

**Ballakermeen  
High School**

2023

# April Monthly News



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Apr

## Dear Parent or Carer,

Welcome to the April newsletter! Incredibly, we've only had 11 school days in April, however you can see from the content that there has been much to celebrate. That is a tribute to our student's commitment in various areas of sports, arts and community but also to the support that they have from home and school. This kind of success and partnership really exemplifies what we're looking for! To achieve any success there needs to be a combination of individual effort, commitment and determination but also, support from those around us is essential. The concept of Team Balla is something that we regularly refer to in our daily messages.

As I write this, the sun is shining and the island is absolutely transformed, however the sunshine also reminds us that we are into the summer exam season. Our year 11 and year 13 had their celebration days last week. Both days were respected by the students and characterised by a real feeling of togetherness and appreciation of the time that we have had together. Particularly in the year 11 celebration assembly, the comments from form tutors had a theme of kindness running through them. Apart from achieving the very best exam results we possibly can, if youngsters leave with a habit of kindness, then I think that they will do well. We look forward to seeing many of the students at the two Proms however I would like to take this opportunity to wish them all the very best of luck in their forthcoming exams. Both cohorts have put themselves in a very strong position because of their serious approach to work over the last few months.

Linking to togetherness and belonging, our house system, which has been revamped is a real feature of the school this year. There are a lot of competitions continuously taking place where students can not only gain points for their House but also have fun doing things outside of subject areas whilst expressing themselves in all kinds of ways.

As gleefully noted, the sun is shining however we do still expect uniform to be worn perfectly. If it is warm, teachers will allow students to take blazers off in classrooms and similarly students may remove blazers when they are sat in the dining halls or outside. If it gets hot enough to require it during the summer, we will adjust and communicate our expectations.

Finally, I would like to thank the staff who have got together to arrange a tribute for Peter Quayle our gardener, who passed away earlier in the year. We now have a sundial at the front of school as an appropriate mark of respect for a great man who brought sunshine to Balla every day.

We hope this fine weather continues. And look forward to a very positive summer term.

**Graeme Corrin**  
**Headteacher**

# Looking Ahead



## What's On in: **MAY**

### DUKE OF EDINBURGH NEWS

Please [click here](#) to read the Duke of Edinburgh newsletter containing information on: Awards evening, what's happening, key dates, DofE club, Google Classroom, and a to-do list.

### HOUSES UPDATE

So far, students have had an impressive 44 different opportunities to earn points for their Houses, and the leaderboard has seen plenty of movement throughout the year. Conister House remains in the lead, but Langness is quickly gaining ground. Hillary, who have spent much of the year in fifth place, have made a strong recovery and recently overtook Patrick after gaining some crucial points.

Congratulations to the following for their achievements this half term:

- Langness: Half Term 4 E-Praise winners
- Maughold: Half Term 4 Attendance winners
- Lara (Hillary): Winner of the Science week poster competition
- Oliver and Alesia (Langness): Winners of the Duolingo competition

For details of further upcoming House competitions, please [click here](#).



## SCHOOL EVENTS

**MON 05**

**BANK HOLIDAY**

**TUE 06**

**DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARDS**

Taking place at the Gaiety Theatre at 7pm.

Invitations were sent to those who have completed their awards. Congratulations!

**TUE 20**

**YEAR 10 'GET A JOB' DAY**

**19 - 23**

**DUKE OF EDINBURGH TRAINING/PRACTISE**

**MON 26**

**BANK HOLIDAY**

**WED 29**

**BHSA UNIFORM SWAP-SHOP**

In the Seating Area between 2pm and 4.00pm

**THU 29**

**MAUGHOLD-LED NON UNIFORM DAY**

All proceeds going towards Maughold's house charity: Macmillan Cancer Support

**30 - 06**

**HALF-TERM / TT WEEK**

## EPRAISE MONTHLY LEADER:

**APRIL: PATRICK HOUSE (87,561)**



LEADING CONISTER

**7CK7**

LEADING LANGNESS

**7LK5**

LEADING HILLARY

**7HS7**

LEADING MAUGHOLD

**7MS6**

LEADING PATRICK

**7PK6**



# April Roundup



## YEAR 9 GIRLS FOOTBALL

The Year 9 Girls' Football Tournament B took place at CRHS just before Easter, under challenging, blustery, and cold conditions. Ballakermeen secured 2nd place with two wins (2-0 against QEII and 1-0 against CRHS), a 0-0 draw against RGS, and a 1-0 loss to SNHS. Despite the tough weather, the girls displayed great skill and sportsmanship. Ballakermeen's goals were scored by Abi (1) and Keaira (2). Well done to all the players for maintaining a positive attitude throughout the afternoon.



## VIOLIN SUCCESS

Ashleigh, in Year 13, was awarded the Bernard Osborne Shield for Strings for her Outstanding Contribution to the Manx Youth Orchestra. Currently the 'Leader of Strings' and 'Assistant leader of the Manx Youth Orchestra', Ashleigh has enthusiastically attended their weekly sessions for the past 8 years. Ashleigh also plays violin in the IOM Symphonic Orchestra and hopes to join her University's orchestra in September. Bravo!



## THEATRE STAR

A huge well done to our talented Year 10 student, Thomas, for an incredible string of recent performances! Before Easter, Thomas took to the Gaiety stage performing as Macduff's son in Macbeth, then travelled to Scotland over the holidays to perform in a National Theatre Connections programme play at the Pitlochry Festival Theatre. As if that wasn't impressive enough, Thomas is also currently rehearsing as Charlie in Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, which will hit the Gaiety this summer!



## GIRLS BADMINTON

Both the junior and senior girls' teams triumphed in their respective Inter-Schools Badminton Tournaments, going unbeaten throughout the entire event. Neither team lost a single match, delivering an outstanding performance! An incredible result all around!



## BOYS BADMINTON

The boy's junior and senior teams played some outstanding badminton in their respective Inter-Schools tournament, with the juniors going unbeaten throughout and the seniors coming a very close second to St Ninian's High School. Well done to all!



## VISIT TO YEAR 12 GEOGRAPHERS

The Geography Department were delighted to welcome James Levelle to our Year 12 lesson to deliver an inspiring talk about his adventures. James is an award-winning adventure film maker who, amongst other things, set out in 2019 on a fossil fuel free 7000-mile journey from the UK to Chile, using cycling, sailing, hiking and horse riding to get to the UN Climate Change conference. Along the way he documented the voices of young people with a view to delivering their messages to the United Nations. The students really enjoyed talking with James!



KINDNESS | HONESTY | RESPECT