



# Ballakermeen High School Information Sheet



## Clubs & Activities

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

### **Why go to a club in the first place?**

Clubs are a fantastic way to get to meet new people and develop skills...all whilst having fun!

### **What clubs are available in school?**

The best way to find out which clubs are available around school is to check the plasma screens, the notice boards in corridors or the board in your tutor room. At the start of each year we collect the details for as many clubs as possible and publish them in a course booklet which is issued to Years 7, 8 & 9. Some clubs will change throughout the year (e.g. Cricket in the summer will replace Football in the winter).

### **I want to go to a lunchtime club, how do I get my lunch?**

Most lunchtime clubs only run for half of the lunch period which means that you will have time to go for your lunch either before or after clubs starts. The timing of clubs varies with some running for the first half of the period and some running during the second half of the period. You could go to two clubs if you wished but you would need to bring a packed lunch.

Some clubs run for the whole lunch period. In these cases the club is either run as a drop in club where you can come and go at a time of your choosing or you are allowed to bring a packed lunch or cold meal (e.g. sandwich or salad) from the canteen. You are not allowed to take any hot food out of the canteen at any time.

### **I have to pay for some clubs but not for others, why is this?**

Most clubs are free as they are run by staff using the resources available in the school. There are a few clubs that you will need to pay for to cover the cost of bringing in an outside club leader or a specialist resource. Costs of clubs are usually very small and consist of a one off payment for the year.

### **What time do clubs run?**

Most clubs run either during lunch periods or after school but some may run during the morning break period.

### **I want to stay for a club after school, how will I get home?**

If you stay after school to join a club you will miss the school bus. You will still be able to catch the bus as the Department of Education has an agreement with the bus company that will allow you to use your smartcard as a free bus pass on the regular buses up until 5.30pm. Some club leaders will provide you with a note to explain that you have been attending an after-school club or activity. Our clubs don't normally run beyond 5.00pm, which will give you plenty of time to use your smartcard to get home on the bus. If a club is scheduled to run beyond 5.30pm you will be told well in advance so that you can make alternative arrangements to get home safely.

### **Why are some clubs restricted to certain year groups?**

After school clubs that are open to certain year groups and not others are usually those that require a particular ability level. These clubs will usually run sessions for all year groups allowing students to develop their abilities over time. Other after school clubs are run as extra lessons for GCSE or A-Level students meaning that it would simply be inappropriate for younger students to attend.

Lunch time clubs are slightly different as they are run by teachers during their free time. If a club runs during period 5 it could be open to Years 7, 9 & 11 as they are on their lunch break, but as years 8, 10, 12 & 13 are in lessons they will not be able to attend. In these cases some teachers will run two clubs per week to ensure that all students get a chance to attend but this will be dependent on the teacher's timetable.

### **Reminders**

- \* If you are unsure about anything relating to clubs be sure to ask the member of staff running the club you are interested in and they can either give you the answer or point you in the right direction.
- \* If you are staying for an after-school club **ALWAYS** make sure that your parents know where you are, that you will be staying after school and how you plan to get home.
- \* If you are uncertain about whether you want to join a club you are always welcome to go along to a session of the club to see how you like it. If you don't like the club you don't have to go again.
- \* If you can think of a club that doesn't already run that you would like to see in school you are always welcome to drop a note in to Mrs Burnett and we will see if we can arrange for it to run.

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