

Ballakermeen
High School

2026

May Monthly News



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May

Dear Parent or Carer,

I hope that you enjoy this newsletter as we arrive at a soggy start to the TT break.

As you'll see, May has been incredibly busy with the exam season in full swing for Year 11 and Year 13, but lots of other competitions, activities and successes both in and out of school. What you will notice within the newsletter is lots of happy young people enjoying different activities, making the most of the many opportunities available to them which is great to see.

It has been pleasing this year that one of the key aspects of the school has been the growth in the profile of our house system. We've had many varied competitions in different subject and other non-subject areas including powerlifting, and still to come is the much-anticipated boat race in our swimming pool!

The house system provides friendly but healthy competition between individuals and groups and friendly competition was certainly evident in the recent chess tournament. Over 100 students took part and it was great to see year 7 students battling against Year 11s for the honours. Ultimately it was Gene from year 11 who took the win however everyone who took part gain so much from it.

Our daily message repeats the things that we believe in such as 'Every second counts' and 'Genuine mutual respect' alongside our core values of kindness, honesty and respect. It has therefore been really pleasing this half term to have had several visitors in, for different events, following which, without exception, feedback has been how polite and friendly our students are. This is what we want, and this is what we're working hard for. We want Ballakermeen to feel really warm, welcoming and friendly and each of us are playing a part to achieve that.

As you would expect, our daily message today has reiterated our hope that students enjoy a happy TT break however we emphasised to them the need to be safe. Particularly on the road with the increasing traffic, but also, with lots of visitors over, consider their personal safety if they decide to go to the fair or are just around town.

It's amazing to think that we are now moving into the last half term of the year. It has passed very quickly and perhaps that's a sign that we all really enjoy what we're doing. Everyone at Ballakermeen is committed to continuous improvement and although we're not perfect yet we are making progress. I thank you and your children for all the support in this journey.

Graeme Corrin
Headteacher

Looking Ahead



What's On in: JUNE

JA PUBLIC CHOICE AWARD

Three of our Year 12 Junior Achievement student companies are taking part in the Gen-E 2025 Virtual Expo. This online event is part of Europe's largest entrepreneurship festival, where national winners from JA programmes across the continent showcase their innovative business ideas. The Expo features virtual booths from student-led start-ups across a range of sectors including technology, sustainability, healthcare, education, and more. Visitors can explore each team's virtual stand until 4th July 2025.

Please support our students by voting for them in the Public Choice Award via the links below. Simply click the medal icon on each stand to cast your vote. Every vote helps recognise the hard work, creativity, and entrepreneurial spirit of these talented young people.

Team ArthEsy (Oli, Isaac, Jacob, Shenton, and Guy) - [click here](#) to view booth.

Team Dynamis (Joey, Charlotte, and Zac) - [click here](#) to view booth.

Team Aventus (Aleks, Errol, Gary, Martin, and Teddy) - [click here](#) to view booth.

Well done to all of our teams - we are incredibly proud of your achievements and wish you the very best in the competition ahead!

SCHOOL EVENTS

02 - 06

HALF-TERM (TT WEEK)

11 - 13

YEAR 7 GEOGRAPHY FIELD-TRIPS

MON 16

YEAR 10 UCM TASTER DAY

16 - 20

YEAR 10 GEOGRAPHY FIELD-TRIPS

19 - 20

HIGHER EDUCATION FAIR

Fair opens to the public Thursday evening 6.30 - 9pm.
Island schools will visit the fair on Friday.

23 - 27

YEAR 10 & 12 MOCK EXAMS

WED 26

YEAR 9 SUSTAINABILITY CHALLENGE

WED 26

PARENT CAFÉ

In the Sixth Form Centre from 6.30pm - 7.30pm.

FRI 27

BHSA QUIZ NIGHT

7pm at Manx Legion Club. Tickets available for £15 on ParentPay.

EPRAISE MONTHLY LEADER

MAY LEADER:

PATRICK HOUSE (97.603)



LEADING CONISTER

7CK7

LEADING LANGNESS

7LK5

LEADING HILLARY

7HS7

LEADING MAUGHOLD

7MK4

LEADING PATRICK

7PK6

May Roundup



YEAR 7 GIRLS CRICKET

The year 7 girls played their first cricket fixture against Ramsey Grammar School at the beginning of the month. For some, this was their first experience of a cricket game, but they all fully involved themselves with the game showing some promising bowling, batting and fielding skills. It was an extremely closely fought game, with Ballakermeen winning by 16 runs.

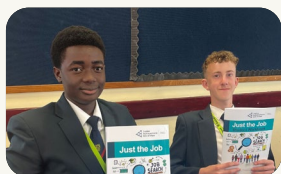
ISLAND GAMES SELECTION

Two of our Year 10 students were selected to represent the Isle of Man at the upcoming Island Games in Orkney this summer! Jessica was chosen as part of the athletics team and will compete in the Triple Jump, and Zoe will represent the island as part of the Swim Team. Both students have shown exceptional determination and drive, and we wish them every success!



Congratulations to Holly and Evie in Year 7 who proudly represented the Isle of Man U12s Football Academy Team at a tournament in Liverpool. The team played an impressive 8 matches without a single defeat, with Evie, playing in goal, not conceding a single goal throughout the competition. Their outstanding performance saw them go on to win the Plate Cup. A fantastic achievement - well done to both girls!

JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT 'JUST THE JOB' DROPDOWN DAY



We were delighted to welcome the Junior Achievement team and their fantastic volunteers to deliver the insightful 'Just the Job' programme to our Year 10 students. This engaging and practical session helped students gain a clearer understanding of what employers look for in job applications, as well as how to build key employability skills. From writing CVs and searching for roles to interview techniques, body language, and professional follow-up - the day was packed with valuable advice and hands-on guidance. Thank you to the Junior Achievement team and all the volunteers who generously gave their time.

UKMT JUNIOR MATHS CHALLENGE

37 students from Years 7 and 8 took part in the annual UKMT Junior Maths Challenge - a national competition designed to test students' mathematical reasoning, precision, and problem-solving abilities through a series of 25 challenging questions. Jerry (Year 8) achieved a Gold certificate and received the award for Best in School! Several other students received Silver and Bronze certificates. Congratulations to all students who took part for their hard work and enthusiasm!



A number of our students took to the stage at the Gaiety Theatre to receive their Duke of Edinburgh Awards. Completing the Award is no small feat - it requires dedication, resilience, and a strong commitment to personal development. We are incredibly proud of all those who achieved this milestone and extend a huge congratulations to each and every one of them. For those who haven't quite finished yet - there's still time! We look forward to seeing you on stage next year. Keep going, your hard work will be worth it!



May Roundup



We are incredibly proud of Chloe in Year 10, who competed in the Special Olympics Northwest Regional GB Championships in Liverpool. Chloe delivered an impressive performance, earning: Bronze in the 25m Freestyle, Bronze in the 25m Breaststroke, and 4th place in the 40m Freestyle. Remarkably, after returning late to the island due to travel delays, Chloe was up early the very next morning to take part in the Manx Triathlon in Ramsey alongside teammate Natasha. Well done, Chloe - an inspiring example of resilience, dedication, and sporting spirit.



CHESS TOURNAMENT

Earlier this week, students from Years 7 to 11 took part in a Chess Tournament, showcasing impressive strategic thinking and problem-solving skills. Gene (Year 11) was crowned the overall winner and will receive a £100 chess board prize! Aditya (Year 7) placed 2nd, Aldrin (Year 8) placed 3rd, Joseph (Year 8) placed 4th, and Andreiu (Year 8) was Runner-Up. Thank you to all students who participated and contributed to such a successful event. Special thanks go to the Ballakermeen High School Association (PTA) for generously funding this year's prizes.



CALENDAR GIRLS

Break a leg to our talented Year 12 students Zac and Ciaran, who are performing in Calendar Girls the Musical at the Gaiety Theatre this week! The production opens tonight to a full house and runs until Saturday 31st May. All proceeds from the show will be donated to 'The BIG Manx Community Charity', who will give it directly to those affected by cancer - whether they are living with the disease or approaching end-of-life care. We are incredibly proud of Zac and Ciaran for their commitment and hard work in rehearsals, and for being part of such a meaningful and uplifting production. We also send our best wishes to former Drama teacher and friend of the school, Danni Bridson, who stars in the role of Cora. Limited [tickets](#) are still available for Saturday's performances - don't miss the chance to support this wonderful cause.



Congratulations to Lizzie in Year 7 on her fantastic achievements at the Lancashire Track and Field Championships! Lizzie won gold in the javelin with a remarkable throw of 18.01 metres, surpassing her previous personal best of 16 metres. She also earned silver in the shot put, throwing 5.54 metres. What makes this even more impressive is that Lizzie accomplished both results despite feeling unwell on the day. Well done, Lizzie!



May Roundup



SUCCESS AT MANX MUSIC FESTIVAL

Congratulations to all our students who took part in the Manx Music Festival between 26th April - 3rd May. We loved hearing about all your many successes!

(More photos on our [Facebook page](#))



HOUSE COMPETITIONS UPDATE

We are pleased to share the latest achievements from our recent House competitions. Well done to all students who took part and represented their Houses with enthusiasm and commitment!

A huge well done to Zane (Year 10, Langness) for taking first place with an outstanding entry in the German Week baking competition.

Congratulations also to the following students who placed first in their year groups in the German Week Duolingo Competition:
Max (Year 7, Maughold)
Alfred (Year 8, Patrick)
Jajuan (Year 9, Maughold)
Emmett (Year 10, Hillary)

Well done to all participants - your hard work and creativity continue to make the House competitions such a valued part of school life.

