



2nd February 2022

Dear Parent / Carer,

As it is the start of a new calendar year I thought that it would be an opportune time to write to you with some information in relation to physical education at Stokesley School. Being the subject leader for PE, I am very proud to say that the overwhelming majority of our students actively engage with lessons and do indeed recognise the benefit of taking part in regular physical activity. We also have a large proportion of students who participate in PE enrichment opportunities, with many proud to represent our school.

As part of my role, it is my duty to evaluate how the PE department can continue to develop and improve in order to give our students the best possible experiences, and ensure that they continue to be the best that they can be; physically, emotionally and socially. With this in mind, as part of a recent quality assurance process, a student voice survey was carried out and students were asked to answer a series of questions regarding PE as honestly and openly as possible. This information has been collated to enable the PE department to analyse student's feedback and opinions. From the 430 students who responded, I wanted to share some of the most pertinent points:

When asked to agree or disagree with the statement '**I enjoy PE lessons**' an overwhelming 97.2% of students said they did agree. Of the 2.8% of students who disagreed, when asked to expand on their answer the most common responses were that it was 'too tiring' and that 'they weren't particularly sporty'. Whilst we understand that there will be some students who find PE challenging, we would remind students that participating in such challenging activities has numerous physical, social and emotional benefits. Additionally, lessons are always devised to accommodate all abilities and fitness levels.

When asked to agree or disagree with the statement '**I feel safe in PE**' an extremely pleasing 96.2% agreed. As a team, we will now be working with our students to ascertain why 3.8% of responses disagreed and what we can do to support those students in their lessons.

95% of students who responded indicated that they were fully aware of the extra curricular PE activities on offer. Please remind your child that there are information posters in key areas of the PE dept to indicate when and where clubs take place.

Pleasingly, when asked how PE lessons could be improved, typical answers included having more PE lessons which were longer as well as having more choice when it comes to the types of activities undertaken! In order to fulfil the PE curriculum we cannot allow students to always choose what they would prefer to do and find that through exploring the full range of sports that students often find a love of a sport they have never tried before.

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Through student feedback we have found that 33% of students in Core PE did not fully understand the level they were working at (e.g. bronze, silver, gold) until they received the reports home to parents. We have responded to this and throughout the first two weeks of this term have adapted our schemes of learning to ensure that students are fully aware of their current levels and are also able to identify strengths and areas for improvement. This process will be replicated at each assessment point.

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to our student Participation Policy for PE.

We are really proud of our participation records and students regularly bring their full kit to every lesson. We are constantly striving for improvement and we wish to continue to help students to progress in all aspects of PE. With this in mind, we request your support by ensuring your child participates in as many lessons as they can. If your child is unable to fully participate, they should still bring and change into PE kit even if they have a minor injury, that way students can still remain a part of the lesson. For example, they can take on the role of an official/umpire/referee or as a helper/assistant within the lesson. Our dedicated team of PE staff can suitably adapt the lesson for individuals so as not to aggravate any minor injury further. We politely request that you provide a note outlining the minor injury/illness and staff can then alter the activity or venue that the student will be in, in order to meet individual needs. Clearly there will be some mitigating circumstances to this rule where more serious injuries have been sustained e.g. fractures or where getting changed is physically impossible due to plaster casts etc.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries and I will be happy to assist in any way that I can.

Once again, thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

Mr D. Beattie,
Head of PE Faculty.

