

## **Physical Education Department at Upper Wharfedale School**

This is an excellent opportunity for the successful candidate to join a forward-thinking and supportive department. Currently, our high-performing team comprises of three well-qualified, dedicated, innovative and adaptable PE teachers who are committed to extra-curricular activities.

The facilities for PE at Upper Wharfedale School are very good. We have a large 4 badminton court sports hall; a 20m indoor, heated swimming pool; and use of the school hall for certain activities. Outside, we have 1 full size rugby/football pitch; a smaller football pitch; and 3 hardcourt outdoor netball/tennis courts. We have good links with the local sports clubs and we are able to use their cricket, football and rugby pitches when necessary.

At Key Stage 3 we follow units of work for all sports that we cover. Most sports are covered for half a term, apart from swimming, rugby and netball which are covered for a term. Lessons are focused on skill development, selecting and applying the appropriate skills, awareness of fitness and health, and leadership and coaching. Students have 4 lessons of PE over a two-week timetable.

Students are given more of a choice during Key Stage 4 core PE and lessons are mainly focused using the skills learnt at Key Stage 3: independent learning, leadership and officiating, and preparing students for lifelong participation in sport. Students, again, are given 4 hours over a two-week timetable. We teach Edexcel PE for GCSE PE and have had excellent results in the past. Students receive 5 - 6 hours of GCSE PE over 2 weeks, including 1 practical lesson. On average we get about 30-35% of students choosing to do GCSE PE. The scheme of work is taken and adapted from Pearson's Active Teach. For each unit of work, subject specialists plan their own lessons from a resource bank for each section of the specification. Each unit of the specification is assessed with 5 assessment points throughout the year. Our outcomes are consistently above national averages for our GCSE PE Key Stage 4 course.

There is a strong emphasis on extra-curricular sport at Upper Wharfedale School. We have an extensive intra-school sports programme. Students really enjoy representing their house and taking part in competitive sport. The sports hall is used most lunchtimes for sports clubs, including running club and using the swimming pool. Despite being a small school, we are very competitive when it comes to inter-school sport. We play all the local schools in football, rugby and netball, as well as taking a full part in the cross-country programme, and supporting local initiatives with other sports as best we can.

PE is part of the Visual and Performing Arts faculty and we work closely with the local community. We currently run trips to London for Performing Arts; High Adventure, Bewerley Park and the Ardeche for outdoor and adventurous activities. We have a school choir that performs for the community as well as close links with Grassington Festival for Art. Our students love to be involved with our faculty; lunchtimes and after school times are therefore very busy for all members of the faculty.

The PE Department and the Visual and Performing Arts faculty at Upper Wharfedale is highly successful and ambitious. Staff at all levels work cohesively together, sharing ideas and resources with the common aim of continuing to improve teaching and learning, which is at the heart of all that we do.

**Ben Richardson**  
**Assistant Headteacher**  
**Director of Learning: Visual and Performing Arts**