

**Ballakermeen  
High School**

**2023**

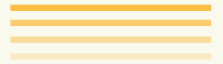
November  
**Monthly  
News**



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**30  
Nov**



## Dear Parent or Carer,

As the weather looks like it's taken a colder turn we're still seeing students leaving school without coats. We are advising them to consider their outerwear carefully and, knowing the Manx weather, be prepared for all eventualities! Also, as the afternoons are getting darker I would like to remind all students who walk home to be aware of the busy roads around school and the dangers if they are not concentrating. Please encourage your children to be road aware.

It's been a busy month at school with senior students representing the school at the remembrance parade and two key events for year 11 students at the Villa Marina and UCM. Staff have also been involved in what we call Faculty Focus. This is a process where senior staff and team leaders visit every teacher with a view to celebrating the brilliant learning that is going on and to gathering feedback that will provide the guidance for the next stage of our improvement. It's a great process for all of us to be involved with and indicates the desire of staff at Ballakermeen to not settle for doing a good job but strive to do even better.

You will see from images later in this newsletter that the Christmas trees and decorations are up in the canteens, so it is indeed already beginning to feel a bit like Christmas! We are certainly looking forward to our community Carol service which will take place at Saint Georges Church on the evening of the 20th of December. I would like to extend a warm invite to all of you.

On the theme of Christmas, you may have seen in the press that we have had year six primary school children from across the island visiting us this week as part of the Community Christmas supported by Zedra, EVF, Manx Radio and the IOM Constabulary. As the year 6 pupils begin to prepare for their own Christmas shows and celebrations, they have had a wonderful time watching the movie Elf.

Moving into the final weeks of the autumn term, I'd like to thank you for your support of the school and I look forward to sharing some of our new year's resolutions in next month's newsletter.

**Graeme Corrin  
Headteacher**





# Looking Ahead



## WHAT'S ON DECEMBER

- TUE 05**    **BHSA MEETING**  
Meeting begins at 6.30pm in the school library. Focus of meeting: events for students.
- MON 11**    **YEAR 7 VALUES CELEBRATION**  
Celebrating how students have shown our core values of Kindness, Honesty and Respect.
- WED 13**    **YEAR 13 PRIZE EVENING**
- TUE 19**    **A LEVEL CERTIFICATION EVENING**
- WED 20**    **CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE**  
Taking place at 7pm at St George's Church. All are welcome to attend, no tickets necessary.
- THU 21**    **CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY**
- FRI 22**    **BREAK FOR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS**

## YEAR 7 VALUES CELEBRATION

The Year 7 Values Celebration on Monday 11th December aims to capture and share some of the positive experiences our Year 7 students have actively participated in since joining Ballakermeen in September. It focuses on our core values of Kindness, Honesty and Respect and celebrates how students have shown these both in and out of school.

## BHSA UNIFORM SWAP SHOP

The BHSA's pop-up Uniform Swap Shop will be open from 2pm - 4.30pm on Wednesday 20th December in the Seating Area.

As always, our ethos is give what you can and take what you need. No donations are necessary, but any donations given are gratefully received.

The remaining dates for the rest of the year may be viewed here: [BHSA Facebook group](#).

## XMAS HOLIDAY

The last day of term this year is Friday 22nd December, with school re-opening in 2024 on Monday 8th January.

## E-PRAISE LEADERS SO FAR...



**NOV LEADERS: MAUGHOLD (43,121)**

CONISTER TOP TUTOR GROUP	<b>7CS9</b>
LANGNESS TOP TUTOR GROUP	<b>8LD4</b>
HILLARY TOP TUTOR GROUP	<b>7HS7</b>
MAUGHOLD TOP TUTOR GROUP	<b>7MS6</b>
PATRICK TOP TUTOR GROUP	<b>7PK7</b>



# November Roundup



Congratulations to competitors in the Secondary Schools Isle of Man Swimming Championships.

Daniel, Cameron, Kian and Dylan were victorious in the Boys 200m Individual Medley Relay, and Ellie, Zoe, Chloe and Aoife finished third in the girls relay.

We are extremely proud of all of them!



## STAFF VS. STUDENTS MATCH

Friday 17th November saw the return of the Staff vs. Students charity football match at the Bowl. The Sixth Formers won the game 4-3, and the match itself raised a total of £2,230 split between Ballaboots, Craig Heartstrong Foundation and the Year 13 Prom.

Well done to staff and students alike who took part, or took the time to come and watch and show your support!



## HEROES OF MANN AWARD

Congratulations Evie!

Evie in Year 10 won the Judges Choice Award at the Heroes of Mann Awards on 10th November, for raising awareness of disabilities and causes using initiative and kindness.

## EXARTA'S FORTNITE TOURNAMENT



Isle of Man based Metaverse company 'Exarta' ran a Fortnite tournament at the Employment and Skills fair, for students to be in with a chance of winning a Nintendo Switch. The challenge? To conquer Exarta's Fortnite parkour course, 'Clumsy Champions'. Out of 100s of island-wide student participants, only four crossed the finish line on the day, and it was Ballakermeen's very own Sean who emerged as the winner!



## YEAR 9 PSHE: POLITICS

For their current PSHE unit, Year 9 pupils are learning about Manx politics. Liberal Vannin Party Leader, Lawrie Hooper MHK (Minister for Health and Social Care) visited the School to discuss the Manx political system and the important role that students will play in a couple of years when they can vote and have a say in running the country.

## REMEMBRANCE DAY

Head Boy, Praveen and Deputy Head Girl, Lucy represented Ballakermeen with appropriate respect under heavy skies and high seas at the Douglas Remembrance ceremony on Sunday 12th. Everyone at Ballakermeen remembers the great sacrifices of so many.



Two minutes silence was also impeccably observed in school at 11am on Friday 10th following The Last Post played by Mr Karran.



KINDNESS | HONESTY | RESPECT



# November Roundup



## EMPLOYMENT & SKILLS FAIR

Year 11 students attended the Department of Education, Sport and Culture's flagship Employment and Skills Fair at the Villa Marina on 9th November.

They had the chance to meet and engage with around 60 exhibitors, representing a diverse range of sectors including the creative industries, finance, hospitality, Science Technology Engineering & Mathematics (STEM) and uniformed services. Students also had the opportunity to explore various job roles, delve into different industries and gain insights into lifelong learning skills.



### YEAR 7 BOYS RUGBY

The Year 7 Boys Rugby Squad put in an excellent team effort over the course of their season, culminating in what was an awesome afternoon of Rugby at the QEII festival. Their behaviour was impeccable.



A special mention to Michael and Ryan – Players of the tournament!

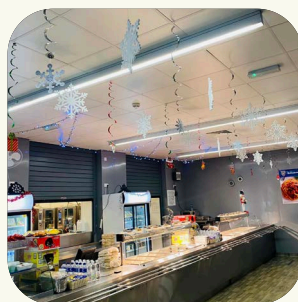


### YEAR 7 GIRLS HOCKEY

Our Year 7 Girls Hockey team played in the inter-school tournament at QEII with real determination and maximum effort right until the very last whistle and are a credit to themselves and to Ballakermeen.

## BHSA REGISTERS WITH EASY-FUNDRAISING

The 'Ballakermeen High School Association' (BHSA), ran by parents, is now registered with EasyFundraising - a simple online platform that donates money to your chosen cause every time you shop online, at no cost to you! Brands give cashback as a thank you for shopping with them, and this money is shared with your chosen cause. If during the lead up to the festive season, perhaps online shopping or booking a trip away to see family and friends, why not see if your chosen brand is listed on the platform! Every penny helps and goes towards supporting projects and equipment around school. You can find out more about how easyfundraising works here: [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/bhsa/](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/bhsa/)



KINDNESS | HONESTY | RESPECT