

# Ballakermeen High School

Chair of Governors: Mrs Louise Strickett



Head Teacher  
Mrs P. A. Burnett MA (Ed.) NPQH

St. Catherine's Drive  
Douglas  
Isle of Man  
IM1 4BE  
Telephone: 01624 648700  
email: [bhsenquiries@sch.im](mailto:bhsenquiries@sch.im)  
Website: [www.ballakermeen.com](http://www.ballakermeen.com)

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Dear Parent/Carer,

As we approach the end of a busy and successful first half term, I would like to thank you for your continuing support, and provide you with some information about recent changes and improvements.

## Mobile Phones

Last term, after consultation, we made mobile devices 'invisible' in school. Students may still use them under the direction of a teacher in lessons, but the rest of the time, we do not want to see them. Our students have responded very positively to this initiative and it is lovely to see far more of our young people chatting to each other, playing games, or participating in clubs, rather than looking at a screen. In future, you will be notified through our 'InTouch' system if your child's mobile has been confiscated. Given less than 1% of students' mobiles are confiscated on a daily basis, most of you are unlikely to be affected. Please inform our reception staff should any of your contact details need updating.

## Lunch time Clubs

It is important that all students are able to take time out from their academic studies and we place high value on them participating in lunch time and after school clubs. We are extremely fortunate that we have staff who volunteer to run clubs and from the 5<sup>th</sup> November 2018 your child will be encouraged to do the following:

- Attend a club – please see the lists on school website (Go to 'Students', 'Extra-Curricular', 'Club Lists')
- Weather permitting – use the field, basketball courts and the area outside the new canteen
- Go to the library
- Go to one of the seating areas
- Stay in the old/new canteen after finishing lunch.

Students who attend clubs will be rewarded with merits. An added bonus is that students who are still in lessons, when other year groups are on lunch, will not have their learning disturbed by noise in corridors. I would be grateful if you could spend some time going through the above points with your child.

## School Uniform

We have seen a huge improvement in the standard of uniform this term; thank you for your help. The main area still causing issues is tight fitting lycra skirts. We will continue to be robust in our approach and are proud to have high standards. As winter arrives it is important that your son/daughter has an outdoor coat to wear and suitable black footwear. For a variety of reasons, hoodies are not permitted on the school site. If you have any queries please contact your child's tutor in the first instance.

Finally, although some students will be in school next week taking external exams (uniform not needed during the holiday period!) on behalf of all the staff, I wish you all a very restful half term break and look forward to welcoming your child back on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2018.

Yours sincerely,

P. A. Burnett,  
Head Teacher.