**The PE Department**

The department is made up of 3 teachers and one technician and is currently line managed by an Assistant Principal. The Head of Department is a highly regarded subject-specialist. Results have been solid in our first three years, and we are ambitious for more. We host trainee-teachers in the department and are in a strong position.

**Our facilities**

Bedford Free School PE department has the use of the imposing new school hall (built as part of a £1,000,000 extension project, with sprung flooring it is a beautiful and flexible space. In addition to this PE also takes place on our small and compact playground. However, using innovation, creativity and lots of energy the PE department manages to provide all students with an incredibly wide range of opportunity to take part in a multitude of sports despite the fact that we have no on site playing fields. They do this by using all the great facilities near to us such as; other school’s playing fields, local parks, a community sports club, an international athletic stadium, a variety of swimming pools and the natural occurrence of Bedford’s beautiful embankment and river Ouse and fabulous rowing club a stone’s throw away.

**The Curriculum**

Key Stage 3 curriculum

Students receive a double lesson of core PE per week (100 minutes). Our core PE offer includes a wide range of sports and works alongside the School Sports Partnership competition calendar allowing students an avenue to practice their skills in core PE and represent the school if they so wish.

Key Stage 4   curriculum

In key stage 4 students receive a core PE lesson PE week with the emphasis on engagement and activity.

We currently offer GCSE PE as an option to both year 11 and year 10.

Extra-curricular

As you might imagine, PE plays a key role in our well-established electives and wider-curricular offer and includes taking many students to a wide range of fixtures across all year groups. Each member of the department contributes to the BFS electives programme – these are the usual extra-curricular clubs offered in most schools but timetabled into the school day to ensure that every pupil accesses them and to save teachers from giving up their precious ‘free’ time after school hours to run them. Currently across the school we offer more than 50 activities a week which range from sports teams to knitting, debating and yoga. Since September, PE specifically has offered dodgeball, football, table tennis, dance, yoga, basketball, rowing, netball, rugby, boxfit and free running with more to come for the summer term. Last year **92%** of our students represented the school in extra-curricular sport. Each term there is a different trip provided by the PE department to give our students a glimpse of top level sport. In the past year we have visited Twickenham, MK Dons and Mk lightning.

Reading

Developing our pupils as readers has been, and remains a key priority for all staff. We have 30 minutes of dedicated DEAR (Drop Everything and Read) time each day where pupils read classic literature out loud together with their tutor. This approach, which we call ‘100 Classics’ will mean that at the end of 5 years at BFS, each pupil will have read very many great pieces of literature just through DEAR.

Teachers have all been trained in the strategies outlined in the Doug Lemov book ‘Reading Reconsidered’ and our pupils expect to read out loud in each and every lesson.

Why work at BFS?

Based in the heart of Bedford, BFS is already one of the top performing schools in the area which is down to an unashamedly academic curriculum, exceptional behaviour and subject teachers having the freedom to teach as a result. We recognise the subject staff are experts in their fields and the senior team allow heads of department to lead their teams as they see fit.

A strength of our school, and the key to the excellent attitudes of our pupils is our systems and routines. On appointment all staff are given a copy of ‘Teach Like a Champion 2.0’ by Doug Lemov and the strategies and techniques in this book drive the work we do on a daily basis. We have found that by arming everyone with the same routines, teachers become free to teach their subjects as they see fit because the pupils know what is expected of them.

As well as a generous salary scale, at BFS we offer funding for staff wishing to complete relevant post-graduate study and all staff receive independent workplace advice and support from Edapt paid for by the school ([www.edapt.org.uk](http://www.edapt.org.uk))

Bedford is a pleasant and affordable town in which to live and offers great access to London (30 minutes to St Pancras from Bedford Station) and Cambridge. Our school is growing into a multi academy trust and a local primary school joined BFS this year, and we have gained approval to open an additional secondary school in St Neots in the near future. These developments, plus others that are planned mean there will be considerable opportunities for career development in the coming years.

Thank you for your interest in teaching at BFS, we encourage candidates to visit the school and can arrange tours at any time – feel free to come and see our school in action, meet our staff and pupils and get a real feel for the hardworking, happy atmosphere we have here.

To arrange a tour or for a confidential discussion about the position contact PA Esther Logan to arrange an appointment on 01234 332290 or [elogan@bedfordfreeschool.co.uk](mailto:elogan@bedfordfreeschool.co.uk)