG&T co-ordinator, Rewards.

Standard teaching contact times are:

- 42 periods per fortnight (84% class contact time) – full time teacher
- 40 periods per fortnight (80% class contact time) – NQT

These contact times compare extremely favourably with many schools.

2. Professional Development

Kingdown prides itself on the quality of the professional development opportunities it offers to both its own staff and to others. We have a comprehensive NQT induction programme including regular professional development, INSET meetings and training, and the allocation of a subject mentor (from the PE Department) and a teaching 'buddy' (a recently qualified teacher from a different Department), to offer help and support during the first few months in teaching. All of the Department are involved in new staff training and we pride ourselves on providing a very supportive environment in which to begin their teaching careers. There are many opportunities to take on responsibilities and develop careers within our large thriving department.

3. Curriculum

Key Stage 3

We have implemented a curriculum in Years 7, 8 and 9, whereby we offer a broad range of activities for our students which ensures they all can enjoy our subject and are physically active. At KS3, students have 5 PE lessons across two weeks and are taught in mixed and single sex groups and cover a breadth of activities that provide all pupils with the opportunities to succeed. These include: rugby, netball, hockey, trampolining, swimming, OAA, athletics, badminton, rounders, tennis, swimming and health and fitness. All activities are supported with comprehensive schemes of learning to support staff and all pupils to develop the skills and knowledge to be successful in any given activity. The schemes of learning are the basis for our teaching but we encourage teacher autonomy as long as the required content is covered and the assessment criteria's used. Each scheme of learning is extremely detailed, including learning objectives, suggested teaching plans and starter and plenary ideas on a lesson-by-lesson basis.

In Year 7 we teach pupils in 5 mixed ability and mixed sex groups. In years 8 and 9 we have 5 groups arranged by sex and ability. Students are able to move freely between sets at any point throughout years 8 and 9.

Key Stage 4

Within KS4 core PE pupils are arranged by sex and ability across 5 groups and receive 4 PE lessons across two weeks. The curriculum is designed to maximise engagement through the introduction of new activities such as lacrosse, tckoukball and specific health related fitness classes. Activity choices are suited towards specific groups to ensure that pupils finish year 11 with positive experiences within PE that allows them to continue to participate in sport and physical activities post 16.

All students in Key Stage 4 have the option to complete an accredited course in either AQA GCSE PE or Cambridge National in Sport. Both courses are delivered by specialist teachers over two years with pupils having 5 lessons across two weeks. These options lead on to three options post 16: AQA A-Level PE, OCR Extended Certificate in Sport and Physical Activity and OCR Diploma in Sport and Physical Activity.

Our exam results are strong. In 2019, 90% of pupils achieved a grade 4 or above in their GCSE PE exams. Our vocational results produced an ALPs grade 1 across all of our groups and continues to remain a major strength of the department.

Key Stage 5

We run a successful A Level in Physical Education as well as the OCR Extended Certificate in Sport and Physical Activity and OCR Diploma in Sport and Physical Activity. All courses are a natural progression from their KS4 counterpart which allows pupils to build upon and expand their knowledge of a range of content areas.

4. Department Accommodation and Resources

The department shares a large office where each member of the team has their own desk and desktop computer. We are well resourced with a range of audio visual equipment, relevant text books and equipment for all activities.

Our excellent facilities include: a gymnasium, dance studio, three sets of changing rooms, swimming pool, physical education computer suite, sports hall, eight tennis courts, floodlit Astro-Turf pitch, floodlit netball courts, and various other pitches at St George's field (a short walk away). The swimming pool and Sports Hall along with a fitness gymnasium and squash courts are located in the adjacent Sports Centre which is part of a dual use agreement.

Every member of the team is assessed to drive a minibuses for trips, visits and fixtures.

5. Extra-Curricular Activities

The extra-curricular programme at Kingdown is broad and extensive and has helped us achieve the '**Gold School Games Mark**' for the last four years. To allow students from the rural villages to take part in after school activities, the school funds three late buses per week on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. With our school day ending at 2.50pm, it encourages extra-curricular participation and allows us to compete on a local and national level across a wide range of sports and activities. Apart from the PE specialists, other staff and external coaches help run sports related activities. We would expect a very high commitment to extra-curricular activities from the successful candidate.

In addition, we have a very strong Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, with a high number of students studying for Bronze, Silver or Gold awards.

Our school/club links are also important. We believe that allowing students to develop participation and performance is vital. We are in regular contact with a number of local clubs across a range of sports and are always looking to help students access these providers to aid their progress.

6. Further Information

The Ethos of the PE Department

The Physical Education Department at Kingdown prides itself on its work ethic, success and providing students with a diverse and balanced curriculum. We are keen to embrace new developments which enhance the learning experience we provide for our pupils. We aim to instil a lifelong participation in sport and physical activity, as well as provide them with knowledge that will allow them to lead healthy and active lifestyles in the future.

The Department has a supportive, friendly atmosphere where new ideas and approaches are welcomed and openly discussed. Lessons are challenging, stimulating and fun, all of which is achieved through careful planning and creating high quality resources.

What Sort of Person Do We Want?

The focus for our department is firmly on ***‘teaching and learning’*** and ***‘teamwork’*** as well as looking at ways of improving and enhancing the experiences all of our students receive. We are therefore looking first and foremost for an excellent practitioner who can bring new ideas and approaches. You need to be enthusiastic, hardworking and be able to work as part of a well-established and busy team. In return we can offer you continued support, excellent career progression and training, as well as a stimulating and vibrant working atmosphere. If you are looking for a new challenge in a supportive setting with a like-minded team of professionals, then we would like to hear from you – and look forward to meeting you at interview.