



Department: PE

Sixth Form Information Event 2021 FAQs

Question 1 - How many UCAS Points is the course worth?

Answer - The course is worth the exact same UCAS points as conventional/traditional A Level/GCEs with a Distinction* being the equivalent of an A* which is worth 56 points, down to the E grade equivalent. When looking at university course entry requirements it may be listed under "BTEC" or "Vocational".

Question 2 - When I look on the OCR website at the specification there are many different courses. How do I know which one is relevant?

Answer – There are Cambridge Technical in Sport qualifications available equivalent to ½ an A Level, 1 A Level, 1 ½ A Level, 2 A Level and 3 A Level. The one we offer is an Extended Certificate which is equivalent to 1 A Level.

Question 3 - Why do we not do A Level PE?

Answer – A Level PE is a tough course and often a candidate opts for it because they like sport rather than it being an essential part of their route through to further education. Where pupils are choosing a university course which requires A Level PE, this can almost always be replaced by another science (biology for instance) which, should a pupil change their mind about their chosen career path between starting year 12 and completing their UCAS application, will increase their course choice options. Furthermore, achieving "top band" practical marks in A Level PE is significantly more difficult than in GCSE PE. As a result, pupils' practical grades do not meet their potential theory grade and they have to over perform in their exam to compensate for the shortfall in practical marks.

Question 4 – What are the benefits of completing this course over A Level PE?

Answer – Pupils completing this course achieve higher grades than those who sit A Level PE. Due to the nature of the course, pupils study a topic and then complete assessments (either a written assignment or an exam set by the exam board). After this they don't have to recall the information for another big, end of year 13 exam. As a result of this achieving higher grades is more accessible for a greater number of pupils. The course also provides a good foundation for academic writing at undergraduate degree level due to the nature of the assignment writing, topic research, Harvard Referencing and the need to continually meet deadlines. These are all valuable skills for university, and they have a much greater focus on this course than they do when studying conventional GCEs. Lastly, when pupils stay on



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top of their work, continually meeting their deadlines they are often finished the course by Easter of their year 13 school year. This means they can focus their attention on their remaining A Level exams without the distraction of additional study. That is unique to this course type.

Question 5 – Do all Universities accept the course?

Answer – The vast majority of universities accept the qualification as part of their application for the vast majority of their courses. The most “academic” courses and Oxbridge Universities do not, for instance. We recommend pupils check the entry requirements for the courses they potentially want to apply for at the universities they want to attend.

Question 6 – What sort of carer paths does the course lead to?

Answer – The natural answer is sports related courses such as Sports Science, Sports Management, Sport and Business, PE teaching and Sports Therapy/Physiotherapy (Universities will often require prefer Biology too) but it has also been used by previous pupils to apply for courses as varied as Audiology, Occupational Health, Quantity Surveying, Property Management and Business Studies to name but a few.

Question 7 – Does the course require any practical sporting expertise?

Answer – Unlike A Level PE there is no assessment of practical performance. This makes the course more accessible to all pupils and enables more pupils to achieve higher grades. The course will require a good level of general sporting knowledge and pupils will need to call upon this throughout. There is also a Sports Coaching unit where pupils need to coach a sporting activity of their choice. This is a compulsory unit and pupils will need sufficient sporting expertise to complete this competently.

If you have any questions not answered above or in the PowerPoint please feel free to email Mr Boyd aboyd@wirralgrammarboys.com