

Durrington High School wins Youth Sports Trust Outstanding Secondary School Award

DHS is delighted to have won the Youth Sports Trust Outstanding Secondary School Award 2019. The award is for transforming education through PE and recognises not only the hard work and dedication of the PE team, but also highlights the fact that physical education is a core part of the whole school approach at DHS. The award ceremony is held as part of the Youth Sports Trust annual conference and Associate Deputy Headteacher, and member of the PE team, John Fuller, was there to receive the award on behalf of the school.

The award celebrates how the school has maximised the potential of PE to improve all students' wellbeing and achievements. This includes initiatives such as Race For life, in which over 300 students and staff took part last June, year 7 interform dance, the year 7 mud run and pole to pole, in which students covered the distance needed to get from the South Pole to North Pole over the course of a week.

Alongside these initiatives, are the focused interventions on smaller groups designed to involve students not previously engaged with PE. The benefits of the Stand Tall Project and Girls Active were described by two year 10 students, Hannah Mott and Abi Johnson. They spoke about how being part of the Girls Active project, which saw them helping to organise Race for Life and teaching dance at local primary schools, had built up their confidence and given them the motivation to become dance captains and take GCSE PE.

Winning this award is also an acknowledgement of how PE is such a strong subject at DHS with each year in excess of 100 students opting to take AQA GCSE PE. Students consistently achieve strong results, and last year 18 students achieved a level 9 with 42% achieving a level 7 or above. The overall 5+ figures were 76% (with the national average at 51%).

Tom Pickford, Director of PE said 'we are delighted to have won this award as it acknowledges the hard work and determination that the team put in to giving all our students the opportunity to partake in PE activities.' Louise Wallis-Taylor, PE Teacher and Deputy Leader for Disadvantaged Students, added 'at DHS we really believe that physical activity is key to the well-being of our students, helping them in all aspects of their schooling and home life. It is for this reason we offer a wide range of activities to ensure everyone can find something they will enjoy. We also work hard to identify and intervene with students who need additional support. It is fantastic to be recognised for this nationally by the Youth Sports Trust for this.'

