

Ballakermeen
High School

2025

March
Monthly
News



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

(01624) 648700
bhsenquiries@sch.im

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Dear Parent or Carer,

I hope you enjoy this wonderful bumper newsletter which reflects a very busy March at Ballakermeen! You will see loads of sporting participation and success with girls' football particularly prominent and a brilliant success for the year 10 boys. In the arts, we had a fabulous Spring concert which showcased the amazing talent that we have here both within the student and staff body. Our young entrepreneurs in year 12 swept the board at the Junior Achievement Company Programme awards, displaying creativity, innovation and teamwork in abundance. Similarly, our Year 12 Charity Challenge team were awarded victory at the recent competition held at the Innovation Centre in Ramsey. Supporting 'Gumboots' they showed the judges their skills in advocacy, communication and fund raising representing this Charity that you may not have heard of before.

I was delighted to welcome a parent group to our second Parent Cafe of the year earlier in March, where we had an interesting and informative discussion about Ballakermeen's place in our community and particularly how we can help to strengthen each other. We intend to actively create an alumnus of old scholars who may have the desire to give a little back to the school. With the illustrious history of this school, it has the makings of a very impressive group!

From a student point of view, our year 11 and year 13 are certainly focused on their exam preparation and both year groups have performed very well in their mock exams giving us great hope that they can achieve the brilliant results that they deserve in the summer. Nothing is certain and we take nothing for granted but the attitude of most students is very good and they are certainly working hard for success.

As the clocks go forward at the weekend and we move into British Summer Time, I'd like to re-emphasise the importance of maintaining good uniform. We've all been working hard on this because we believe that our uniform demonstrates the respect that we have for Ballakermeen. We continue to emphasise our values of kindness, honesty and respect every day and we exemplify our values in our actions. We believe that we should always be polite and try to make other people's day a little better, if we make a mistake we should be honest and own it and we should always have genuine mutual respect for our school and those around us.

I wish you a lovely Easter break and let's hope a Manx Summer arrives with British Summertime.

Graeme Corrin
Headteacher



Looking Ahead



What's On in: APRIL

SCHOOL SHOW

The cast of our next school show, Disney's Dare to Dream Jr, is now OUT! A huge well done to everyone who auditioned - the time, energy, and preparation put in was clear to see. The level of talent on display made the casting process incredibly challenging. We're thrilled with our cast of 58 students, and we can't wait to see this magical show come to life!

There will be a meeting for the parents/ carers of those involved on Wednesday 2nd April, 6pm - 6.30pm, in the Studio Theatre, to talk about the show and rehearsals.

BHSA CAR BOOT SALE

The Ballakermeen High School Association are hosting an indoor car-boot sale on Sunday 6th April in the school Sports Hall. All funds raised from the event will go towards a range of exciting projects and new equipment within the school. Entry to the event is £1 for those aged 16 and over, and 50p for under 15s. Pitches are available to purchase for £10 each, and those booking a space are kindly asked to bring their own table. Set-up for stallholders will begin at 11:30am. To book a pitch or for further information, please email ballahighschoolassoc@gmail.com.

SCHOOL EVENTS

- WED 02** **BHSA UNIFORM SWAP-SHOP**
In the Seating Area between 2pm and 4.30pm
- THU 03** **YEAR 10 ACADEMIC TUTORING**
- FRI 04** **LANGNESS-LED NON UNIFORM DAY**
All proceeds going towards Langness' house charity: Craig's Heartstrong Foundation
- SUN 06** **BHSA INDOOR CAR-BOOT SALE**
1pm - 3pm in the Sports Hall
- 07 - 21** **EASTER HOLIDAYS**
- TUE 22** **BACK TO SCHOOL**
- FRI 25** **YEAR 11 AND 13 LEAVERS DAY**



EPRAISE MONTHLY LEADER



MARCH LEADER:
PATRICK HOUSE (81.217)

LEADING CONISTER **7CK7**

LEADING LANGNESS **7LK5**

LEADING HILLARY **7HS7**

LEADING MAUGHOLD **7MS6**

LEADING PATRICK **7PK6**

March Roundup



SENIOR GIRLS FOOTBALL

Congratulations to the Senior Girls' Football team who won the inter-school tournament! The girls played some impressive football, showcasing their skill level and this, along with great teamwork, resulted in them finishing the competition on top. Massive well done to all of the girls involved.



Congratulations to Chloe in Year 7, who achieved the highest score in her hip-hop dance exam and was also awarded the Overall Star Class Award for hip-hop! Well done Chloe!

SPRING CONCERT

We held our annual Spring Concert on Thursday 20th March. It was a wonderful evening of music and song! Special Thanks to our amazing accompanist: Dannii Bridson, various colleagues who contributed to the night's success, and most importantly our fabulously talented students. Provisional Guild date for Xenakis: Saturday 3rd May at approximately 8.30pm, if you would like to support them.



ARTHESY WIN JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT 2025 STUDENT COMPANY OF THE YEAR



Well done to all of our Year 12 Junior Achievement Isle of Man teams on their success at the 2025 awards evening!

A huge congratulations to Team ArthEsy - Guy, Oli, Isaac, Jacob, and Shenton - who won the prestigious HSBC Student Company of the Year 2025 award! They will now proudly represent the Isle of Man at the European Company of the Year Competition in Athens. The team also received the Zurich Award for Innovation in Business, and Team Leader Guy was one of the recipients of the Lloyds Bank International Team Player Awards, recognising his outstanding support and commitment to his team.

Arthesy's innovative products, designed to assist those with arthritis, include a knife attachment to aid with cutting, and a device to hold down the fuel trigger when refuelling vehicles. The team's creativity, passion, and teamwork were highly praised, and we couldn't be prouder of their achievements!

Team Aventus - Aleks, Errol, Garv, Martin, and Teddy - received the Taxa Genomics Award for Creative Problem Solving and the Celton Manx Public Choice Award. Their innovative lamp, designed to help babies settle back to sleep, offers a thoughtful solution to reduce anxiety for new parents.



Congratulations to Team Dynamis - Charlotte, Zac, and Joey - who secured 3rd place overall and won the Just the Job Work Ready Award, which celebrates teams that demonstrate strong collaboration, organisation, time management, and resilience. Their product, Spinergy, is a bike-mounted portable charger that generates electricity whilst cycling.



Team Ignite - Tilly, Hollie, Mair, Evie, and Joe - won the FIM Capital Award for Brand Excellence, recognising teams that have built a strong, professional, and memorable brand with a clear understanding of their target audience. Their product, a refillable makeup brush, is designed to simplify traveling with liquid makeup.



March Roundup



MANX FOLK AWARDS 2025

Well done to Daisy and Lyla in Year 8, who placed first in their duet class at the Manx Folk Awards (pictured here with their lucky spoons)!

The Session ensemble also came joint second. Great work all!

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Congratulations to Anna and Samantha who came second in the Rotary Club of Douglas' annual Senior Public Speaking Competition! Anna also won the Mayor's Award for best individual speaker of the competition.



CHARITY CHALLENGE COMPETITION

Huge congratulations to our incredible Year 12 students – Lucy, Lily, Ella, Lucinda, and Holly – who were crowned winners of the One World Centre Isle of Man Charity Challenge 2025! Charity Challenge invites students to research, support, and present on a small charity working in the developing world. After an impressive run through the in-school heats, our team went on to represent Ballakermeen in the finals, where they delivered a 10–12 minute multimedia presentation. Their chosen charity, The Gumboots Foundation, will now receive a £1,500 donation thanks to their outstanding efforts. An amazing achievement for a truly deserving cause – well done, girls!



SPACE SCHOOL

A huge congratulations to Year 12 student Guy, who has secured a place at the prestigious NASA United Space School in Houston, Texas this summer, successfully competing against thousands of other applicants worldwide to earn a spot on this elite program!

The rigorous selection process requires applicants to submit a written application and an in-depth essay, covering topics such as past teamwork experiences, and where applicants believe humans should advance in space exploration, including the use of existing technologies and foreseeable advancements over the next 10-20 years. They must outline a mission plan, detailing destination selection, transportation methods, survival strategies, ground operations, funding, and innovative solutions for spacecraft subsystems. Finalists who pass the initial screening process then undergo an interview with the FISE Board of Directors.

Guy will now join fellow Year 12 students Hollie and Patrick, who won their places through the Island ManSat competition back in February. This talented trio will travel to Houston in July, where they will collaborate with 50 other students from around the world, working alongside space industry experts. Outstanding work!



YEAR 9 FOOTBALL FINAL

In a thrilling Year 9 Football final, St Ninians triumphed 2-0 over Ballakermeen to claim the victory. Despite the result, Ballakermeen displayed commendable spirit and skill throughout the match, playing some excellent football at times. They showed resilience and determination but were unable to convert enough chances into goals. Ballakermeen's 18-player squad all contributed to the effort with hard work and dedication. While the final score didn't go their way, their teamwork and perseverance were evident throughout, and they can be proud of their performance in a tough final!

March Roundup



YEAR 10 FOOTBALL FINAL

A fantastic all-round performance saw BHS overcome CRHS in the Year 10 Shield final. After a tense opening 10 minutes, our team found their rhythm, displaying some excellent free-flowing football to take the lead by halftime. They continued to dominate in the second half, securing a well-deserved win and lifting the prestigious shield. Well done to all the lads!



YEAR 8 GIRLS FOOTBALL

Congratulations to the Year 8 Girls' Football First Team, who secured 2nd place in last week's inter-school tournament! The girls played some fantastic football and didn't lose a single game. Well done also to the Year 8 Second Team, who put in a brilliant performance to finish 3rd overall. Their teamwork, determination, and resilience ensured they too went unbeaten in all their matches. An excellent achievement for both teams! Well done all.



YEAR 7 NETBALL

Congratulations to the Year 7 netball team for their fantastic performance at the Netball Festival! Lara, Lottie, Mikaela, Leah, Ivy, Lily, Georgia, Chloe, and Priya represented the school brilliantly, showcasing excellent teamwork, skill, and great progress since the start of the season. A special shoutout to Georgia, who was named Ballakermeen's Player of the Tournament.



YEAR 7 GIRLS FOOTBALL

Our Year 7 girls have been taking part in the inter-schools football tournaments, competing against all other secondary schools on the island. The enthusiasm and team spirit on display was fantastic, with a brilliant turnout of players all keen to represent Ballakermeen. Many of the girls had very little football experience, but that didn't stop them from giving it their all in every match. Congratulations to all involved – the team finished 4th in the first week and went on to achieve 3rd place in the second week. A fantastic effort!



SENIOR GIRLS FOOTBALL

Congratulations to our Year 9 Girls' Football A Team, who had a fantastic performance at their recent tournament, going unbeaten all day and finishing 2nd overall, based on goal difference. Every player was an absolute credit to Ballakermeen – well done, girls!

