

Aviation House  
125 Kingsway  
London  
WC2B 6SE

T 0300 123 1231  
F 020 7421 6855  
[enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk)  
[www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)



4 July 2011

Mr C Turner  
Headteacher  
East Bergholt High School  
Heath Road  
East Bergholt  
Colchester  
CO7 6RJ

Dear Mr Turner

### **Ofsted 2011–12 subject survey inspection programme: physical education (PE)**

Thank you for your hospitality and cooperation, and that of the staff and students, during my visit on 21 and 22 June 2011 to look at work in PE.

The visit provided valuable information which will contribute to our national evaluation and reporting. Published reports are likely to list the names of the contributing institutions but individual institutions will not be identified in the main text without their consent.

The evidence used to inform the judgements included: interviews with staff and two groups of students; scrutiny of relevant documentation; analysis of students' work and observations of five lessons.

The overall effectiveness of PE is outstanding.

#### **Achievement in PE**

Achievement in PE is outstanding.

- Students make good progress throughout Key Stage 3. Teacher assessments show that over the past three years, the vast majority of Year 9 students met or exceeded national expectations. In Key Stage 4, students of all abilities continue to make good progress and, by the end of Year 11, attain standards that are consistently above national expectations. Attainment in GCSE and BTEC sport is very high due to good-quality teaching and rigorous monitoring of students' progress.
- Students' enjoyment of PE and sport is reflected in their regular participation in lessons and in the extensive range of after-school sport. Their behaviour is excellent and this, coupled with good teaching and close monitoring of their progress, enables them to thrive in lessons and achieve the challenging targets set for them.

## **Quality of teaching in PE**

The quality of teaching in PE is good.

- Students respond well to teachers' frequent praise, encouragement and high expectations. The standard of kit is excellent. In most lessons, students have regular opportunities to evaluate their own and others' work and coach each other in small games. This has a direct impact on improving their performance. In both key stages, students regularly assess how well they are doing and record their findings in a personal assessment log to help them gauge their progress.
- The great majority of teaching is securing good progress and learning but the overall quality varies from outstanding to satisfactory. Not all teachers provide enough opportunities for students to learn independently, or use questioning well enough to confirm students' understanding of the subject. Information and communication technology (ICT), particularly video, is not used often enough to model good technique.
- Assessments are used well to measure students' progress over time and generate an overall assessment grade. However, these grades are not specific to each activity so tasks are not always planned to meet the needs of students with different abilities.

## **Quality of the curriculum in PE**

The quality of the curriculum in PE is outstanding.

- All students have two hours of PE each week in both key stages. The large majority regularly access three hours of weekly PE and school sport by engaging in a wide range of after-school clubs and fixtures against other schools. The Key Stage 3 programme includes opportunities for all students to outwit opponents, accurately replicate actions, solve problems and maximise performance in a range of games, gymnastics, athletics and outdoor and adventurous activities.
- In Key stage 4, imaginative curriculum pathways enable students to pursue GCSE PE within core PE lessons and to select a full day each week to study BTEC sport, alongside students from two other local schools. Students on the BTEC course complete the junior sports leaders' award and use this qualification to organise sport for primary-aged pupils. Sports prefects act as good ambassadors for sport by arranging inter-form competitions for younger students and assisting at sporting events.

## **Effectiveness of leadership and management in PE**

The effectiveness of leadership and management in PE is outstanding.

- The subject leader's expertise and vision for PE and sport are reflected in students' high attainment over a sustained period of time and by his track record of innovation, particularly in Key Stage 4. Consistently good GCSE and BTEC results make a significant contribution to the school's efforts to raise achievement. He has ensured that good facilities and resources are

used effectively to give PE a high profile; success in sport is celebrated and students enthuse about the sporting opportunities provided for them.

- Self-evaluation, based on regular lesson monitoring, scrutiny of work and periodic evaluation of outcomes for students, is largely accurate and informs development planning. Lesson observations and weekly staff meetings enable teachers to share good practice but this is not yet securing consistently good teaching across the department.

**Areas for improvement, which we discussed, include:**

- ensuring that all teaching is consistently good or better by:
  - improving teachers' use of questioning to confirm students' understanding and to encourage all of them to contribute regularly during lessons
  - using accurate assessments of students' prior attainment in specific activities to plan tasks that are matched to different abilities
  - providing regular opportunities for students to learn independently and use ICT to enhance their learning
  - sharing the best practice in the department and monitoring how well it is replicated by all staff.

I hope that these observations are useful as you continue to develop PE in the school.

As I explained previously, a copy of this letter will be published on the Ofsted website. It may be used to inform decisions about any future inspection. Except in the case of academies, a copy of this letter is also being sent to your local authority.

Yours sincerely

**John Mitcheson**  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**