

James Gillespie's High School



Extra-Curricular Clubs and Activities 2024 – 2025

James Gillespie's High School - Extra-Curricular Clubs and Activities



The benefits of joining an extra-curricular club or activity are huge.

Extra-curricular activities can boost young people's confidence to interact socially with others; extend their social networks; and provide them with new skills and abilities. Above all, they offer an important space to have fun and relax away from the pressures of schoolwork.

In this booklet, you will find a list of all the extra-curricular clubs and activities offered in James Gillespie's High School, and we hope that many pupils take up the opportunity to develop a hobby or interest, and to meet new people. Interested pupils should attend on the day, room, and time below - lunch can be eaten at the club.

Unless otherwise stated, all clubs have started – just turn up and enjoy!

Sports Clubs do incur a small charge and have a separate registering system which will be shared with pupils and parents/carers in due course.



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Activity	Year	Day	Time	Room	Run by	Other Info.
MONDAY						
S1 Art Club	S1	Monday	Lunchtime 1.00 – 1.40pm	M2.11	S6 A-Level Art pupils, overseen by Mrs Troon and Ms Christie	First come first served each week - maximum 20 places. If a pupil cannot attend one week as full, they will have the opportunity to attend the following week. No additional materials required. Bring lunch to the classroom.
Classics Club	All years	Monday	Lunchtime 1.00 – 1.35pm	H4	Miss Fraser	A student-led club exploring the classical world. Investigate mythology, art, literature and culture from ancient civilisations. Learn about rites, festivals, food and more. Share your own knowledge and enthusiasm for classics with others. Everyone welcome!
Pàipear-Naidheachd na Gàidhlig	S1 to S3	Monday	Lunchtime 1.00 – 1.40pm	D0.18	Mr Methven	Bidh sinn a' sgrìobhadh pàipear-naidheachd a thèid do phàrantan GME (3 no 4 tursan sa bhliadhna). Bidh cothroman ann do dhaoine diofar rudan a sgrìobhadh, dealbhan a thogail, agus sgilean coimpiudaireachd a leasachadh.
Minecraft Build Club	S1 to S3	Monday	Lunchtime 1.00 – 1.40pm	M0.11	Mr Meechan	The Edinburgh Minecraft Build League is a year-long, league-based competition where teams and classes from all schools across the City of Edinburgh Council can participate. The competition consists of five challenges, each with a unique theme, issued between September 2024 and April 2025. Between

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						challenges you can still come along to the club to play Minecraft with each other.
Book Group	All years	Monday	Lunchtime 1.00 – 1.40pm	Library	Mrs Brown	Book themed discussion, crafts and games.
SU Club (Scripture Union)	S1 to S6	Monday	Lunchtime 1.00 – 1.35pm	M0.07	Mr Dunn. Bible studies will be led by scripture union employees.	This is a Christian group who use Monday lunch times to read and discuss the bible, pray and support each other.
Equally Safe at School Action Group	All years	Monday	Lunchtime 1.00 – 1.40pm	1.36	Miss Criag and Ms Peters	Equally Safe at School is an action group to put in place ways to challenge gender-based violence at school. Pupils will take a leadership role in helping the school improve through teaching, school policies and systems and promoting sources of support for victims and survivors of gender-based harassment and violence.
Model United Nations (M.U.N. Club)	All years	Monday	Lunchtime 12.55 – 1.30pm	H2 – Eliza Wigham (Humanities)	Modern Studies Staff	The Model United Nations (MUN) is a student led debating group that is based on the way resolutions are debated in the real UN. Students roleplay as diplomats from a UN member state while debating resolutions that are based on realistic scenarios. MUNs run across the UK and internationally and are a really engaging and fun way to develop critical thinking skills and gain confidence in public speaking.
Dungeons and Dragons Club	All years	Monday	After school 3.40 – 4.30pm	M1.26 and M1.27	Ms Sturm and Mr Cham	If you are interested in broadening your creative imagination, developing your roleplaying skills, or fighting goblins, join the

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						<p>D&D club.</p> <p>We welcome all levels of players and have spaces for beginners, experienced players, and Dungeon Masters.</p>
Junior Maths Challenge club	S1 and S2	Monday	After school 3.45 – 4.40pm	M2.04	Dr. Dominguez	<p>In this club we'll focus on improving higher order problem solving skills in Maths. We will be using questions from the famous UK Maths Challenge competitions so that any student interested in participating in those competitions have extra practice before then. If you have any questions, contact Dr. Dominguez.</p>
Film Making Club	S1 and S2	Monday	After school 3.50 – 4.50pm	S0.06	Mrs Conroy	<p>Pupils will learn a variety of film-making skills. These will include skills such as techniques to master using framing, movement, shot size, storytelling and editing to take their film making skills to the next level.</p>
S4 Art Club (Mrs Harper's classes)	S4	Monday (and Wednesday lunchtime)	After school 3.40 – 4.40pm	M2.10	Mrs Harper	<p>This hour is for Mrs Harper's S4 classes to complete, catch up and improve their Nat 5/4 Art course.</p> <p>They also invited to come on a Wednesday lunchtime as well.</p>

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TUESDAY						
'Loose Threads' Embroidery Club	All years	Tuesday	Lunchtime 12.55 – 1.35pm	M1.26	Mrs Connell	This is a club where you can de-stress and learn how to paint with thread. We'll be learning the basics of embroidery--most of the materials will be provided. For those who are ready, the aim this year to make a panel about Gillespie's--something along the lines of what the Great Tapestry of Scotland is like.
Eco Club	All years	Tuesday	Lunchtime 1.00 – 1.35pm	M2.33	Mr Stewart	Students meet to run campaigns on environmental issues in school and around the world.
Young Carer Lunch Club	All years	Tuesday	Lunchtime 1.00 – 1.35pm	SNUG – M2.01	Mrs Oatman	This is a club for young carers of all years to come along to the Snug at lunchtime and play some fun games, request for new games welcome - bring lunch
STEAM Club	S1 and S2	Tuesday Starts 8th October	Lunchtime 1.00 – 1.35pm	Lab 8	Mr McLellan and Mrs Hussain	Opportunity for S1 and S2 students to get involved in some Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Maths (STEAM) projects and activities. Previous projects that have been done includes Volcanoes and Robots.
Maths Study Support Club	All years	Tuesday	Lunchtime 1.00 – 1.35pm	M2.18	Maths staff	For pupils who would like to improve their Maths skills.
Oxbridge Maths Club	S5 and S6	Tuesday	Lunchtime 1.00 – 1.35pm	M2.04	Dr. Dominguez	We'll tackle the very challenging questions posed to Oxford and Cambridge candidates, focusing on MAT (Access Exam for Oxford)

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						and STEP I (Access Exam for Cambridge), although other interesting puzzles will be used. Any S5 and S6 student interested in further developing their Maths skills are very welcome to join, regardless of whether they're planning to apply for those universities. If you have any questions, contact Dr. Dominguez.
Higher Maths Study Support Club	S5/6	Tuesday	Lunchtime 1.00 – 1.35pm	M2.06	Maths staff	For pupils in S5 and S6 studying Higher Maths who would like some extra support.
Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award	S4/S5	Tuesday (not every Tuesday - pupils will be given a schedule)	After school 3.45 – 4.30pm	M2.31	Mrs Hohs	The Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award will be open to JGHS pupils who have completed their Bronze DofE award. If anyone is looking to be a direct entrant these will be omitted only with prior approval so please see Ms. Hohs in 2.31 if you would like to discuss this. We will complete the training for the award throughout the year and undertake out practice expedition in late May/ Early June and assessed expedition in September.
Computing Science Study Club	S4 to S6	Mr Meechan	After school 3.45 – 4.45pm	M0.11	Mr Meechan	An after-school study club for National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher pupils. Pupils can receive some additional support for their learning through revision, extra time to complete classwork on a PC or space to complete self-directed computing science projects.

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WEDNESDAY						
Animé and Manga	S1 to S3	Wednesday Starts 28th September	Lunchtime 1.00 – 1.30pm	M1.30	Mrs Sawers	Lunch and animé - what could be better? Eat lunch while watching anime. We watched the original One Piece last year - or at least started - as well as My Friend Totoro. Will be taking suggestions for this year. Feel free to draw as well and embrace your inner Shonen.
Knitting Club	S1 to S3	Wednesday	Lunchtime 1.05 – 1.45pm	M1.32	Mrs Wood	Bring along your knitting project if you have one on the go already, or use knitting needles and wool from Knitting Club. This club is for any skill level; if you're a beginner we'll get you started, and if you're already a knitter, you can develop your skills as well as help others with theirs. Come along with your lunch and spend your lunchtime happily chatting and knitting away with other fellow knitters:)
Cruthaich agus Dèan - Craft Club	S1 and S2	Wednesday	Lunchtime 1.00 – 1.40pm	D0.34 (Support for Learning room @ Darroch Annexe)	Ms MacIver	Cothrom a dhol an sàs ann an diofar cheàrdan cruthachail. A chance to get creative by making lots of different crafts - from friendship bracelet making to paper crafts to clay work! No experience needed - just bring your creative spark!
Board Games	S1 and S2	Wednesday	Lunchtime 1.00 – 1.40pm	Library	Ms Adenekan	Lots of fun with no iPad or phone in sight! Yes, simply board games, jigsaw puzzles and quizzes. Bring your lunch.

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Senior Film Society	S4 to S6	Wednesday	Lunchtime 1.00 – 1.40pm	S0.06	Ms Crawford	Come along to S0.06 on Wednesday lunchtimes to discuss, watch, and review classic cinema, new releases, or indie movies. Film choices will be decided by the group and activities will focus around your preferences.
Conversation club	S4 to S6	Wednesday Starts 24th October	Lunchtime 1.05 – 1.35pm	M2.24	Mr Ardila	Come and practise your language skills in a friendly environment. Learn about culture and make some new friends!
The Spark	All years	Wednesday	Lunchtime 1.00 – 1.40pm	M1.31	Mrs Kirkwood	'The Spark' is our pupil-led school magazine/website. We need people interested in any of the following: writing opinion articles, writing about school events, conducting interviews, creative writing, reviews, illustrations, photography, editing, website design, logo design, podcasting etc. Everyone is welcome and there are plenty of opportunities and options if you are interested in getting involved!
S4 Art Club (Mrs Harper's classes)	S4	Wednesday (and Monday after school)	Lunchtime 1.00 – 1.40pm	M2.10	Mrs Harper	This hour is for Mrs Harper's S4 classes to complete, catch up and improve their Nat 5/4 Art course. They also invited to come on a Monday after school as well.
S4 SQA Badminton Club	S4	Wednesday	Lunchtime 1.00 – 1.40pm	Sports Hall	Mr Plenderleith	This is aimed specifically at pupils taking SQA PE in S4 who would like to practice for their PE Performance.

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Maths Study Support Club	S1/2	Wednesday	Lunchtime 1.00 – 1.40pm	M2.06	Maths staff	For S1 and S2 pupils who would like to improve their Maths skills.
National 5 Maths Study Support Club	S3/4	Wednesday	Lunchtime 1.00 – 1.40pm	M2.15	Maths staff	For pupils in S3/4 currently studying National 5 Maths who would like to improve their Maths skills.
Gardening Club	All years	Wednesday	After school 3.45 – 4.45pm	Greenhouse/ raised beds	Dr Alder	Come and learn how food and flowers are grown! Keep the garden area looking lovely. We can even eat the vegetables when ready. Be prepared to get up close to worms and slugs and other beasties :)
Girls' Strength Club	All years	Wednesday	After school 4.00 – 4.45pm	P.E. Dept. – Fitness Suite	Miss Nightingale	All are welcome to come and learn the basics of strength training in a fun and supportive environment – perfect if you're curious about strength training or just not sure what to do in the gym! We'll be covering things like good exercise technique, how to use gym equipment, progressive overload, and unspoken gym rules so you can feel confident getting strong. No need to have any experience, but those who do are welcome too!
Girls' Run Club	S1 and S2	Wednesday	After school 3.45 – 4.45pm	Meet outside Malala Building (South B Exit)	Miss Ben Hamou	All girls 'run club' for S1-S2. This is open to beginners who are looking to try something new to keep fit and for more experienced runners who would like to take part for fun! Each week we will work towards building distance with runs in the meadows/links area. Finishing off with a little Starbucks treat! #runnergirlera

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THURSDAY						
LGBT+ Club	All years	Thursday	12.55 -1.40pm	H5 - Eliza Wigham (Humanities) building	Mr Jennings and the JGHS LGBT Champions Group	We're a fun and active social group for LGBTQ+ students and their straight allies. Our mission is to create a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment for everyone at the school. Whether you're here to relax and watch a movie, discuss current issues, or help plan our school's involvement in Edinburgh Pride, you'll find a place with us. Come along to Room 5 in the Eliza Wigham Building every Thursday lunchtime—bring your lunch, make new friends, and get involved in our exciting projects! Remember, there's no pressure to share anything about your sexual orientation or gender identity—everyone is welcome. If you're feeling a bit nervous about coming alone, feel free to follow us on Instagram or have a chat with Mr. Jennings for more information.
Amnesty International	S1 to S6	Thursday	Lunchtime 1.10 - 1.35pm	M1.31	Mr Roskilly	Raise awareness within the wider school and the wider community about human rights abuses. Fundraise money for Amnesty International
Minecraft Build Club	S1 to S3	Thursday	Lunchtime 1.00 – 1.40pm	M0.11	Mr Meechan	The Edinburgh Minecraft Build League is a year-long, league-based competition where teams and classes from all schools across the City of Edinburgh Council can participate. The competition consists of five challenges, each with a unique theme, issued between

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						September 2024 and April 2025. Between challenges you can still come along to the club to play Minecraft with each other.
GME Mural Painting at Darroch	S1 to S3 GME	Thursday	Lunchtime 1.00 – 1.40pm	D1.03 and outdoor playground at Darroch	Ms Molleson	This is for S1-S3 Gaelic Medium Pupils involved in the designing and painting of the Outdoor Mural at Darroch Campus (if weather is poor another art activity will be offered indoors in D1.03) 20 pupils maximum each week. Wear warm clothing. An apron will be provided. Autumn Term Only.
Neurodiverse Peer Support Club	All years	Thursday	Lunchtime 1.00 – 1.35pm	Humanities – H1	Mr Cockcroft and Mr Bewick	The school's neurodiverse support group is starting back up! This group is welcome to all students ranging from S1-S6 who are on the autistic spectrum, who have a diagnosis of ADHD and their friends. The group is run by senior pupils and will take place on a Tuesday lunch time. Come along for a chat, to meet other people and make new friends! The group will allow neurodiverse pupils to support one another and to feed back to the school suggestions on how we can make the school community more inclusive.
Maths Study Support Club	All years	Tuesday	Lunchtime 1.00 – 1.35pm	M2.18	Maths staff	For pupils who would like to improve their Maths skills.
Higher Maths Study Support Club	S5/6	Thursday	Lunchtime 1.00 – 1.35pm	M2.18	Maths staff	For pupils in S5 and S6 studying Higher Maths who would like some extra support.

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Advanced Higher Maths Study Support Club	S6	Thursday	Lunchtime 1.00 – 1.35pm	D2.23 (Darroch)	Maths staff	For pupils in S6 studying Advanced Higher Maths who would like some extra support.
'Readaxation' Club	S1 to S3	Thursday	Lunchtime 1.05 – 1.40pm	Library	Ms Adenekan	Bring your lunch with you to this warm and calming environment. Catch-up with friends/meet new friends in the first 10 minutes, as we eat lunch, then spend the rest of lunchtime enjoying being read to. You can take a turn at reading, if you want, but there's no obligation. In fact, just come and enjoy the calm of being read to! It's a great way to unwind and refresh before the afternoon classes!
Cost of the School Day - challenging the impact of poverty	All years	Thursday	Lunchtime 1.15 – 1.40pm	B5 - Ground Floor of Bruntsfield House	Ms Peters	Pupil led action group to organise ways to reduce the cost of the school day.
Homework Club	All years	Thursday	After School 3.45 - 4.30pm	Library	Dr. Andrews and Mrs Oatman	All years welcome to come along and have a quiet space to do homework, with teacher and S6 support.



Musical Groups, Choirs and Ensembles

All pupils are welcome to join any of the music groups, choirs and ensembles below – pupils should complete the Form that was issued on Year TEAMS, and also via the Head Teacher Friday Update email. <https://forms.office.com/e/7UyaaJU5ib>

We warmly invite pupils who learn an instrument out of school to join an appropriate group to experience the enjoyment of performing with others, with the opportunity to perform at various concerts throughout the year.

If you would like to join but missed the first rehearsal, don't worry as it's not too late – please attend the next one with your instrument (if appropriate) or speak to a Music teacher.

For choirs, no previous singing experience is required, just an enjoyment of singing!

Junior Choir (S1-S3)	Wednesday Lunchtimes: 1:15pm-1:45pm Theatre First Rehearsal: 18 th September
Senior Choir (S4-S6)	Wednesday After School: 3:40-4:30pm Theatre First Rehearsal: 18 th September
Junior Strings (for violin, viola, 'cello and double bass players)	Tuesday After School: 3:40-4:30pm Canteen First Rehearsal: Thursday 5 th September (one-off Thursday)
Senior Strings (for violin, viola, 'cello and double bass players)	Tuesday After School: 3:40pm-4:30pm Theatre Initial Meeting: 3 rd September First Rehearsal: 10 th September



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Wind Band (for brass, woodwind and percussion players)	Monday Lunchtimes: 1pm-1:40pm Theatre First Rehearsal: 4 th September
Guitar Orchestra (for guitar players of all levels)	Thursday After School: 3:40pm-4:30pm Theatre First Rehearsal: 19 th September
Senior Classical Guitar Ensemble	Thursday Morning: 8am-8:30am S1.10 First Rehearsal: 19 th September
Rock Ensemble	Friday after school: 1pm-2pm Music Department First Rehearsal: 20 th September
Junior Clarsach	Tuesday Lunchtime: 1pm-1:30pm Music Department First Rehearsal: TBC
Senior Clarsach	Wednesday Lunchtime: 1:10pm-1:40pm Music Department First Rehearsal: TBC



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Gaelic Singing: Choir and Folk Group <i>We will provide a range of Gaelic singing opportunities, including, Gaelic Choir, Folk Groups and Solo singing opportunities to prepare for school concerts, ceilidhs, Mods, services etc.</i>	Tuesday Lunchtime: 1pm-1:30pm Music Department First Rehearsal: 3 rd September
GME Music club <i>We will provide a range of music playing opportunities to GME pupils to come together to play, according to demand e.g. guitar club, keyboard club, learning some easy tunes (traditional) on various instruments including clarsach, fiddle, whistle, accordion, chanter, guitar and keyboard etc. for those who have some experience and can already play an instrument and at levels Grade</i>	Monday and Thursday Lunchtimes Darroch Campus Contact Ms Cooney and Mr MacLellan First Rehearsal: 21 st October
Traditional Group	Monday After School: 3:40-4:30pm Theatre Sign up: 9 th September
Pipe Band	Thursday After School: 4pm-5pm Music Department Currently running every Thursday



Active Schools Sports Clubs – Coming Soon!



More information will be shared in the next few weeks on the large number and variety of Sports clubs offered as part of our Active Schools Programme.

This will be emailed to all parents/carers and pupils, so please look out for this!

If there are any queries about this, please contact our Active Schools Coordinator Mr Eliot Ambrose:

Eliot.Ambrose@ea.edin.sch.uk

Mrs Deirdre S O'Brien

Depute Head Teacher

18th September 2024