

**Ballakermeen
High School**

2023

June Monthly News



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

(01624) 648700
bhsenquiries@sch.im

**30
June**

Dear Parent or Carer,

The sunny image on this month's cover is more hopeful than reflective of our current weather however despite the challenges we have managed to enjoy many activities with the Geography team being particularly active completing fieldwork around the Island.

One look at the 'School Events' section of this newsletter gives an indication of what we have still got packed into the last three weeks of the year.

We have the traditional Year 11 and Year 13 Proms in the first week of July which will provide a nice celebration of not only the conclusion of external exams, but also of compulsory and further education. I would like to wish all students the very best in their next steps and thank the staff who have contributed to making the year 11 Prom happen. This is not part of their job description but something that they do in recognition of students who have endeavoured, persevered and represented our school values over several years.

We also have a healthy number of students participating in the Tynwald parade next week and this is always a special event to be involved with. I thank the student volunteers and again the staff who will give their time to represent the school.

A final key event taking place is our Memorial Walk. This event is a long-standing one for Ballakermeen and serves as a bi-annual reminder of students and colleagues who we have sadly lost. It means a great deal to so many staff and Mrs Duffy and Miss Hicks have held assemblies to explain the background of this important part of our calendar. I would like to take this opportunity to encourage all students to get into the celebratory spirit by wearing their house colours for the walk which will follow the Heritage Trail to Marown playing fields where we will all have lunch and have a minute of applause as we remember. A donation is invited via Parent Pay should you so wish, with monies raised being split between the Salvation Army & IOM Foodbank.

We look forward to welcoming our new year 7 students to Ballakermeen this Thursday and Friday when they will spend time with their tutor and new classmates, complete some assessments and experience some lessons so that they can hit the ground running in September. We look forward to these new and enthusiastic members of the Ballakermeen family.

I will write again before the end of term however at this point, I would like to thank you all for your continuing support.

**Graeme Corrin
Headteacher**

Looking Ahead



What's On in: JULY

HOUSE UPDATE

We have reached the final half term! Our students have had over 60 opportunities to earn points for their house this year. A big well done and thank-you to all that have been involved!

Langness have taken the lead after a long run from Conister, but it's all still very much to play for. We now approach our final competition of the year, the Boat race and Battle-boat competitions! Who will finish the year on top?

JA TRIP TO ATHENS

Good luck to Year 12 students Guy, Shenton, Oli, Isaac, and Jacob of Team Arthesy, who won the Junior Achievement Isle of Man Student Company of the Year competition back in March and will be travelling to Athens this week to represent the Island in the European Company of the Year Competition.

The team developed a range of functional tools to empower those suffering with arthritis and joint pain.

The winning student companies from across 41 countries will come together for GEN-E, Europe's Largest Entrepreneurship Festival, held in Athens from 1 - 3 July 2025. Good luck to Team Arthesy as they compete for the European Award!



SCHOOL EVENTS

TUE 01

BHSA PARENTS MEETING

In the Main School Library from 6.00pm.

WED 02

YEAR 11 PROM

03 - 04

YEAR 6 WELCOME DAYS

FRI 04

YEAR 13 PROM

MON 07

TYNWALD DAY (BANK HOLIDAY)

WED 09

YEAR 8 ACADEMIC TUTORING

THU 10

YEAR 7 ACADEMIC TUTORING

WED 16

MEMORIAL WALK

Raising money for the Salvation Army & IOM Foodbank.

THU 17

MEMORIAL WALK RESERVE DAY

FRI 18

LAST DAY OF TERM

EPRAISE

MONTHLY LEADER



JUNE LEADER:

LANGNESS HOUSE (104,793)

LEADING CONISTER

7CK7

LEADING LANGNESS

7LK5

LEADING HILLARY

7HS7

LEADING MAUGHOLD

7MK4

LEADING PATRICK

7PK6

June Roundup



YEAR 10 GEOGRAPHY

Our Year 10 Geography students spent two fantastic days in the field collecting data on coasts, rivers, settlements, and tourism as they prepare for Paper 4. They represented our school brilliantly, showing true kindness and respect throughout. We're proud of their hard work and the way they lived our values beyond the classroom!



ZAC SONGWRITER

We're incredibly proud of Year 12 student Zac, who released his own song 'Yours', a beautifully self-composed, performed, and produced track now available across all major streaming platforms! Give it a listen [here](#). 'Yours' is just the beginning, with more original songs to be released over the coming weeks. We can't wait to hear what's next from Zac, a true musical talent on the rise!

YEAR 9 HISTORY PROJECT

We were delighted to welcome Sarah Maltby MHK and Anthea Young from Manx National Heritage to school as guest judges for our Year 9 World War One projects.

Students explored the impact of the Great War on the Isle of Man, producing an array of thoughtful and visually impressive presentations.

Congratulations to Isabel in Year 9, who was awarded the top prize - a £50 voucher and a trophy - for her outstanding work!



YEAR 7 GIRLS CRICKET

The year 7 girls played in the first ever Inter school girls' cricket tournament, giving them the opportunity to play all of the other schools again. The team have made great progress since their first game and were a credit to Ballakermeen. A special mention to Georgia who was chosen as Ballakermeen's player of the festival and Priya who came a close second, as selected by the umpires from each match. Thank you to Peel and St John's Cricket club for providing the venue.



JIGSAW SUCCESS

Another jigsaw completed by students in the fiction library, and this time all the pieces were there!

Jigsaw puzzles are just one of the varied activities that students can take part in at break and lunch times in our fiction library, along with reading (of course!), playing chess and other board games, or simply meeting up with friends. We also host Rainbow Café after school on Mondays, and Balla Bookworms book club on Tuesdays after school.



YEAR 7 BOYS CRICKET FESTIVAL

A big well done to the Year 7 boys who took part in the Cricket Festival at King William's College. It was a great event with some fantastic cricket being played. The Ballakermeen lads managed 3 wins and 2 losses, with each game featuring great teamwork, quality fielding, and some excellent batting! At the end of the festival, 1 player from each school was selected as a player of the of the tournament. A massive well done to Aarav who was selected as the Ballakermeen player of the tournament for his expert knowledge of the game, communication, and constant motivation.

June Roundup



39TH HIGHER EDUCATION FAIR

Ballakermeen was proud to once again host the Isle of Man's annual Higher Education Fair. With representatives from a wide range of UK universities, on-Island providers, and career pathways, the fair offered students direct access to expert advice and first-hand insights into their next steps beyond school.

We extend our sincere thanks to all the delegates who travelled to be with us and to the Department of Education, whose continued support ensures this event remains such an important moment in the academic calendar.

This year's event was expertly coordinated by Ms Hall, Deputy Head of Sixth Form, and we are incredibly proud of the outstanding work she has done. Special thanks also go to our Senior Prefects, who acted as excellent guides and hosts throughout the event.

It was a pleasure to welcome so many familiar faces and new visitors alike to Ballakermeen, thank you all for making this year's fair such a success!



Y7 GEOGRAPHY

Year 7 A and C band headed out on fieldwork with the Geography and History Departments. Students completed a range of tasks such as a field sketch of the Silverburn River, an environmental quality survey, questionnaires with members of the public, and a tour of Castle Rushen. Students consistently demonstrated our School Values and we had a very enjoyable couple of days out!

GOLF SUCCESS

Well done to Jackson (Year 8), Finn (Year 7), and Caleb (Year 10) on their outstanding performances at the Isle of Man Schools Golf Championship.

The students represented the school with great sportsmanship and skill.

Congratulations to Caleb who won the longest drive competition, and to Finn who placed second in the Stableford competition. As a team, they performed exceptionally well, finishing in joint second place overall. Well done!



Y13 PLAYWRIGHT

Congratulations to Year 13 student Orry who has written his very own original play, 'In Their Blood', which will be brought to life by Parodos Theatre Company this summer!

Set in 1833, the play offers a powerful and moving portrayal of life in a Manx mining community - exploring themes of ambition, love, betrayal, and the struggles faced by miners and their families.

'In Their Blood' will be performed at King's Court Theatre from Thursday 14th - Saturday 16th August, with tickets on sale [here](#).

Orry will be closely involved in the production, offering his creative input and ideas to help shape the final performance - a fantastic achievement and an exciting step in his artistic journey. Well done Orry! We can't wait to see your work on stage!