



# Balaklava High School

## Extra-curricular Participation Policy

**Rationale** - Extra-curricular programs according to Professor John Hattie's research, have a 0.17 Effect Size which he lists among the strategy "disasters" that schools employ to engage students and foster learning. While they certainly can enrich school life we must be aware of the disruptions they can potentially cause to the school teaching and learning environment. As Hattie indicates, the evidence to suggest that they contribute positively to student engagement and learning is questionable.

Student participation in extracurricular activities should be seen as a privilege and not a right. Such events or activities serve to enrich school life and student experiences while at school but they are *in addition* to the students' core responsibility of working towards consolidating their learning and achieving their best. Student involvement in extra-curricular activities must not have a negative impact on their studies in their set subjects.

**Eligibility Criteria** - All students representing the school in any such events must understand that they deserve to represent their school and must demonstrate this understanding by;

- maintaining a GPA of 3 or better and receiving no E grades (GPA comprised of average determined by the sum of results based on A=5, B=4, C=3, D=2, E=0, divided by the number of subjects taken.

*For example*

- a student at Year 8 achieving 2xAs (10), 3xBs (12), 2xCs(6), 1xD(2) would receive a total of  $30/7=4.2$
- a student at Year 12 receiving 2Bs(8), 1C (3), E (0) would receive a total of  $11/4=2.75$

Monitoring of student achievement will be supported by the student tracking process (twice / term) and, obviously, end of term reports.

- where students, (Years 8 – 11) are being recorded as either red or amber on the student tracking process in 2 of their subjects they will be precluded from involvement in extra-curricular activities. At Year 12, to be considered for inclusion in any extra-curricular activities it is expected that students will be passing all subjects but consideration may be given if only 1 of their tracking reports is recorded as amber. This, of course, is subject to the number of subjects a student is undertaking. For students in Year 12, any tracking results recorded as red will preclude a student from participation in extra-curricular activities
- maintaining an attendance rate of 90% (DECD expectation is 95%) or above. (illness and some other circumstances will mean this criteria will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.)
- having no suspensions in the last 10 weeks

Integral here, aside from those points listed above, is the ongoing commitment of students to positively participate in any such events / activities as they occur and their fulfilling of all pre and post requirements including that they:

- participate positively in all scheduled training / activities / aspects of the program
- meet all communication / payment deadlines
- seek approval – based on the first 4 dot points – that they are eligible to be involved. It is expected here that students will use a set proforma (see example attached) on which they will get a progress grade to date, any work requirements etc. This will be used, in conjunction with the student tracking responses and past reports for that semester.
- ensure that work missed in scheduled classes will be caught up / completed

Should some / all of these not occur students may be precluded from the proposed event / activity or, indeed, future events / activities.

All extra-curricular activities must be organised well prior to the event occurring to enable clear communication, forward planning and scheduling on the term calendar. Late notification may result in the extra-curricular activity not being approved.

Note: Extracurricular events / activities are, by definition, *in addition* or extra, to normal class and set curriculum programs. Students elect to participate in such activities, *in addition* to their set subjects / students who do not elect or who are not eligible to participate are **not compromised** in terms of their opportunity to achieve all components of their timetabled curriculum. Extracurricular activities include; all knock-out sports, interschool / state sports and swimming carnivals, pedal-prix, Year 11/12 Formal, goat-club, specialist music, the Botanic Gardens Maths Trail, the World Challenge, Relay for Life, Ski Trip, Canberra Trip etc.

As with most processes, matters may sometimes need to be determined on a case-by-case basis. In this regard, given the nature of some extra-curricular programs, such as Operation Flinders, Youth Opportunities, True Colours, Coaching Young People for Success etc, can be considered as targeted intervention programs, and perhaps sit outside the list above. Precluding students from these would serve no purpose.