

Ballakermeen
High School

2024

November Monthly News



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29
Nov

Dear Parent or Carer,

Welcome to our November newsletter! Dark nights are upon us and I would like to encourage students to be careful on the roads around school and the community, making sure that they remain vigilant to traffic and are not distracted by their mobile phones.

As I write this there is still a buzz of excitement following a huge sporting upset in the staff versus sixth form football match! Against the odds, the staff came out 2:1 winners. Not since 2009 has experience got the better of youth in such a dramatic fashion! In all seriousness, it was a fabulous event with hundreds of students spectating. They behaved themselves in line with our values and they left the Bowl litter free. They were a credit to the school, as were the 6th formers participating. What a fantastic way to bring our community together whilst also raising money for charity. I understand that there is already talk of revenge in the sixth form!

In more serious matters, November also saw the return of school shows to Ballakermeen with the fantastic performance of 'Fame Jr'. What amazing talent we have at this school and alongside this talent a desire to put in the hard work. The result was absolutely stunning, as anyone who was able to get a ticket will vouch for. Thank you to Mr Craige, Mrs Crossley and Miss Molyneux for making this show happen and all the cast and supporting staff for their commitment and contributions.

This half term has seen continuing sporting participation across the different year groups and once again our students have been stars with their sportsmanship, application and achievements, particularly in rugby, hockey and basketball. Thank you to the PE staff involved for their time.

We were also represented superbly at the Remembrance Service on 10th November. Senior students Emma and Ania laid a wreath on behalf of Ballakermeen in remembrance of the sacrifice of others.

You will see plenty more details of all sorts of things that have been going on in school recently and it's such a privilege to work in an environment that is so lively and vibrant. We continue to work on good manners and fostering a warm welcome and friendly atmosphere and as we move towards the season of goodwill it is appropriate for me to recognise all the students and staff who make Ballakermeen such a wonderful place. I hope you enjoy this newsletter and I wish you good health in the run up to Christmas

Graeme Corrin
Headteacher

Looking Ahead



What's On in: December

FESTIVE FUN

Christmas Crafts:

Book-related Christmas crafts in the Fiction Library every Weds lunchtime.

Candy Cane Postal Service:

Some of our Year 12 Charity Challenge students are running a Candy Cane postal service on Mon 2nd, Wed 4th, and Fri 6th Dec at the top of the canteen stairs. For just £1 you can send a candy cane to your friends! All proceeds will go towards the [Toybox](#) charity.

Christmas Reading:

1. Choose a parcel
2. Bring it to the library desk
3. Unwrap it on Christmas Day
4. Read it, and fill in the review sheet inside the book
5. Return it to the library
6. Get praise points, house points, and a prize!

Christmas Karaoke:

Year 12 Junior Achievement Team EMEX are hosting a Christmas Karaoke on Wednesday 18th Dec to raise funds for their student company! Taking place in the Sixth Form Amber Room from 4pm - 6pm. Entry Fee: £2.50 (cash).

Library Who's Reading Competition:

Can you work out which teachers are hiding behind their books? Pictures and entry forms in the main library.



SCHOOL EVENTS

SUN 01

BHSA CARBOOT SALE

2pm - 4pm in the Dome. Entry donation of £1 for adults, 50p for children.

MON 07

YEAR 7 VALUES CELEBRATION

WED 18

BHSA UNIFORM SWAP-SHOP

2pm - 4pm in the Seating Area. Swap items, pick up replacements, or drop in unwanted uniform.

WED 18

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

7pm at St George's Church, Douglas.

FRI 20

CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

£1 donation per family to take part (to be made on ParentPay by 13th December). Contact BHSEnquiries@sch.im if assistance required.

**28 DEC -
08 JAN**

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

Last day of School: Friday 20th December.

This year we have had a house restructure and subject areas will be running competitions for students to enter for the chance to earn points for their house. There will be an array of prizes from points, to subject related items, to school trips. The more people that enter, the more points houses can achieve!

EPRAISE MONTHLY LEADER:



NOVEMBER: LANGNESS HOUSE (42,967)

LEADING CONISTER **7CK7**

LEADING LANGNESS **7LK5**

LEADING HILLARY **7HS7**

LEADING MAUGHOLD **7MS6**

LEADING PATRICK **7PK6**

November Roundup



ARMY SKILLS DAY

Over 50 students from Years 9-12 experienced a variety of Elite Skills sessions with the British Army. All participants demonstrated an excellent attitude when engaging in the individual and team challenges. Feedback from the Army staff in attendance was very positive and we look forward to welcoming the Army careers team back next year!



YEAR 7 HOCKEY

Congratulations to the Year 7 hockey team on their performance in the inter-schools' tournament. Although they didn't win, all girls represented their school with pride, didn't give up, and showed excellent sportsmanship throughout. We didn't even have enough girls to field one team at the start of the season, but by the end, we had a group of girls that committed to training every week. Special mention to Ivy who was named as player of the tournament!



YEAR 11 PSHE

Librarian Ros distributed this year's Bookbuzz books to enthusiastic Year 7 students! Run by the charity BookTrust, Bookbuzz is a scheme giving students the chance to choose a free book from a carefully curated choice of 16 books.



MATHS SYMPOSIUM

At the end of October, the Year 12 Maths classes attended the Maths Symposium at Ramsey Grammar School, a competition for all A Level Maths students across the island. The day began with a talk which discussed applications of Maths in the use of GPS signals, as well as giving the pupils some invaluable advice about preparing for university-level study. Following this, our five teams worked on a series of warm-up challenges before the main event, the Key Stage 5 Maths Challenge. Our five teams had just less than an hour to complete a series of Maths problems, in order to gain as many points as they could. The teamwork, communication and mathematical reasoning displayed by all of our pupils led to us taking all three podium positions, achieving first, second and third place - well done all!



INTERS BASKETBALL

The Inters basketball team, comprised of Year 9 & 10 students, took on King Williams College in a thrilling and very close game! At the end of each quarter the score was either level or had a 1-2 basket difference. During the game each team took their turn to take the lead, only by a maximum of 2 baskets at any point. It came down to the last 10 seconds where the score was level and Caleb hit a long range jump shot (spectacular scenes)! With 5 seconds left, KWC attacked hard but were unable to even the score. A great win for the Ballakermeen Inters team. Everyone that played worked hard and were a credit to the school.



YEAR 7 SPORTS STARS

Rory achieved incredible 2nd and 3rd place finishes in his races at the Swimming Champs at the NSC, whilst Chloe secured a 3rd place in her Cheer competition at Blackpool Tower! Well done to both of students!



KINDNESS | HONESTY | RESPECT

November Roundup



IOM BADMINTON

Students from 7PK2 took part in the 2024 IOM Badminton Tournament. All 3 students faced tough and competitive matches, but showed excellent determination and resilience. Jasper achieved a bronze, silver and gold medal, Lara achieved a bronze medal, and Abigail achieved a silver and gold medal. Keep it up!



SENIOR HOCKEY

The Senior Hockey team played well in the semi final against a strong CRHS side. We were definitely the underdogs in this fixture, having lost 4-0 in the league and finishing 4th overall compared to their 1st position. However, the girls were up for this and really brought their 'A' game, working hard as a team to finish the match 2-2. This meant the game went to penalty flicks. It took 8 attempts before a winner was decided and unfortunately it wasn't in favour of BHS. The result still felt like a win and every single one of the team should be proud of their achievements on the pitch.



INTERS BASKETBALL

Ballakermeen Inters basketball team took on QE2 for their 4th fixture of the season. After taking a hard defeat against CRHS, the team knew they had to come back and play hard to try and secure the win. The first quarter was very close with few baskets scored. The second quarter saw QE2 pressing hard with their speed and physicality, however Ballakermeen managed to gain some composure and took the lead with James A making hard drives to the basket and James G hitting several jump shots. Blake made his debut appearance in the 3rd quarter and straight away made an impact hitting several jump shots. Marcus also made his debut in this game and bossed the court defensively with some great steals and rebounds. The game finished with Ballakermeen taking the win 41-15 which leaves us in strong contention for making the final. We have one game left to play vs St Ninians on 3rd December. Let's go Balla!



JUNIOR BASKETBALL

Congratulations to Michael, Chris, Ryan, Ben, Ignacy, Harry, and Max from year 8 who represented BHS with distinction in the first junior basketball game of the season. Their attitude and effort was superb and showed some excellent skills honed in the last 2 months of practice!



YEAR 12 JA CONCERT

Congratulations to Zac, Joey and Charlotte of Junior Achievement Team Dynamis on their SOLD-OUT fundraising concert! 'A Night To Remember' was held at Kensington Arts and featured a total of 12 of the Island's talented youth performers, including many Ballakermeen students. The team successfully raised £590.91 from the night, a portion of which will be donated to Junior Achievement. Well done all!



SENIOR BASKETBALL

Congratulations to our Senior Basketball team who won 40-23 against RGS. There were some great skills shown and a big well done to students who played up a year group and excelled at that challenge. Player of the match went to Oli in Year 12 who had a super shooting game!



YEAR 7 FUTSAL

Well done to Maughold House who won both of their Futsal matches in this week's House tournament!

Unfortunately Hillary didn't turn up for their games, so Langness and Conister will receive the points. Please make sure if you have signed up to play that you arrive with your kit ready for your match.

November Roundup



FAME JR

This year's school show, Fame Jr, was a huge success! Taking place in the Studio Theatre from 12th - 15th November, the show featured stunning vocals, energetic dances, and heartfelt acting. Thank you to the cast, crew, staff, and everyone involved in making Fame Jr so spectacular!



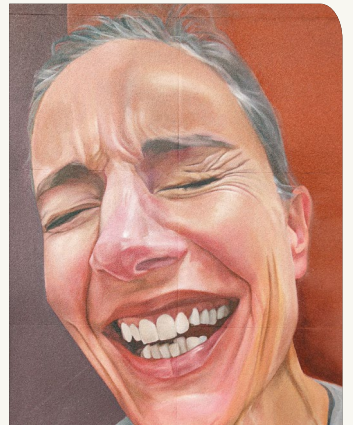
ARDWHALLEN

Some of our KS3 students who were awarded the opportunity to attend the Ardwhallan Outdoor Learning Centre due to their hard work and commitment to our values of kindness, honesty and respect.



INTERS RUGBY FESTIVAL

Congratulations to both Year 7 rugby teams who played in the inter-schools' festival. Both teams displayed great courage, teamwork and motivation throughout the whole festival. Whilst there are no winners within the festival set up, the A team displayed some fantastic moments of rugby throughout all of their games which lead to 3 wins, 1 draw and 1 lose. The B team had a bit more of a challenging run, but worked together very well and didn't give up at any point. Special mention to Marcus who received an award for showing rugby values throughout the festival. Also special mention to Sam who received an award for player of the festival. Well done to all!



2024 IOM SOVEREIGN ARTS PRIZE

Two of our ex-Year 13 students earned success in this year's IOM Sovereign Art Foundation Student Prize event! Daniel Lawrie's piece won the Judge's Vote, earning him the top prize of £800 and securing £2,000 for our school! Lula Thomas' piece won the Public Vote, earning her £400 and contributing an additional £1,000 to the school! We are absolutely delighted for Daniel and Lula, and their families.

JIGSAW PUZZLE

Fiction library students have completed another fiendishly difficult jigsaw puzzle, but this time we discovered there were 2 missing pieces! We are hoping our next jigsaw (a 1000 piece Harry Potter jigsaw) has no pieces missing!



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November Roundup



STAFF VS. STUDENTS CHARITY FOOTBALL MATCH 2024

The biggest sporting event of the year took place on Thursday 28th November, which saw the Sixth form students take on the Staff team in a thrilling battle on the football pitch!

The students set out to retain the title which they have kept for 15 years, led by their Captain, Orrin. They put on a strong performance in the first half and it was clear that the students had a clear fitness advantage over the staff team. The staff team had several chances in the first half with a header by Mr Lewis which was saved by Lorcan, and a shot from Mr Darron which was denied by the crossbar 3 yards out (There must have been something wrong with the pitch!) It was the students who prevailed first with a shot slotted in from a corner kick by Harry, finishing the first half Staff 0 v 1 Students.

The second half saw several changes made and the staff team started to make it very difficult for the students to push forward. With the heroic efforts of Mr Clarke, Mr Corrin, Mr Miller, Mr Quilliam, Mr Keig and Mr Delaney, all putting in vital challenges to deny goal scoring opportunities. We also began to see Mr Klimach's athleticism, Mr Kenyon's close control and Mr Stokoe's technical abilities which allowed the staff to push forward.

The students made a change in the second half which saw Ethan enter the pitch and straight away assert dominance, but nothing for the strong staff defence to worry about! The staff team finally got a break with a quality set piece in from Mr Crilly which led to a header past Lorcan by Mr Stokoe to level the match. Mr Stokoe continued to dominate with a second header which only just flew over the crossbar. Finally Stokoe pushed inside the 18 yard box and was horrendously taken down by Emily, leading to a penalty for the staff team. Mr Lewis stepped up blasted the ball through the hands of Lorcan to secure the victory. The first staff victory since 2009!

Man of the match goes to Mr Potts for his legendary acrobatic keeping efforts, denying multiple shots. Who would of thought he could move like that?! The event raised nearly £2000 for the Sixth form charity - a huge thank you all who supported this event, and to the Sports Prefects and Sixth Form team for the organisation.

Special thanks to Vannin Photos for the wonderful photos