

Ballakermeen
High School

2025

February
Monthly
News



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

(01624) 648700
bhsenquiries@sch.im

28
Feb

Dear Parent or Carer,

What a wonderful end to February it is with the sun shining and flowers beginning to burst into life!

Following the Year 11 Year 13 mocks in January we have been pleased to follow up with Academic Review Days for both Year 13 and Year 11. We are now entering the business end of things for both year groups and their performance in their mocks encourages optimism for the summer exams. The challenge for all of us now is to consolidate the good work that's been done so far, to identify and address any gaps and to prepare thoroughly so that the very best outcomes can be achieved.

Year 9 also had an Academic Review day, and this was closely linked to their options choices. It's been pleasing to see Year 9 really maturing recently and approaching their options choices sensibly and with significant thought. Similarly, Year 11 have begun making their options choices and at this point, I'd like to just make a comment about that process. Although we would like to accommodate every individual choice, this is simply not possible. By working to ensure that recognised pathways to further study are available and recognising that the Sixth Form blocks are not produced in isolation, but are integral to the whole school timetable, we do strive to meet the choices of the most students possible. I appreciate the work of my timetable lead in completing this highly complex task as we endeavour to meet the widest possible range of options.

Although we only had three weeks in school during February there's been a lot going on as you can see in this newsletter and on our website. The library has, as ever, been the centre of great excitement and sense of community. This is symbolised by the collaborative completion of several jigsaws! For those of us lacking the patience to complete the whole jigsaw it's been nice to go in and be able to just find one or two pieces to contribute to the whole! Speaking of the library, I would also like to add my thanks to the BHSA who have supported us with the purchase of many new books. Our PTA, the BHSA, really does do a wonderful job, and I would encourage you to get involved actively or by joining the 300 club. Details are on our website.

We've been thrilled to announce of the new school show, Dare to Dream Jr. This is a brand-new performance and a first on the Isle of Man. With the talent that we are lucky to have here at Balla, both in terms of staff and students, it will no doubt be an amazing show in December.

As a final update, Patrick House are the current leaders of our House competition. But it's incredibly close and there is plenty of time for the other Houses to turn things around! I wish you all a lovely weekend and continuing sunshine and smiles in March.

Graeme Corrin
Headteacher

Looking Ahead



What's On in: **MARCH**

SCHOOL SHOW

On 11th February, we announced our 2025 school show...Disney's DARE TO DREAM JR! Drawing from a century of beloved Disney films, Dare to Dream JR. features songs appearing for the first time ever in a Disney stage musical, including favourites from The Princess and the Frog, Coco, Encanto, and Frozen II.

Auditions will be held on 6th March (everyone) and on 11th March (principals) - 3.30-5.00 in the Studio Theatre. Sign-up sheets for auditions are posted outside M6 (Music) and outside B4 (Drama). There's also a character breakdown, show synopsis, and guidance for auditioning available on [our website](#).

HOUSES UPDATE

Well done to Maughold for claiming the top spot in attendance, and to Conister for leading in e-praise last term! However, Langness has managed to outpace Conister in both e-praise and attendance, taking back 2nd place! Patrick is still way ahead, but Maughold is closing the gap! Hillary, there's still some work to do! Keep an eye out for upcoming competitions in March!

SCHOOL EVENTS

- WED 05** SIXTH FORM OPTIONS DEADLINE
- THU 06** SCHOOL SHOW AUDITIONS (ALL)
In the Studio Theatre from 3.30 - 5.00. [More info.](#)
- MON 10** PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION
Competition for Senior Schools, held annually by the Rotary Club of Douglas.
- TUE 11** SCHOOL SHOW AUDITIONS (PRINCIPALS)
In the Studio Theatre from 3.30 - 5.00. [More info.](#)
- WED 12** PARENT CAFÉ
In the Sixth Form Centre from 6.30pm - 7.30pm.
- WED 12** JA STUDENT COMPANY OF THE YEAR
Taking place at the Villa Marina - good luck to our Year 12 teams!
- THU 18** YEAR 10 PSHE DROPDOWN DAY
- THU 20** SPRING CONCERT
7.30pm in the Studio Theatre. Tickets available to purchase on ParentPay.
- THU 27** YEAR 12 ACADEMIC TUTORING

EPRAISE MONTHLY LEADER:



FEBRUARY: LANGNESS HOUSE (68,661)

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

February Roundup



JA TEAM ARTHESY

Year 12 students Oli, Isaac, Jacob, Shenton, and Guy of Junior Achievement Team Arthesy met up with representatives of the charity 'Without Wings' to gain an insight into the issues facing people living with mobility challenges, helping them to develop their team's products designed for those living with arthritis! You can read more about the team's work [here](#).



SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING

We held our Sixth Form information evening on 13th February, welcoming many current BHS Year 11 students and parents, as well as external students interested in our School. Applications to Sixth Form close on Wednesday 5th March.

STUDENTS PERFORMING IN JAMIE

Well done to Ciaran, Florrie, Morgana, Holly and Ellie who are currently working hard in rehearsals for The Manx Operatic Society's upcoming production of Everybody's Talking About Jamie in March! Everybody's Talking About Jamie is a vibrant, heartwarming celebration of diversity, individuality, and self-expression. We're so proud of our talented students who have been working hard to bring this incredible show to life. Tickets are available [here](#).



MATHS SYMPOSIUM

Congratulations to our Year 9 and 10 students on their success in the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge! The UKMT Intermediate Maths challenge is a 60 minute, 25 multiple choice challenge, which encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought and fluency to make students think in a different way. Well done all!



NEW BOOKS FROM BHS

Students in the Fiction Library have been enjoying some brand new books purchased with money donated to the library by our wonderful parents in Ballakermeen High School Association. The selection includes a wide range of titles in many different genres, and lots of them have gone out on loan already. Thank you BHS for your generous support of our library!

CHARITY CHALLENGE

3 of our Year 12 Charity Challenge students visited Manx Radio to talk about Gumboots and help spread awareness of the important work the Foundation is doing. Great work Lucy, Ella and Holly! You can watch the interview on Manx Radio's [Facebook page](#).



KINDNESS | HONESTY | RESPECT

February Roundup



SPORTS AWARDS 2024

Year 11 student Evie was named the 2024 Disability Sportsperson of the Year at the Isle of Man Sports Awards on Thursday 27th February, for her fantastic horse-riding. We are very proud of all your wonderful achievements Evie!

MASTERING SHAKESPEARE

Our Year 13 English Literature students participated in a 'Mastering Shakespeare' workshop organised by the Manx Amateur Drama Federation (MADF). Led by Luke Osborne and Richard Pryal, the workshop offered students a fresh approach to engaging with Shakespeare's texts. They learned how to deliver lines with conviction and meaning, explored the nuances of iambic pentameter, and delved into sections of Othello, which is currently part of their curriculum.



NASA SPACE SCHOOL WINNERS

Congratulations to Year 12 students Hollie and Patrick, winners of this year's prestigious ManSat competition. They've earned the exciting opportunity to attend the NASA United Space School in Houston, Texas this summer!

In partnership with the Department of Education, Sport and Culture, ManSat sponsors scholarships for up to three Year 12 students from the Isle of Man, in an island-wide essay competition. The essay questions for the 2024/2025 competition were: 1. What draws you to space? 2. What excites you most about the future of space exploration? 3. How do you think the Isle of Man can contribute to the future of space exploration?

Congratulations also must go to Year 12 student Guy who placed third, and is currently competing in another competition for third place students to also gain a place to go along too. Well done all!



JIGSAW SUCCESS!

Fiction Library students have completed another two jigsaw puzzles this month. Only 2 pieces missing from the first, a Marvel superheroes themed image (labelled as 'impossible' according to the box!) and 3 from the second, a Harry Potter piece.

We're hopeful that the next puzzle, which is brand new and still currently sealed, will prevail fully intact!



TEAM DYNAMIS' RENEWABLE RIDE

Junior Achievement Team Dynamis spoke to Manx Radio about their 'Renewable Ride' project taking place on Sunday 2nd March. The Team's Finance and Sales Manager, Joey, will be attempting to cycle from the Point of Ayre to the Sound Café in 4 hours, whilst charging the group's 'Spinergy' product. Good luck to Joey, and the rest of the team, ahead of the Student Company of the Year competition next month!