

Ballakermeen
High School

2024

March
Monthly
News



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Dear Parent
or Carer,

What a bumper issue this is! There's certainly been a lot happening in what's been a short but packed month. As you can see with the variety of sports, arts and entrepreneurial activities on show, we have so many talented and wonderful students contributing to school and community life. Only in the last week we have enjoyed success with Junior Achievement and Charity Challenge, had huge numbers of DofE students recognised with awards, and the wonderful Spring Concert showcasing amazing talent and confidence. It should be noted too that the students featured in this newsletter are just a small sample. Students are achieving so many great things that every day and it is a credit to them, yourselves and our staff. We all make our own contribution to Team Balla!

Spring is a wonderful time of year. It's a time when nature comes back to life, days are longer and there is a freshness all around. I hope everyone has a wonderful Easter break and when we come back for the Summer term we are all re-energised. Obviously for exam years it is a very important time and we hope that the effort put into studies is fully and richly rewarded. For all of us though, summer term is a time for us to assess our progress and begin to review the year. We start to look forward and plan what we want to achieve next year. The cycle of development and improvement really does never stop and we all have a part to play.

Our view of the school is generally led by our various quality assurance processes, and these help us to make or form a view about our school. What is really good? What needs further growth? We are delighted to be welcoming an external validation team to Ballakermeen in early May so that they can look at our judgments and work with us as we further clarify where we need to go next. It will be no surprise that our key priorities will remain centred around positive learning behaviour, genuine mutual respect and continuing to refine the quality of teaching.

Once again, I wish you a wonderful break and I look forward to the summer term.

Graeme Corrin
Headteacher



Looking Ahead



FAME JR REHEARSALS START

Auditions for our next school show, FAME JR took place at the beginning of the month, and rehearsals officially kicked off on Monday 18th! The level of talent from all those auditioning was extremely high, and it certainly promises to be a very exciting show!

BHSA

BALLAKERMEEN HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Ballakermeen already offers students an impressive range of resources and services, however, not everything can be covered by the school budget. The school has enjoyed the support of the BHSA through funding of a number of resources, which have included fitness equipment, magazine subscriptions, first aid teaching resources, starter equipment for new clubs, prizes for competitions and much, much more. Funds are raised from activities they organise and run throughout the year.

The BHSA need thinkers and do-ers to join them! They are a friendly group and would love to meet you! Their meetings begin at 6.30pm in the school library and the next one is Tuesday 16th April. They will be discussing plans for the upcoming Bingo Night at the end of April as well as planning ahead for the annual Parents vs Teachers Quiz in July. Simply come along, say hello and get involved! [More info.](#)



WHAT'S ON APRIL



- MON 15** **BACK FROM EASTER HOLIDAYS**
- TUE 16** **BHSA MEETING**
Meeting begins at 6.30pm in the school library.
- TUE 23** **'NYE' SCREENING**
Michael Sheen plays Nye Bevan in a journey through the life of the man who created the NHS. [More info.](#)
- WED 24** **'SWAN LAKE' SCREENING**
Classical ballet's most powerful tale of love, treachery and forgiveness. [More info.](#)
- THU 25** **JUNIOR MATHS CHALLENGE**
- FRI 26** **YEAR 11 LEAVERS DAY**
- FRI 26** **BHSA BINGO NIGHT**
At the Legion Douglas, 7pm. Tickets £20, available from ParentPay or by contacting the [BHSA.](#)

E-PRAISE LEADERS SO FAR...



MAR LEADERS: MAUGHOLD (86,102)

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

March Roundup



2ND IN PUBLIC SPEAKING



Congratulations to Samantha and Anna in Year 8 who placed 2nd in the Rotary Club of Douglas' annual inter-school public speaking competition. The girls previously won the competition in 2023, and spoke very well once again this year. We are very proud of you!



Y7 FOOTBALL FESTIVAL




The Year 7 Football festival took place on Wednesday 20th March at Ramsey Grammar School. Despite there being over 60 boys representing the school this season, Mr Stokoe could only take 28 players (3 teams).



All boys were a credit to the school and gave 100% for the badge on the day. BHS won 9 out of 14 matches, and it is clear to see the future bodes well for when matches get that little more competitive in the coming years! There were also some outstanding individual performances, and plenty of goals scored from all 3 teams. Thanks to all parents and supporters that came along to support the boys on the day!



 **CELEBRATING WORLD BOOK DAY**
Thursday 7th March 2024


Students celebrated World Book Day with a visit to the school library! The library was busy all day, with students in and out over lunchtime and break, and several English classes visiting during their lesson. At lunchtime the Fiction library was full of students trying to solve the World Book Day quiz, where they had to find book titles hidden around the library.

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES PROJECT



Year 10 Global Perspectives students had the pleasure of interviewing Sarah Maltby Douglas South MHK for their Team Projects. Their projects require them to explore local issues such as law, criminality, and climate change, and try to gain some primary research where possible. The students had a great time and found Sarah's responses and research super interesting and useful. Thank you Sarah!



 Congratulations to 6th Manx Youth Bard winner, Year 8 student Nehall! Nehall beat off stiff competition by wowing the judges with his incredible poem 'The Rainbow in Black'. Congratulations!

MUSIC WORKSHOP

At the beginning of the month, we were visited by traditional music duo Elizabeth Davidson-Blythe and (former Ballakermeen student) Daniel Quayle, who ran an interesting workshop with some of our Year 9 students all about traditional Manx music, followed by a small concert for 160 Year 7 students! Many thanks to Elizabeth and Daniel for taking the time to visit us, as well as Chloë Woolley and Culture Vannin for organising the project touring the Island's secondary schools.



KINDNESS | HONESTY | RESPECT

March Roundup



KS3 SCIENCE WEEK

Students from Years 7, 8, and 9 took part in a variety of activities during Science Week between 11th - 15th March. All activities were linked to the theme TIME



Students were praised by science staff for their high levels of engagement and excellent attitudes to learning!



YEAR 8 GIRLS NETBALL

The Year 8 girls travelled to Ramsey for their final Netball game of this season on 4th March. We have seen a regular impressive turnout at practices, and it has been lovely to watch them develop over the course of the season. They have been a credit to the school!



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY: FRIDAY 8TH MARCH 2024



Some of our Sixth Form students visited Tynwald to celebrate International Women's Day on Friday 9th March. In the morning, some of the girls joined an online session hosted by Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians with other young females across the globe to talk about modern day issues. In the afternoon, the students took to House of Keys to take part in their own debate, which included Motions on issues affecting young women on the Island such as period poverty, uniform policies in schools, working conditions for young people, and legislation on catcalling.



YEAR 8 BOYS FOOTBALL

A fantastic performance saw the Ballakermeen Year 9 team take home the Boy's Football Shield, against a very strong RGS team. Well done to all!

TALKING IN THE DARK: MARCH GUESTS



Year 10 student Evie was joined by a variety of exciting guest speakers in her Podcast over March: Actress and star of stage and screen Amy Forrest, World record-breaking Paralympian and member of the House of Lords Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson, Disabled adventurer and inspirational speaker Darren Edwards, and Rock and Roll Hall of Fame legend Nile Rodgers.

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

March Roundup



CREED WIN STUDENT COMPANY OF THE YEAR



Congratulations to Krishna, Ben, and Milto of Team Creed who won Junior Achievement's HSBC Student Company of the Year 2024! The team also bagged the Zurich award for Innovation in Business, for their Sensoguard glove designed to assist those with visual impairments or blindness to navigate their environment. Creed will now be jetting off to Catania Italy in July to take part in Gen-E, Europe's Largest Entrepreneurship Event!

Jessica, Reuben, Anna, Natercia, Ralph, and Lucie of Team Evesta also won the Celton Manx Special Recognition award for their development of their app ARCA, designed to improve communications for non-verbal autistic people. Well done all!



YEAR 7 GIRLS FOOTBALL

The Year 7 girls played in an inter-school football tournament on 20th March in which they won 2 games and lost 3, to finish in 4th place. All the games were extremely close, and there was a fantastic standard of football played. Well done to all involved!



Well done also to fellow Ballakermeen Junior Achievement teams: Plutus (Stephen, Iva, James, Jayden, and Alex) and Eclipse (Dom, Lucas, CJ, and Tom) who have worked very hard over the past months of the project.



YEAR 11 MARINE ASSEMBLY



Thank you to Jen from Manx Whale and Dolphin Watch who visited our Year 11 Assembly to talk about predator and prey relationships in the Manx marine ecosystem! This has added an interesting context to the GCSE content.



SPRING CONCERT 2024

Our 2024 Spring Concert took place on 21st March and was a wonderful evening of music and song! Special Thanks to our amazing accompanist: Dannii Bridson, various colleagues who contributed to the night's success, and most importantly our fabulously talented students. Provisional Guild date for Xenakis and Little Crescendos: Saturday 4th May at approximately 8pm if you would like to support them!



YEAR 7 GIRLS NETBALL

The Year 7 girls played their final matches of the season in a netball festival with all other secondary schools involved. Netball was played at a great standard and lots of fun was had by all. Anna Maria, who plays GA, was awarded joint player of the festival. This was a decision made by umpires who voted for their player of the match after each game; A fantastic achievement, well done!

Y8 GIRLS FOOTBALL

The year 8 girls played in an inter-school football tournament. They won 1, lost 2, and drew 2 resulting in 4th place overall. Great achievement from a team who were playing together for the first time, showed great support for each other and never gave up!



March Roundup



CHARITY CHALLENGE

Massive congratulations to Izzy, Ania, Lucie, Mia, and Liam, who won the One World Centre Isle of Man Charity Challenge competition on 26th March! A cheque of £1,500 is on its way to Disability Africa - an incredibly deserving cause. We're very proud of you all.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH

Congratulations to the Duke of Edinburgh's Award participants who received their Awards at the Gaiety Theatre on 26th March.

With a record-breaking 30 Silvers and 60 Bronze Award recipients who have dedicated their time and efforts to achieving this Award by improving a skill, taking up a new sport, and volunteering their time to help the local community, all we can say is well done! Jeant dy mie!



A number of students travelled across with Unity Dance School over a weekend in March to dance in front of 61,213 people at Tottenham Hotspur stadium, as part of a mass movement with Pro excel. The following day they attended Pineapple Dance Studios and took a workshop in commercial dance. A great opportunity for all involved!

SCHOOL SENIOR PREFECT ELECTIONS



The Isle of Man Election Commission ran the election, with official representatives from the Cabinet Office and the Douglas City Council. The election is conducted under the same system that is used in the Manx General election and 24 prefects (the same number as the total of MHKs) were elected. By using official polling booths and creating a designated voting station, the students experienced 'the real thing' which will prepare them for upcoming local elections. It was a brilliant experience for our students and we are so grateful to the Election Commission for their help!



YEAR 9 GIRLS FOOTBALL

The Year 9 girls played in an inter-school tournament, hosted at Castle Rushen, finishing 4th overall. All involved played very well and showed great team work and spirit in every match right up to the final whistle.

CROSS COUNTRY

Faith (year 8) and Elena (year 11) represented the Island schools' team in the English Schools' Cross Country competition. This is an extremely prestigious event for all schools across the UK and to be able to compete in this event is a huge achievement!

Faith finished 297th out of 339 competitors and Elena was 328th out of 343 finishers. Well done to both girls for representing Ballakermeen and the Island with pride.



HAPPY EASTER!