

Ballakermeen  
High School

2024

September  
Monthly  
News



Ballakermeen High School  
St. Catherine's Drive  
Douglas  
IM1 4BE

(01624) 648700  
bhsenquiries@sch.im

30  
Sept

Dear Parent  
or Carer,

Welcome to the first newsletter of the year and what a start it has been! Our new year 7 students have settled well and are fitting in with the warm, welcoming and friendly culture that we are continuing to foster at Ballakermeen. The start of the year is important for setting the highest of standards for the year ahead and then the challenge is to maintain these levels. Although it is a new year, we are continuing a focus on some key things that we know will make our school more purposeful, will support our values and ultimately lead to better outcomes. We have called these things the 'Balla Basic 6' and they include:

- An orderly start to the day
- Calm, focused and purposeful transitions
- A warm, welcoming and friendly culture supported by genuine mutual respect
- Disruption free learning
- A belief that we are all always learning
- High quality responsive teaching

You will see in this newsletter that although we are only three full weeks into term, there has been much going on including a full offer of extra-curricular sport, Litfest activities for year 8 and 6th Form, a Junior Achievement financial awareness day for year 11 and Geography fieldwork. Emma Corlett and Lucy Hepworth from Year 13 represented Ballakermeen beautifully at the recent Civic Sunday service and school was buzzing last Sunday with a full rehearsal day for the upcoming school show 'Famejr'. How wonderful it is to see a school show back on the calendar and the joy of performing so evident in the students involved. Tickets are out very soon so get in quick as it's likely to be a hotter ticket than Taylor Swift or Oasis!

So, as ever, there is so much going on at Ballakermeen alongside our serious focus on making every second count in lessons. We are very much a team, striving to achieve the same goals and I thank you for your support in reinforcing the positive messages around the importance of school and education. As part of this you will gradually be hearing more about our 'Strive for 95' campaign that will support students in maintaining positive attendance.

We look forward to sharing more amazing experiences with you and your children in the coming weeks.

**Graeme Corrin**  
Headteacher

# Looking Ahead



## What's On in: October

### BHSA

#### BALLAKERMEEN HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

The BHSA (our PTA) are delighted to announce their first meeting of the year. On Tuesday 1st October at 6.30pm, parents and members of staff will be gathering in the school library for a short AGM to appoint new or returning officers. This will be followed by a committee meeting to discuss fundraising and social plans for this academic year. Parents and carers are very welcome to attend, meet other parents and get involved - the team would love to hear your ideas or welcome your support at some of the planned events.

For more information please feel free to email [ballahighschoolassoc@gmail.com](mailto:ballahighschoolassoc@gmail.com) or visit [our website](#).

### LOST PROPERTY

We have a large amount of lost property left from the summer term (June/July). If you believe your child may have left an item last term please ask them to see Mr Corlett at the swimming pool as soon as possible. Please remember to label items so that we can return them if they reach our lost property store.



### SCHOOL EVENTS

- TUE 01** **BHSA AGM**  
First meeting of the year, beginning at 6.30pm in the main school library. All are welcome to attend.
- TUE 01** **YEAR 9 & 10 DOE INFORMATION EVENING**
- WED 02** **YEAR 7 PSHE DROPDOWN DAY**  
Sessions with Isle Listen, Motiv8, IOM Constabulary, Beach Buddies, Youth Service, and MSR. [More info.](#)
- FRI 04** **SHIRLEY VALENTINE PERFORMANCE**  
Actor and BHS parent Lisa Kreisky stars in this hilarious play, raising funds for the BHSA. [Book tickets.](#)
- FRI 11** **YEAR 9 RSE DROPDOWN DAY**  
Additional dropdown day, focusing on topics relating to Relationships and Sex Education. [More info.](#)
- WED 16** **PRIZE DAY**
- WED 23** **BHSA UNIFORM-SWAP SHOP**  
In the Seating Area between 2pm and 4.30pm.
- FRI 25** **CONISTER LED NON-UNIFORM DAY**

### MONTHLY EPRAISE LEADER:

SEPTEMBER: PATRICK HOUSE (14,603)



|                  |      |
|------------------|------|
| LEADING CONISTER | 7CK7 |
| LEADING LANGNESS | 7LK5 |
| LEADING HILLARY  | 7HS7 |
| LEADING MAUGHOLD | 7MS6 |
| LEADING PATRICK  | 7PK6 |



# September Roundup



## SIXTH FORM ROLE MODELS

Head Students Emma and Lucie played a significant role in Douglas' Civic Sunday service on 22nd September at St Mary's Catholic Church - the first time the Church has hosted the occasion since it was granted Cathedral status. They were wonderful role models for our younger students.



## SOVEREIGN ARTS FINALISTS

Two of our talented ex-Year 13 students have been shortlisted for the 2024 IOM Sovereign Art Foundation Student's Prize! *'Complexity'* by Lula Thomas and *'Time of my Life'* by Daniel Lawrie.



The winning artist chosen by Judges is awarded £800, with the school receiving £2,000. There is also a public vote with £400 awarded to the winning student and £1,000 to the student's school! You can view all 20 shortlisted pieces and vote online [here](#).

## JAKICKSTART

Year 12 students spent a day out at the Junior Achievement Company Programme Kickstart day at the Villa Marina! Teams now have the foundation to start building their own companies, supported by a brilliant team of volunteer business mentors.



## YEAR 10 GIRLS HOCKEY

Year 10 girls played against Ramsey and went 1-0 up in the first half with Frankie scoring, ending in a score of 2-1 to Ramsey. They all played really well, with Poppy named man of the match. We look forward to playing Castle Rushen High School in early October!



## DUKE OF EDINBURGH DONATION

Mr Breadner and two of our Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award participants met with the Green Team of Hansard International out in the remote wilderness of the Ballakermeen field to thank them for their huge generous donation of DoE equipment!

This donation will allow our ever expanding unit to continue to provide participants with all they need for a successful expedition.

## ONE WORLD CHARITY CHALLENGE LAUNCH

Some of our Year 12 students took a trip down to the One World Charity Challenge 'Meet the Charities' event to find out all about the charities they can choose to support this year.

Charity Challenge enables our students to get together and think of innovative ways to raise money for charitable organisations throughout the developing world. Students will discover other cultures, develop empathy, and learn to work effectively as a team.



Wishing our teams all the best of luck!

KINDNESS | HONESTY | RESPECT



# September Roundup



## YEAR 7 BOOKBUZZ!

Bookbuzz is a scheme run by the charity Book Trust which enables the school to provide a brand new book for every Year 7 student from a carefully curated list of 16 titles. It is one of the many ways we encourage reading here at Ballakermeen.



## 7MS6 PSHE POSTER DESIGNS

This week 7MS6 have been very busy creating their own posters to help pupils 'be ready for learning'. Pupils have been reflecting on how to be ready for school and what that looks like at Ballakermeen through our latest PSHE lessons. As you can see, a lot of creative fun was had designing these!



## JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT TALK TO YEAR 11

The amazing staff and volunteers from Junior Achievement visited us to deliver the 'It's All About Money' programme to our Year 11 students. This essential programme helps young people dive into key money management skills. A big thank you to JA for an excellent day!



## MANX LITFEST TALK

Thank you to author and speaker Chris Bonnello who visited school to give a talk to Year 8 and A Level English Language students, as part of Manx LitFest Schools Day! The A Level students remained with Chris after the talk for a further short discussion all about creative writing.

## A LEVEL GEOGRAPHY

Year 12 Geography students have been out and about over the last couple of days completing fieldwork. They have been measuring rivers, drawing field sketches of the Clype Reservoir, observing mass movement in Laxey and looking at the flood management strategies and collecting microclimate data in Conrhenny Planation. The Geography Department would like to thank the Year 12 students for getting stuck in and being incredibly respectful which resulted in a very enjoyable couple of days - despite the weather on Thursday the students remained in good spirits!



## SENIOR HOCKEY SUCCESS

Congratulations to the Senior Hockey team who played against RGS last night. Despite horrendous wet and windy conditions, a long period without any competitive hockey fixtures for school, the girls put on a tremendous display of hockey winning 5-0. Goal scorers were Ela 1, Lara 1 and a hat-trick for Lucy. Well done girls!

# September Roundup



## YEAR 7 RUGBY

The Year 7s took part in their first ever rugby fixture, representing Ballakermeen High School. We had two teams that took on Ramsey Grammer School. Both matches were very competitive and the boys demonstrated some very good rugby throughout the game. A big well done to Balla A team who won 6 tries to 3. Special mention to Evan, Donnacha, and Will, who were consistent with their tackles and passes which lead to scoring opportunities. Well done to all that took part!



## BALLAKERMEEN T-REX?!

Spotted- a wild Ballakermeen dinosaur on the loose on Saturday 14th! Congratulations to all the fun runners who took part in the Jurassic Sprint this weekend to raise funds for Manx Mencap. Can you spot the staff member inside..?



## EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES

To Celebrate European Day of Languages, we have collected all the languages heard, spoken and learnt by the students, teachers and parents in our wonderful school community!