



HOLMWOOD HOUSE SCHOOL

EXTRA-CURRICULAR PROGRAMME

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the school's ethos and aims, participation in extra-curricular activities is a vital part of our educational provision and pupils are actively encouraged to participate fully in the outstanding provision that exists at Holmwood. The after-school activities provision is optional in Years 4, 5 and 6 but mandatory in Years 7 and 8. Engagement in a wide range of extra-curricular activities enhances the education of our pupils, allowing them the chance to improve current skills and interests as well as to experience new activities.

OUR EVENING PROGRAMME

The programme of activities evolves and is refreshed each term to take into consideration the weather, staffing, venues and the sports programme, i.e. a cricket skills activity may well be included in the programme for the summer term when cricket is the sport practised in the sports programme. As new activities are introduced, it is accepted that some other activities may be allowed to lapse.

We schedule the programme of extra-curricular activities both in the Pre-Prep and Prep which includes the timetable of clubs run by external staff. For pupils in Years 7 & 8, participation in the extra-curricular programme is part of the fee structure, but for pupils in Years R-6 participation incurs a cost. The programme aims to achieve a balance between the provision offered to boys and girls; to facilitate key aspects of the wider extra-curricular programme, i.e. the rehearsals for the the Year 4 & 5/Year 6 & 7 plays; to allow for one-off activities in addition to the programme, i.e. a week of Bikeability sessions; to avoid clashes which put pressure on pupils or undermine core activities, i.e. Senior Chamber Choir practice.

The planning of the school's extra-curricular activities programme enables pupils to experience a wide variety of opportunities, and we aim, as far as possible, to ensure that the activities scheduled each evening are not confined to any one area of school life, i.e. all sports, but instead represent a range of interests.

On occasions pupils are expected to participate in a particular activity in the extra-curricular programme to enable them to honour their commitment to a particular area, i.e. Senior Chamber Choir, 1st Cricket Team, Tennis Squad. This is evaluated termly.

YEAR GROUP EXPECTATIONS (Prep School)

- **Years 7 & 8:** Pupils are expected to remain in school until 6.05pm in order to undertake their preps and activities between 4.20-6.05pm. Their time is divided into 'activity' sessions and 'prep' sessions which span the week.
- **Year 6:** Most pupils remain in school until 6.05pm, however, there is an option to leave from 4.00pm onwards. Their time is divided into activity sessions and prep sessions.
- **Year 5:** Most pupils remain in school until 6.05pm, however, there is an option to leave from 4.00pm onwards. Their time is divided into activity sessions and prep sessions.
- **Year 4:** Most pupils remain in school until 6.05pm, however, there is an option to leave from 4.00pm onwards. Their time is divided into activity sessions and prep sessions.

For pupils in Years 7 and 8 we recognise that their interests may stretch beyond what we can offer in school and they may seek to participate in a club outside of school. Such participation is recognised and valued. Permission to leave school before the end of the school day in order to attend such activities should be sought via the Headmaster. These are called regular oddities.

YEAR GROUP EXPECTATIONS (Pre-Prep)

- **Year 3:** Pupils are expected to participate in one activity session (Monday) and two sports sessions (Tuesday and Thursday) weekly between 3.15-4.00pm. On Wednesdays and Fridays they finish school at 3.15pm.
- **Rs to Year 2:** There is not a scheduled extra-curricular programme, however, pupils may sign up for activities organised by external coaches for an additional incurred cost.

ORGANISATION

Towards the end of each term staff are asked to provide ideas for the activities they would like to run in the following term. This information is then collated to produce a timetable which is published on the school website.

Once the programme of activities for the term is produced, a list of the available activities is presented to each year group with pupils having the opportunity to select those activities in which they are most interested in participating. Activities are then allocated to pupils taking into consideration this information as well as the maximum numbers allowed for each activity group. Although we endeavour to allocate as many activities as requested each term, this is not always possible. In this case pupils are allocated to any activity which has a space. All pupils receive some of their chosen activities each term.

ACTIVITIES INCURRING AN ADDITIONAL CHARGE

There is a limited number of activities available for both Pre-Prep and Prep school pupils during the week which incur an additional charge. These are timetabled according to the school timetable and the availability of external coaches. For the most part these run between 3.15-6.05pm but may also take place in the lunch hour. This provision currently encompasses tennis (Pre-Prep only), squash, ballet, LAMDA and musical theatre.

MUSIC AND DRAMA

Pupils in Years R-3 have 1 to 1.5 lessons of music each week depending on the year group. In addition to this pupils in Years 2 and 3 also have a lesson of drama during the school day.

In Years 4 and 5, pupils have a music lesson and a drama lesson as part of their academic timetable. In addition to this, both year groups put together an annual school drama production in the spring term with rehearsals taking place primarily as part of the evening activity programme.

In Years 6, 7 and 8 pupils have a music lesson as part of their academic timetable with drama taking place as part of the annual school drama productions.

Annually, the music department produces a schedule of ensembles, choirs and band practices which take place during the lunch hour. Pupils who are part of these groups are expected to attend these lunchtime sessions as part of their commitment. There are also extra rehearsals scheduled during the day ahead of important functions, such as the Christmas or Summer Concert.

Pupils who receive one-to-one tuition on a particular instrument do so through individual lessons with a peripatetic teacher which are timetabled during the week.

SPORT

All pupils benefit from a wide range of sporting opportunities through the sports and PE programme. Pupils in Years R-3 have two lessons of PE/Games each week during the school day. Pupils in Years 4-8 have two timetabled PE lessons as part of their academic timetables and this is accompanied by afternoon Games sessions as follows:

		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Year 8	2.30-4.00 pm	Games	Games	Matches	-	-
Year 7	2.30-4.00 pm	Games	Games	Matches	-	-
Year 6	2.30-4.00 pm	-	-	Matches	Games	Games
Year 5	2.30-4.0 pm	-	-	Matches	Games	Games
Year 4	3.00-4.00 pm	Games / Matches	-	Games	Games / Matches	-
Year 3	3.15-4.15 pm	-	Games	-	Games	-

It is expected that each child in Years 4-8 will play in school matches as and when required for their teams. These matches take place primarily on Wednesday

afternoons (Years 5-8) and Monday or Thursday afternoons (Year 4) but can also take place on other afternoons and/or weekends. We also endeavour to enter teams in national and local sporting competitions where appropriate (e.g. Jet Cup, IAPS tournaments, Lady Taverner's) where pupils may be required to spend a day at a fixture.