PE (GCSE) KS3 and KS4

What are the aims of the course?

- To develop theoretical knowledge, to apply and analyse in a range of physical activities and related theoretical concepts.
- To enable students to improve their ability to perform and evaluate the skills, tactics and decision-making requirements of a range of team and individual practical activities.

What is the content of the course?

The course involves both theoretical and practical lessons in all three years of study.

Theoretical Content

The theoretical component will cover the scientific, sociocultural and practical aspects of physical activity and sport.



Students will be expected to be able to identify, describe, explain and analyse using the knowledge they have developed in the following theoretical areas: Applied Anatomy and Physiology; Physical Training and Fitness Testing; Social and Cultural Influences; Sports Psychology; and Health, Fitness and Wellbeing.

Practical Content

The practical component of the course will develop the performance of students in a range of sports. In each sport, performance is assessed on the students' application of skills, technique and decision-making in a competitive situation. Students' knowledge of rules and regulations will also contribute to their practical performance scores. In addition to the sports covered in lessons, students are also able to be assessed in practical activities that they perform outside school (e.g. horse riding). For these activities, video evidence must be submitted for marking. A total of three sports must be submitted to count towards the final practical assessment mark.

What will be assessed during the course?

Students will sit two written exam papers for the theoretical component, which account for a total of 60% of their final GCSE grade at the end of Year 11. The practical assessment component will contribute 30%, with 10% awarded to each of the three sports performed. The final 10% of the course is internally assessed through the analysing and evaluating performance task. This brings together the practical and theoretical content taught on the course, to assess students' strengths and weaknesses in a chosen physical activity.

What equipment will be required?

Students will be expected to bring the appropriate sportswear to practical lessons and, therefore, must have equipment such as football boots, shin pads and gum shields. In theory lessons, they will be supplied with PE workbooks.

Students interested in this course will select Physical Education as their option and not specifically GCSE PE or Sport Science (OCR Cambridge Nationals). The decision as to which of the two courses a student will ultimately study will be decided by the PE staff. The following will be taken into consideration: academic and practical ability along with the commitment shown by students to participate in sport during their own leisure time.