



# Ballakermeen High School Information Sheet



## 'Banding' & 'Setting'

*This information sheet has been produced as a result of parent feedback at the Ballakermeen High School Association*

### **What does 'banding' and 'setting' mean?**

At the start of Year 7 all students are split into 3 groups called 'bands'. This creates three groups; A band, B band and C band, which makes it easier to produce student timetables, especially in instances where there are not enough subject teachers to teach over 200 students in one go! The band you are in does not reflect your abilities.

For some subjects each band is split into a further 3 groups which are called 'sets'. Sets are labelled Set 1, Set 2 and Set 3 and do reflect your abilities. Set 1 is the highest ability group and Set 3 is the lowest ability group. When you get to Ballakermeen at the start of Year 7 you are placed in sets based upon the information we receive from your primary school. It is possible to move up and down sets (see below) depending on how well you do in tests.

Your band and set will appear in the format [Year], [Band], [Set] so for example if you are in 7B2 - this tells us you are in Year 7, B band, set 2. 9C1 means Year 9, C band, set 1.

### **There is a reason I didn't do well in Year 6, I should be in a higher set!**

We know that there can be a variety of reasons why you may not have performed at your best in Year 6. In your second week at Ballakermeen you will sit some tests which will help us to set realistic, individual learning targets for you. The results of these tests will help us to decide whether you should be moved from the set you are put in when you start.

### **How do I move between sets?**

There are frequent opportunities for you to move up or down sets. If your teachers feels you are 'over achieving' in your current set you will be moved up or, if your teachers feel you are struggling in your current set you may be moved down. Your parents will receive notification prior to any movement between sets (see overleaf).

### **What does 'mixed ability' mean?**

Some lessons in school are 'mixed ability'. This means that students from sets 1, 2 and 3 are present in the same class. This is where achievement cannot be measured as easily in terms of knowledge or ability such as in PE and Design and Technology. Art, Drama, Music, Religious Education (RE) and Personal, Health and Social Education (PHSE) are taught in tutor groups and are therefore mixed ability.

### **Are my parents involved when I move sets?**

Yes. If you move up a set it's a reason to celebrate and your parents are sent a note via your planner to let them know how well you're doing. If there is a risk of you being moved down a set we will let your parents know in plenty of time, again via your planner. You will be given a list of things you should do to help you remain in that set. Your parents are more than welcome to arrange an appointment to come into school to discuss your progress and subsequent movement between sets with the subject teacher.

### **The Student Planner**

Because your parents are notified of any movements between sets it is *very important* that they check your planner regularly for any notes that your teachers send home. In school, your tutors will check your planner for any notes that your parents wish to send to your teachers. To help you get the most out of your time at Ballakermeen it is in your best interests to ensure that notes between home and school reach the people they are intended for.

We are always happy to receive feedback/comments about any aspect of the school