

# Ballakermeen High School



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Dear Parents and Carers

As we start the summer holiday, I would like to wish you all a lovely break. We are at the end of a long but rewarding year where we have faced several challenges head on.

Back in September we committed to build on the 'Reset on Respect' that we launched in 2022, and made politeness and the fostering of a warm, welcoming and friendly environment a priority. As a body of staff, we have set out to model positive interactions and have insisted upon good manners in return. Our students have risen to the challenge and it is genuine pleasure to engage in so many respectful conversations each day. Although we are not perfect yet, we are really building on what you have taught your children at home.

As we have previously outlined, we have begun referencing three acronyms that help to guide fifteen very important behaviours that we believe are key to success. These are outlined [here](#). STEPS supports politeness and genuine mutual respect, SLANT helps ensure that we make the best possible use of lesson time and SHAPE helps guide students to speak confidently and articulate clearly.

Our School Council has also been very active this year and has completed some excellent work in defining our school values. The following definitions will be referred to regularly next year to guide and redirect all that we do:

## Our Values

### Respect

Respect is displayed in the words and actions of everyone at Ballakermeen. We show fairness and empathy towards others and treat them the way we ourselves want to be treated, no matter the circumstance. Genuine mutual respect is the foundation that other values can be built upon.

At Ballakermeen, we show respect by being:

**Formal** - Having high standards

**Friendly** - Greeting people positively

**Focused** - Ready to learn, allowing others to learn.

We show respect by valuing others, considering how they feel and understanding boundaries. At Ballakermeen we look after each other.

(Ballakermeen School Council, October 2023)

### Kindness

It doesn't cost anything to be kind. Kindness is being warm and friendly, ensuring people feel welcome. If we see people struggling we help them out, even when nobody is watching. We can ALL be upstanders and make positive contributions, big or small, to make other people happy. At Ballakermeen we lift each other up.

(Ballakermeen School Council, May 2024)

## Honesty

Honesty is the foundation of positive relationships. Being genuine, sincere and truthful to yourself and others helps develop trust.

Nobody is perfect, but we should always be open and transparent about our own strengths and weaknesses, whilst always being kind about others.

At Ballakermeen we stand by our principles and understand that we are accountable for our words and actions.

(Ballakermeen School Council, July 2024)

There has been so much going on and so many fabulous youngsters doing amazing things this year. Over the course of 2023/2024 over 540,000 e-Praise points have been awarded to students from all areas of the school (60,000 more than last year!). To put that into perspective, that is nearly 400 e-Praise points per student in years 7-11! These points reward consistent hard work, application of the BHS Learner attributes and demonstration of the school's values of Kindness, Honesty and Respect. Our end of term assemblies provide us with the opportunity to recognise and reward those students that are attending regularly, working hard and going the extra mile.

There have also been masses of events and achievements throughout the year. We encourage you to catch-up with [Ballakermeen news](#) regularly on the school website.

This past week has been wonderful as we have celebrated the end of key periods of education with Year 13 last Friday and Year 11 on Thursday. These moments are special and the students pulled out all the stops and looked fabulous! They were a credit to their school and their families and I was delighted to note that Year 13 students were recognised by the management of the Comis as the politest students that they had ever hosted. Fantastic!

As a new Year 7 cohort start in September, we will be working hard with them and all our year groups to recognise the important part that they all play in setting and maintaining the best possible working environment at Ballakermeen. We will have a lot of fun along the way but the core purpose of school and education in general is to provide the best possible preparation, both in terms of qualifications and character, to have a successful and happy future. At times the journey will be difficult, but it is at exactly those times when students should know that both school and families are there to support them. We cannot remove all the challenges that they may encounter but we can equip them with the knowledge and resilience to overcome whatever they face.

Looking forward once again to next year I would like to reiterate a couple of important aspects of school life.

1. Our [uniform](#) expectations have not changed. We believe that uniform is an important part of the Ballakermeen identity. We expect that students wear uniform appropriately and with pride and the vast majority do so every day. Aspects to be aware of are that footwear should be plain black with no obvious logos. Skirts should be of an appropriate length, plain or pleated and not tight fitting as these are prone to rise up. To support the provision of correct uniform, we are thrilled that the BSHA and parent volunteers continue to offer a 'Uniform Swap Shop'. All uniform is fully washed and available for you to come along and pick up. Much of it is 'good as new'. Our BSHA Facebook is updated to show when the next event is taking place.
2. Being '**Ready for Learning**' is something that we will also be emphasising from September. This is defined by excellent attendance and punctuality. Students need to arrive at school equipped with at least 2 pens, pencils, ruler, rubber and ideally a scientific calculator. Please ensure that your child is in possession of these items so that they are ready for learning every day.

For those students due to collect their exam results this summer, the information below provides the details of when they can access their grades:

- Students who have taken CAIE exams, either at GCSE or at A Level, will be able to access their results on-line on Tuesday, August 13th from 6am. They will need the appropriate login details and these will be posted out imminently. Please keep this information safe.

**A Level Results Day is Thursday 15th August**

Year 13 students will be able to collect their results on site from 8am in the Sixth Form.

Year 12 students will be able to collect their results on site from 9:30am in the Sixth Form.

**GCSE Results Day is Thursday 22nd August**

Year 11 students will be able to collect their results on site from 9 am onwards in the Sixth Form.

All students will receive an electronic version of their statement of results by 12pm on the days listed above.

As is often the way at the end of the school year, we must say goodbye to several colleagues who have dedicated themselves to Ballakermeen and to your children. We thank them all for their various contributions and we wish them well in their various future adventures.

I wish you all a brilliant summer and I look forward to seeing all our wonderful students and our new cohort of Year 7's in September.

Take care of yourselves



Graeme Corrin

Headteacher