

Dear Parent or Carer,

A very warm, if belated, happy new year to you all. I hope that your Christmas break was restful and, if you were travelling, that you managed to do so without too much disruption.

This term has already been busy, particularly for Years 11 and 13 who have been completing their mocks. I know that there was a lot of serious revision completed by many students prior to the exams and the results should provide a real sense of where they are up to and what needs to be done next. Feedback from our team of invigilators was extremely positive and students were reported to be very mature and focused which was great to hear. If there was one area that could improve it was perhaps the provision of resources, particularly a calculator to complete the Maths mock. We would ask that if they do not already have one, students ask their Maths teacher for advice about which specific one to purchase.

It was lovely to throw our doors open for the Year 6 Open Evening on the 25th January. We had a fantastic attendance, and the school was alive with an excited and positive buzz. I would like to pass on my thanks to all our staff plus our student guides and helpers. The evening was wonderful team effort that clearly demonstrated the warm, welcoming and friendly feel that we are all working hard to create every day and with every interaction in school.

I hope that you enjoy this first newsletter of the year which is full of positive news and wonderful achievements. We are so lucky to have so many talented students and staff at Ballakermeen! I should invite you to share with us any achievements that you would like to be included in future editions. It is always nice to hear good news!

As we move into February, Year 8 have a visit from a McLaren supercar to look forward to whilst Year 7 have a Valentines disco on 13th of the month. This event has been organised by the parent association, BHSA, to whom we are most grateful for so much ongoing support. Should you wish to get involved with BHSA there is a meeting in school on 6th February.

Academic Tutoring Days make a welcome return for Years 9, 13 and 11 this month. For Year 9 this day will support Options process that has been launched on the website. I know that these Academic Tutoring Days have been missed and will surely enhance the communication between home and school.

Until next time, I would like to thank you for your continued support.

Graeme Corrin
Headteacher



January Monthly News



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Looking Ahead



WHAT'S ON FEBRUARY

- MON 05** **YEAR 8 MCLAREN MORNING**
McLaren Supercar team presentation and engineering activities for Year 8 in the New Canteen.
- TUE 06** **BHSA MEETING**
Meeting begins at 6.30pm in the school library. Focus of meeting: fundraising ideas and planning for events.
- TUE 13** **BHSA YEAR 7 VALENTINE DISCO**
6 - 8pm in the Old Canteen. Tickets £5 available from Reception or Mr Corlett in the pool.
- WED 14** **BHSA UNIFORM SWAP-SHOP**
In the Seating Area between 2pm and 4.30pm.
- THU 15** **SIXTH FORM INFORMATION EVENING**
- FRI 16** **HILLARY-LED NON-UNIFORM DAY**
- 19 - 23** **HALF-TERM**

SIXTH FORM CHARITY CHALLENGE

Our Sixth Form Gumboots Charity Challenge team are hosting an epic talent show on Tuesday 6th February in the Studio Theatre! Be entertained by an array of talented performers, as well as enjoying a tasty bake sale and evening drinks during the interval. All money raised goes towards supporting Gumboots. Tickets can be purchased: [here](#)

BHSA UNIFORM SWAP SHOP

The BHSA's pop-up Uniform Swap Shop will be open from 2pm - 4.30pm on Wednesday 14th February 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](#).

E-PRAISE LEADERS SO FAR...



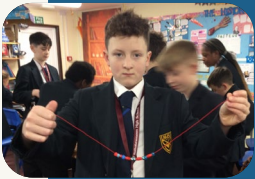
JAN LEADERS: MAUGHOLD (64,134)

| | |
|--------------------------|------|
| CONISTER TOP TUTOR GROUP | 7CS4 |
| LANGNESS TOP TUTOR GROUP | 7LL2 |
| HILLARY TOP TUTOR GROUP | 7HS7 |
| MAUGHOLD TOP TUTOR GROUP | 7MS6 |
| PATRICK TOP TUTOR GROUP | 7PK6 |

HALF-TERM

The school breaks for half-term on Friday 16th February, re-opening on Monday 26th February, with a Hillary-led non-uniform day on the last day to raise money for their House charities: Isle of Play and the Manx Hedgehog Conservation Society.

January Roundup



YEAR 7 HISTORY

Before the holidays, Year 7 were just completing a unit of work on the Pagan Lady, and some classes made necklaces and bracelets like the one that was found in her grave. They estimate that she was buried around AD950, which was when the Vikings were beginning to arrive. However, looking at her grave and grave goods, there is still some debate about her origins. The students' investigation centered around 'Who was the Lady of St Patrick's Isle (The Pagan Lady)?'



BASKETBALL

There were fantastic performances all round from the boys Year 7 Basketball team in what is a new sport to most of them. They showed lots of potential and we're sure there's exciting times ahead for the boys on the Basketball court!



SPORTS RECAP & LOOKING AHEAD

During the Autumn term, there were over 30 Year 8 boys who represented the school in Rugby and many have continued on at Douglas Rugby Club with Brett Pyke (Development Officer). Training continues on Wednesdays 3.45 - 4.45pm and Sundays 1 - 2pm at Douglas Rugby Club.

Year 8 Netball and Football has just recently commenced. There was an excellent first display against SNHS in the first extra-curricular match, and again a fantastic turn out for both teams.

Football and Netball fixtures and practices are also available for Years 9 & 10, and there is an opportunity for Boys' Senior Football too. Training and matches continue weekly and all details are available in the student bulletin or through your PE teacher.

KINDNESS | HONESTY | RESPECT

SENIOR YOUNG SINGER OF MANN



Year 12 student Orry won the title of Senior Young Singer of Mann 2024 at annual competition held at the Erin Arts Centre at the end of the month. Orry sang Sea Fever from the musical Jekyll and Hyde. Already crowned Young Actor of Mann in 2022, we're confident Orry will go far!



YEAR 7 GIRLS NETBALL

Thirty Year 7 girls played in their first netball match this year against St Ninian's High School. There was some lovely netball played in a really friendly spirit and it was great to see such a great turnout of girls. These are friendly matches as we work towards an inter-school tournament in a few weeks time.



PEACE LIGHT

We're very proud of Landon in Year 8, who was responsible for carrying a peace light onto the island off the boat. The International Peace Light from Bethlehem is a continuously-burning flame, originating from the lamps at the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, and spread around the world each year during Advent. For over three decades, the International Scouting movement have actively promoted global peace and harmony through the distribution of the International Peace Light.



TALKING IN THE DARK

Y10 student Evie interviewed an array of fascinating people over January for her podcast including Henry Fraser, Isle Listen, Chief Minister Alfred Cannan, and Hospice IOM.

Listen to the latest episodes here:
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