

Weatherhead High School

PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

The Physical Education department at Weatherhead is staffed by a hardworking and committed team of five full time teachers, two part time teachers and a Senior Assistant Headteacher. Student attainment is high at all levels, with many students going on to study Physical Education at Advanced Level and subsequently at university. The Physical Education department is constantly striving to raise attainment, through curriculum development, focusing on teaching and learning strategies, sharing good practice and continued evaluation of all aspects of departmental work, in order for the students to realise their highest possible potential. Pupils are well motivated, have very positive attitudes and enjoy their Physical Education lessons.

The Department

The Physical Education department at Weatherhead is extremely successful. All pupils in Years 7-9 undertake a broad and balanced programme at Key Stage 3 for two lessons a week. This programme lays the foundation for further development of skills and interest in sport and physical recreation. Pupils acquire and develop skills in many sports and apply them appropriately. The activity areas include Netball, Gymnastics, Football, Athletics, Rounders, Badminton, Tennis and Trampolining. In addition to this, pupils experience an Outdoor Education programme and achieve a Young Leaders qualification.

At Key Stage 4, pupils also receive two lessons a week. In Year 10, they extend their skills and application in Netball, Trampolining, Rounders and Badminton in one lesson and select from a series of activity pathways in the other. In Year 11, one lesson is dedicated to pupils working towards gaining a vocational qualification by completing the Level 1 Award in Sports Leadership and in the other lesson they experience new activities such as Yoga.

The department follows the OCR Physical Education specification for both GCSE and Advanced Level. At Level 3, students are also able to pursue studies in BTEC National Extended Certificate in Sport. Results in all courses are better than the national picture and achieve positive residuals.

Facilities

The school has excellent purpose built facilities including a Sports Hall, Gymnasium and Fitness Centre. Outdoor facilities include Tennis and Netball courts and an astro-turf which is used for Football, Hockey, and Rounders.

The Physical Education department recognises the value of extra-curricular activities and opportunities to involve pupils in outside visits and challenges are fully utilised. The school has two minibuses which enable teams to travel to local fixtures and events. Presently, team representation is made in Netball, Badminton, Rounders, Athletics and Cross Country and the department has enjoyed national success in Football, Gymnastics and Trampolining.

There is an ethos of collaboration and team spirit within the department; everyone is encouraged to contribute and teamwork is highly valued.

Career Development

The Physical Education department offers many opportunities for career development. Staff are offered the opportunity to attend relevant courses outside school, or 'twilight' sessions.