



Ballakermeen High School

JULY 2020 NEWSLETTER



Dear Parent/Carer,

And so, we have arrived at the end of the school year, and what a year it has been! Parents, students, and staff have faced unprecedented challenges. I am greatly impressed with the imaginative and resourceful ways that our families managed home education, and enormously proud of my staff's dedication and hard work to keep our young people's learning going. We are very fortunate that management of the pandemic on the Isle of Man allowed a full return to school some five weeks ago. I am delighted to be able to tell you that our students have worked fantastically hard over this period and that we are in a good position for the start of the new school year in September.

I am keenly aware that many of our families have faced and are facing tough times. May I remind you of some of the support that is available from school. If your child is eligible for free school meals a new application must be made each year, and this will need to be done for September. For people struggling financially with the purchase of uniform and equipment, we have a hardship fund: contact me in confidence if you need help. There are also informal uniform 'swap groups' on Facebook and if anyone has any unwanted uniform or PE kit, we would be happy to collect items in and discreetly redistribute them. You may also have seen on Facebook that Miss Fleming has offered to repair blazers; all you need to do is put the blazer in a carrier bag with your child's name on it. Miss Fleming will be giving up the first week of her holiday, so it is not too late to make use of her kind gesture.

We know that the summer can feel awfully long for some students, so our Listening Service will continue throughout the break. An e-mail can be sent to BHSListingService@sch.im and Sarah, one of our Listeners, will respond every Tuesday from 9.00am to 3.30pm. If young people are bored, remember that the youth café, Café Laare is open Monday to Friday 12.00 to 4.00 pm and entry is free.

Thank you for everyone who has responded to our survey about online learning. We are reviewing your comments, so that we can learn from our experience this year and offer an improved service should it be needed in future.

For Year 10 Students who Took Exams

Cambridge exam results are out on the 11th August online. Students have received login details, enabling them to access results. A letter to students in Years 11 and 13 has been issued separately.

School Uniform

We have been very relaxed about enforcing our uniform standard over the last few weeks because the re-opening of school was so close to the end of the academic year. However, I would like to take the opportunity to remind you of our standards. This is to avoid unnecessary confrontation at the start of term when we want to be concentrating on preparing our students to be ready for life, by becoming reflective learners, who are knowledgeable and ambitious.

Please take a few minutes to log onto our website www.ballakermeen.com, click on the 'Information' tab and the drop down menu will take you to a section on uniform.

I hope you are able to enjoy a wonderful summer and we look forward to welcoming our students on Wednesday, 9th September.

With kind regards,

P. A. Burnett,
Head Teacher