

Ballakermeen
High School

2025

January Monthly News



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Dear Parent or Carer,

We end a busy January that began with us considering our New Year's resolutions. What we found though was that we weren't setting new resolutions at all, we were in fact re-stating the things that we have all been committed to for the past three years. We are intent that everyone in the school community should be polite. We want lessons to be disruption free and we want students to feel confident in expressing themselves. Basically, we want everybody within Ballakermeen to be living our school values of Kindness, Honesty, and Respect every day. We are making progress in all these areas. When you get chance to visit school, what you will hear is a lot of students and staff happily and politely greeting each other. There are thousands of these positive interactions every single day starting with morning line-up and ending in bus supervision.

It was a joy to have Year 6 students and their families in school for Open Evening on the 23rd. The school was absolutely buzzing and the whole evening enjoyed, not only by the Year 6 students and their families but also by Ballakermeen staff. What was seen on the night is pretty much what our school is like every day; staff and students working together and enjoying the learning experience as one.

Of course, at the business end of learning are examinations, and the Year 11 and 13 students applied themselves brilliantly to their recent mocks. They have now had most of their results and some students have performed very well, giving them the confidence to continue what they're doing, whilst some have identified areas where they need to do a little bit of extra work. There is time for that improvement and teachers will support students every step of the way.

It has been nice to see success within basketball and netball and also the engagement in other activities that often contribute to House Points in the battle to become House Champions!

Finally, our whole school community was saddened to learn of the passing of Peter Quayle who was our school gardener for many years and still tending the gardens right up to the time he fell ill. Peter epitomised everything that we want people at Ballakermeen to be. Kind, respectful, optimistic, hardworking, and generous with his time. He was always ready with a story and, as the tributes have shown, he made everyone's day a little better for meeting him. Peter will be sadly missed, and all our thoughts are with Peter's family.

Graeme Corrin
Headteacher

Looking Ahead



What's On in: February

KS4 OPTIONS

The Year 9 Options presentation is now available to [view here](#). Students should ensure they have watched the presentation in its entirety before accessing the Options website using the [link here](#).

Options forms will go live on Monday 10th February with a submission deadline of Friday 7th March.

CHARITY CHALLENGE CAR BOOT SALE

Some of our Year 12 Charity Challenge students are hosting a Car Boot Sale in the school Sports Hall this Sunday, 2nd February, to raise money for their charity, Education Saves Lives. The event takes place from 2 - 4pm with a £1 entry fee per person (Under 8 year olds free).

[Education Saves Lives](#) create simple, interactive lessons about health and other topics, which are then translated into the local languages of communities, so that all people, whatever their level of education, can access information that they can understand.

SCHOOL EVENTS

- THU 06** YEAR 9 ACADEMIC TUTORING
- THU 06** BHSA MEETING
6pm in the Main school library (signposted from Reception). All welcome to join.
- MON 10** YEAR 9 GCSE OPTIONS FORMS GO LIVE
- 10 - 12** YEAR 12 MOCK EXAMS
- WED 12** BHSA UNIFORM SWAP-SHOP
2pm - 4pm in the Seating Area. Swap items, pick up replacements, or drop in unwanted uniform.
- FRI 14** HILLARY-LED NON-UNIFORM DAY
- 17 - 21** HALF-TERM
- WED 26** YEAR 13 ACADEMIC TUTORING
- THU 27** YEAR 11 ACADEMIC TUTORING

EPRAISE MONTHLY LEADER:



JANUARY: PATRICK HOUSE (59,737)

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

January Roundup



YOUNG SINGER OF MANN 2025

A huge congratulations to Year 11 student Breesha for being named Young Singer of Mann 2025! Breesha delivered two outstanding performances, singing Fauré's Pie Jesu and Gimme Gimme from Thoroughly Modern Millie. Well done Breesha, we couldn't be prouder of your wonderful achievement!

We'd also like to extend a huge congratulations to all of our students who participated, and to all the talented performers who took to the stage. It's wonderful to see such a strong and vibrant community of young performers.



Jasper and Abigail in Year 7 both participated in an Isle of Man Under 15s Badminton Competition. Abigail received a silver medal and Jasper received two bronze medals. Keep up the great work both!

YEAR 7 NETBALL

The Year 7 girls played their first netball fixture in January against St Ninian's High School. It was great to see so many girls keen to represent Ballakermeen and the standard was high which was impressive for so early on in the season. All girls played with enthusiasm and great sportsmanship!



REMEMBERING PETER QUAYLE

It is with great sadness that we share the news of the passing of our dear friend and colleague, Peter Quayle. Peter, who dedicated over six years to maintaining the school grounds as our gardener, passed away following a brief illness.

Peter took immense pride in his work, and his efforts were widely recognised, notably when he helped Ballakermeen achieve second place in the 2021 Douglas in Bloom competition. He was a constant presence on the school grounds, tending to the gardens in all weathers with a warm smile and a friendly word for everyone. His cheerful disposition and positive spirit brightened many of our days, and he was a true inspiration to all who knew him. He was more than a colleague; he was a beloved friend. His legacy will live on in the beautiful flower beds and gardens he nurtured with such care. We extend our heartfelt condolences to Peter's family during this time. He will be missed deeply by all of us.



INTERS BASKETBALL SEMI-FINAL

The Year 9 & 10 Inters basketball team faced KWC in the semi-final this month! After a long chat in the changing room, the team were up and ready to try and secure their place in the final. Unfortunately, we got off to a very slow start, allowing KWC to gain a quick and considerable lead. Whilst we managed to get a few points on the board, KWC led by 7 points in the first quarter, and remained in the lead through the second and 3rd quarter, making it more difficult for us to secure our place in the final. The 4th quarter began with a lot of work to do. We had a slow start and time was running out. With 4 minutes to go, Caleb hit a deep mid-range shot which boosted our confidence. We then found a final burst of energy with James A, James G and Caleb scoring consecutive baskets, not letting KWC score any more points! The game finished BHS 37 v 29 KWC, securing our place in the final. Well done to everyone involved!

JIGSAW VICTORY

Students completed another new jigsaw in the Fiction Library this month – only 500 pieces this time, and none missing!



January Roundup



YEAR 7 BOYS FOOTBALL

Well done to our four Year 7 Boys football teams who played in a recent fixture vs Bemahague. Fantastic performances all round!



INTERS BASKETBALL FINAL

Tuesday 14th January saw the Inters basketball team take on Castle Rushen High School in the final. The lads had been looking forward to this match for some time now and were all very eager to take the shield home. The first quarter saw a good start, with both teams demonstrating desire and ambition to set the tone for the game. It was Castle Rushen who found their rhythm first to end the quarter ahead. The second quarter saw both demonstrate great skill, ability and knowledge of the game with fast transitions of play, strong drives to the basket and the use of multiple set plays to try gain the advantage. Castle Rushen, however, managed to stretch their lead out by 6 baskets. The 3rd quarter was where it really got interesting. Ballakermeen began to find a strong rhythm and battled back to bring the score within 3 points. Both teams, the benches and the coaches were very tense within this stage as both teams struggled to convert many points due to strong defense on both sides. The 4th quarter was all to play for. Both teams set out strong, driving hard to the basket and scoring points for their sides. However, there can only be one winner, and unfortunately Ballakermeen had to settle as runners up. The final score 49-44 to Castle Rushen. Both teams demonstrated some excellent basketball, and this game could have easily gone either way, it truly was thrilling to watch. A very special mention to James A, who was selected by the officials as player of the match and received a t-shirt sponsored by NBC basketball camps UK. Thanks to both teams, the officials and the supporters who came to watch the game.



Over Christmas, Ivy in Year 7, competed in the 'Champions of Tomorrow' Dance Competition and placed 1st in four of the competitions she entered! Ivy will also be competing at Blackpool Tower and the Easter Festival of Dance this year. Good luck!