

29  
Feb

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## Dear Parent or Carer,

Despite the extra day for leap year, with half term in the middle, it's been a short month. That's not to say that there's not been a lot going on!

Year 13 and Year 11 are getting to the business end of the year now and we've been really pleased to recommence Academic Tutoring Days for Year 11, Year 13 and also Year 9. How nice it has been for tutors to meet with parents and share in both progress made and development points for our students. By the end of the year, we will have had a full relaunch of Academic Tutoring Days for every year group.

Following on from the issue of Year 9 options we also launched our 6th Form Options. With the breadth of offer that we have been able to make, we are sure that all students will find something exciting and impactful for whatever future they aspire to.

Our school ski trip to Italy also took place over half term and a wonderful time was had by all involved. The progress made from absolute beginners to proficient skiers was lovely to hear about and these youngsters now have a skill for life! Such a trip is a huge undertaking and I thank all the staff who gave their time supervising the trip and admin staff who helped in the organisation.

This week I have had assembly with every year group and I've been reinforcing our repetitive message that we want to make Ballakermeen a really warm, welcoming and friendly school; for every student to be polite, attentive and really confident. Although it might seem quite simple, by explicitly focusing on good manners, we are creating more opportunities for positive conversation and pleasant greetings. We are basing our development on three acronyms STEPS, SLANT and SHAPE which you can find out more about via our [podcast](#).

As we move into meteorological spring, we look forward to brighter days and a sense of positivity and optimism throughout Ballakermeen.

**Graeme Corrin**  
Headteacher

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Ballakermeen  
High School

2024

# February Monthly News

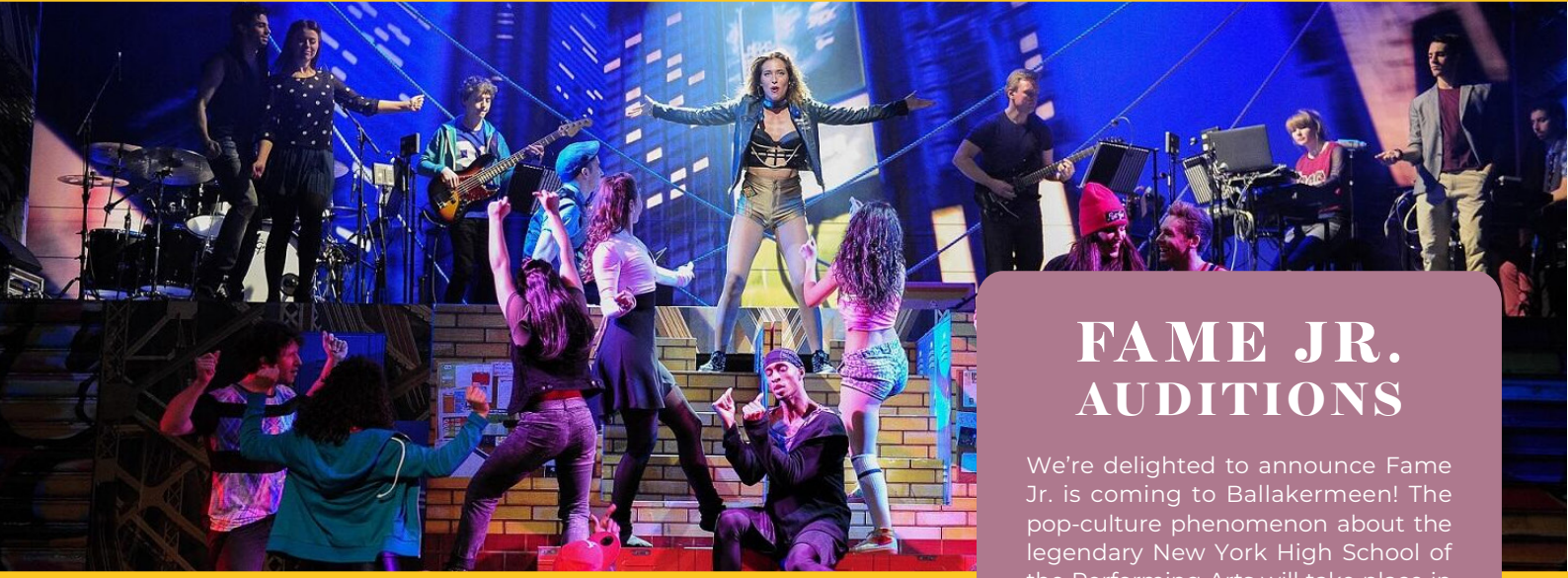
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# Looking Ahead



## FAME JR. AUDITIONS

We're delighted to announce Fame Jr. is coming to Ballakermeen! The pop-culture phenomenon about the legendary New York High School of the Performing Arts will take place in the Studio Theatre in November 2024!

Auditions are taking place on:

- Tue 5th March (everyone)  
3.30 - 5.00 in the Studio Theatre
- Thu 7th March (principals)  
3.30 - 5.00 in the Studio Theatre

Sign-up sheets for auditions are posted in M6 (Music) and outside B4 (Drama), with principal audition material available from M6. There's also a character breakdown, detailed show synopsis, and guidance for any budding actors (available [here](#))

## YEAR 11 REVISION

There are a variety of optional Year 11 revision sessions taking place after-school to help prepare for exams. To see a full list of what's on, please [click here](#).

## BHSA UNIFORM SWAP SHOP

The BHSA Uniform Swap-Shop is will be open on Wednesday 26th March! Please feel free to call by the school Seating Area between 2pm and 4pm to swap items of clothing, pick up FREE replacement items if required, or to drop in any items of uniform which may no longer be needed. The remaining dates for the rest of the year may be viewed here: [BHSA Facebook group](#). The next shop date after March will be Wed 29th May.



## WHAT'S ON MARCH

**MON 04 SENIOR PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION**

**THU 14 YEAR 12 PREFECT ELECTIONS**

**THU 21 SPRING CONCERT**

**TUE 19 YEAR 11 JA 'GET-A-JOB PROGRAMME'**  
Junior Achievement volunteers work with students to help them understand how to apply for a job

**THU 21 SPRING CONCERT**

**WED 26 BHSA UNIFORM SWAP-SHOP**  
Open in the Seating Area between 2pm and 4pm

**THU 28 LANGNESS-LED NON-UNIFORM DAY**  
Raising money for Craig's Heartstrong Foundation

## E-PRAISE LEADERS SO FAR...



### FEB LEADERS: MAUGHOLD (76,801)

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**



# February Roundup



## YEAR 7 FRENCH POSTERS

Year 7 French have been very busy creating their own 'Wanted' posters to finish their recent module of work about family and descriptions.



They have described a character, giving details about age, height, hair, and eyes. They have also included information about personality, family, and pets, as well as offering a reward. Great work all!

## SCHOOL SPORT: FOOTBALL PROGRESS

The Ballakermeen extra-curricular football season is coming to a close and it has seen numerous fixtures being played against the other Island schools. We have fielded 4 teams at Year 7 and 2 teams at every other year group. Lots of students have competed, exhibiting excellent sportsmanship and respect, with a little resilience needed as well when the going got tough. Mr Hardie would like to thank all the students for turning up in their masses in what has been a really fantastic effort all round. Good luck to the Year 7s and Year 9s in their respective tournaments and finals next week.

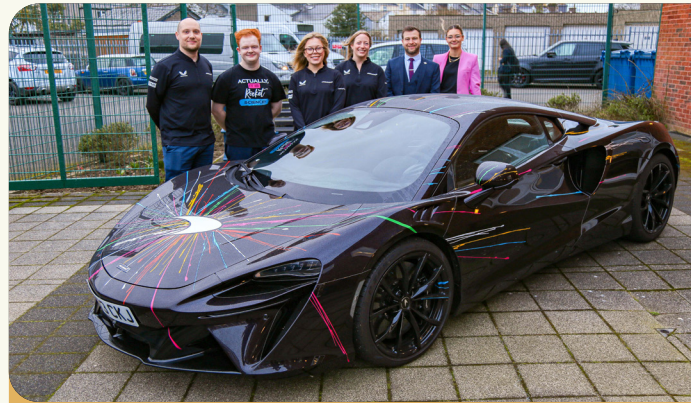
## YEAR 8 LEARNING CPR

This term our Year 8 students are taking part in a First Aid programme and will access basic CPR training with Mr Corlett. Our aim is to try and teach (or refresh) all students in Years 7, 8 and 9 by the end of the school year.

A special thanks must go to the Ballakermeen High School Association who kindly purchased our CPR manikins so our students can practice resuscitation.



KINDNESS | HONESTY | RESPECT



## MCLAREN SUPERCAR VISIT BHS!

Our wonderful Design & Technology team organised a visit from the McLaren Supercar Team at the beginning of the month thanks to Love Tech!

Our Year 8 students enjoyed a workshop consisting of a presentation all about the automotive industry and careers in engineering, including looking at the components of McLaren supercars, and took part in a competition to design their own supercars with prizes for the top teams!

The real highlight though was getting to look at (and for a lucky few- sit inside!) the McLaren Artura new next-generation hybrid supercar. Mr Crilly's Year 10 Product Design class even had a look in too.

Love Tech is dedicated to inspiring young people to explore STEM opportunities, and this collaboration with McLaren was an incredibly exciting opportunity for our students to explore the endless possibilities in the automotive and engineering industries!



## STUDENTS JOIN ANTHONY NOLAN



Just before February half-term, a total of 49 Sixth Form students signed up to join the Anthony Nolan charity stem cell register, completing a swab test, enabling them to be added them to a list of potentially lifesaving matches for people diagnosed with blood cancer.

We're very proud of their bravery and selflessness.



# February Roundup



## STUDIO THEATRE ANNIVERSARY

On Thursday 15th February 2004, the Studio Theatre officially opened, marking 2024 as its 20th Anniversary.

Formerly known as Ballakermeen's "Hall A", the Studio Theatre has seen it all over the last 20 years...from local youth drama productions to touring professional shows, screenings from world-renowned companies to Ballakermeen's own school concerts!

The theatre recently invested in a brand new, state of the art lighting desk, which is a similar product line, albeit smaller, to the desk used at the island's Gaiety Theatre. This will hopefully provide cohesion from a technical aspect across the island's venues and as a result, facilitates training for those interested in the technical side of theatre.

Thank you to all the theatre's various supporters and patrons through the past 20 years. Here's to the next 20!



## YEAR 7 ENGLISH - MYTHOLOGY

Year 7 English have focused on Greek mythology and The Iliad for the first half of this academic year and have produced some amazing projects based around the characters and texts they have studied!

## CHARITY CHALLENGE

The Charity Challenge final took place this month and we were very proud of all the teams taking part, who each raised £100 for their charities. The standard of public speaking was excellent, and the judges chose Disability Africa as our winner, who now go on to represent Ballakermeen at the Island final in March!

**DISABILITY  
AFRICA**  
CHANGING CHILDREN'S LIVES



## TALKING IN THE DARK: FEBRUARY GUESTS

Year 10 student Evie was joined by a variety of exciting guest speakers over February in her podcast, Island Horse and Pony Aid, Actor and author Stephen Fry, Ben Wilson from Extant, and Comedian Rosie Jones.

You can listen to the latest episodes here:

[Facebook](#) | [Spotify](#) | [YouTube](#)