

# Ballakermeen High School



Chair of Governors: Mr Alex F Downie OBE  
Head Teacher: Mr. Graeme Corrin BA (Hons) NPQH

St. Catherine's Drive  
Douglas  
Isle of Man  
IM1 4BE  
Telephone: 01624 648700  
Email: bhsenquiries@sch.im  
Website: www.bhs.sch.im

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## Consultation Response - Change to the school day

Dear Parent/Carer

We recently invited a consultation on minor changes to the timing of the school day from September 2024. This was to accommodate changes in the delivery of PSHE/RSE considering the recommendations made in the recent DESC PSHE/RSE Review.

Proposed times for September 2024 are as follows:

	<b>Monday to Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
Registration (Period 1)	8.50am - 9.10am	8.50am – 9.00am
PSHE		9.00am - 9.45am
Period 2	9.10am - 10.00am	9.45am - 10.30am
Period 3	10.00am - 10.50am	10.30am - 11.15am
Break time	10.50am - 11.10am	11.15am - 11.35am
Period 4	11.10am - 12.00pm	11.35am - 12.20pm
Period 5	12.00pm - 12.50pm (Lunch: Years 7, 9 & 11)	12.20pm - 1.05pm (Lunch: Years 7, 9 & 11)
Period 6	12.50pm - 1.40pm (Lunch: Years 8, 10, 12 & 13)	1.05pm - 1.50pm (Lunch: Years 8, 10, 12 & 13)
Period 7	1.40pm - 2.30pm	1.50pm - 2.35pm
Period 8	2.30pm - 3.20pm	2.35pm - 3.20pm

There was no need to alter bus times for the morning drop-offs at school or for bus pick-up times.

Following a one-month consultation period from 1<sup>st</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> May we received responses from 7 parents/carers, 5 teachers and 3 students.

We would like to share the following responses to points raised by parents and carers:

Point	Response
Ballakermeen school day should align with SNHS	SNHS have already decided their new school day based on their context. To match with SNHS would create significant logistical issues, particularly around school buses, and would require more significant changes to the student curriculum at BHS.
45 minute lunch on a Friday is too short	45 minutes is sufficient time to get lunch and in conjunction with a 20 minute morning break we feel that students will enjoy a suitable amount of non-lesson time on a Friday.
Friday is too long	With the addition of a PSHE lesson and the subsequent 6 lessons of 45 minutes, only 5 minutes extra lesson time is added to the day on a Friday.
Students will lose learning time	This is the main compromise of this proposal however the alternative would be to consider removing certain lessons/subjects from the curriculum in part or completely. There will certainly need to be even more emphasis on making every second count and being absolutely prepared for learning on a Friday. This though is part of the culture that we are trying to establish everyday at Ballakermeen. The importance of the learning taking place in PSHE and the value that this has as students move forward in their lives is considered a mitigating balance to the compromise.

As a result of the consultation and based on the responses received, **we plan for the proposed change to the school day to be put into place in September 2024** with an ongoing review of impact during the Autumn term up to Christmas.

Yours faithfully



Graeme Corrin  
Head Teacher