

**Ballakermeen
High School**

2023

September Monthly News



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**30
Sept**

Dear Parent or Carer,

As we begin a new academic year, I am delighted to once again congratulate our exam cohorts on their outstanding results from the summer exam season, which smashed both Ballakermeen and Island records. Our students demonstrated their commitment to excellence, achieving exceptional outcomes at both GCSE and A-Level. These achievements are a testament not only to their hard work and determination, but also to the positive habits and learning-focused culture that we continue to nurture here at Ballakermeen.

At the heart of our success is a shared belief in the power of routines and good learning habits, aligned with consistent effort and resilience. Across the school, we are seeing students embrace a mindset that values respect through good manners, honesty about strengths and areas for development, and kindness that shines through in everyday interactions. Our culture is being nurtured by our dedicated staff, who work tirelessly to create engaging, supportive learning experiences, and by our students, who are rising to the challenge with enthusiasm and maturity. As we say here, we are one team - Team Balla!

As we look ahead to the coming months, we remain committed to building on this momentum. Whether through high-quality teaching supported by our professional development programme, enriching extracurricular opportunities, or our continued focus on wellbeing, we are determined to ensure every student at Ballakermeen feels empowered to thrive.

Thank you for your ongoing support. Together, we are creating a school community where success is not just measured in grades, but also in the habits, values, and aspirations that will carry our young people forward into the future.

Turning to extracurricular opportunities, it has been wonderful to see healthy competition on the rugby field here at school and on the hockey pitch at the NSC. Well done to all involved. Some students have embraced a new sport for the first time and shown a very positive attitude in doing so. Rehearsals for the school show *Dare to Dream Jr* have been ongoing for several months now. The amount of work that has gone into it is truly awe-inspiring, and having seen some of the sessions, I can promise you that you won't want to miss it! Keep an eye out for the ticket release.

You will see a variety of updates contained in this newsletter, not least the House updates that reflect the sense of belonging we are fostering. Ballakermeen really is a busy and happy place.

**Graeme Corrin
Headteacher**

Looking Ahead



What's On in: October

BHSA

BALLAKERMEEN HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

The BHSA (our PTA) are delighted to invite you to our AGM on Tuesday 14th October in the main school library. Our AGM is a chance to celebrate achievements of the past year, hear plans for the future, and welcome new members.

As our students move on from Ballakermeen at the end of Year 11, so too do their parents. This natural transition means we are urgently seeking new members to join the Association and continue its important work - including the roles of Chairperson, Treasurer, and Secretary. No previous experience is required - just a willingness to contribute and a desire to support the school. Our current officers will provide full training, guidance, and support. Whether you'd like to be actively involved in organising events and fundraising, or prefer to attend meetings and offer ideas from the sidelines, there's a place for everyone. Please join us and help shape the future of our school community.

For more information please email ballahighschoolassoc@gmail.com or visit [our website](#).



SCHOOL EVENTS

FRI 03

FLU SPRAY VACCINATIONS

THU 09

SENIOR MATHS CHALLENGE

TUE 14

BHSA AGM

6pm in the main school library. All are welcome to attend.

WED 15

PRIZE DAY

FRI 17

KS5 MATHS SYMPOSIUM

FRI 17

YEAR 7 DISCO

7pm - 9pm in the old canteen. Free entry, sign up on Parent-Pay. Tuckshop available (bring money).

TUE 21

BHSA UNIFORM SWAP-SHOP

In the seating area between 2pm to 4pm.

FRI 24

CONISTER-LED NON-UNIFORM DAY

27 - 31

HALF-TERM



Our **Lost & Found** is bursting at the seams with unnamed coats - many of them branded and costly! As the weather turns colder, we're eager to get these jackets back to their rightful owners before they're truly missed. If your son or daughter is missing a coat, please encourage them to stop by the pool area and speak with Mr Corlett to reclaim it. We're quickly running out of space, so the sooner we can reunite these items, the better!

September Roundup



YEAR 9 GIRLS HOCKEY

Our Year 9 girls made the transition from mini hockey to full 11 a side matches with a fixture against RGS. Despite a nervous start by some who were new to the game, many gained confidence and hopefully found a position that suited them. RGS selected our player of the game - Gracie who scored all 6 of our goals. Great work all!



SOVEREIGN ARTS FINALISTS

Two of our talented ex-Year 13 students have been shortlisted for the 2025 IOM Sovereign Art Foundation Student's Prize!



'Conjurer of Dreams' by Ryan Hughes and 'Ornamental Absence - the Melancholy of the Forgotten Mother' by Patience Gore.

You can read more about these pieces, view all 30 nominations, and cast your vote by [here](#). Best of luck both!

FOOTBALL TRIP

Congratulations to Ethan (ex-Year 13) and Hayden (ex-Year 11), who represented Ballakermeen as part of the Isle of Man Schools' squad on their tour of California last July! The team had a fantastic trip, winning the San Marcos Cup and only narrowly missing out in the Albion Cup. Well done both!



YEAR 10 GIRLS HOCKEY

Year 10 started their Hockey season with a trip up to Ramsey. All 12 players have worked hard on their skills and were able to come away with a 2-1 victory. Mya was voted player of the match by the girls from Ramsey. During the game each player demonstrated the schools key values and supported each other in pressure situations.



YEAR 13 STUDENTS AT SPACE SCHOOL

Year 13 students Guy, Hollie, and Patrick joined peers from 20 nations at the United Space School in Houston this summer, planning a simulated mission to Mars with NASA experts, after winning an essay competition to follow in the footsteps of previous scholars.

During their time in Texas the trio helped to plan a simulated crewed mission to Mars, alongside leading NASA astronauts, engineers and scientists.

Huge thanks to River Advisers who provide this scholarship and well done to Guy, Hollie and Patrick!



Y12 ENRICHMENT

Many of our Year 12 students were out on Thursday 25th September taking part in exciting extra-curricular activities. Some joined the Junior Achievement Business Kickstart at the Villa Marina, where they began developing their mini-companies and met peers from across the Island. Others took part in the One World Centre Charity Challenge: 'Meet the Charities' day, meeting local charities working overseas and learning about the vital humanitarian work they carry out with disadvantaged communities around the world. Best of luck to all involved as they progress!



Houses Update



September

HOUSE POINT LEADERS

MAUGHOLD: 175 points

CONISTER: 145 points

HILLARY: 110 points

LANGNESS: 70 points

PATRICK: 50 points

FIRST CHARITY FUNDRAISER OF THE YEAR!

We are excited to announce our first charity fundraiser of the year - a Waffle Sale taking place on Thursday 23rd October.

All proceeds will go towards Conister House's chosen charity, the RNLI.

Delicious loaded waffles will be available for just £2 each, with a variety of tasty toppings to choose from.

All purchases must please be made through ParentPay.



HOUSE MOTTOS COMPETITION

Congratulations to all the students who submitted entries to our House Mottos Competition. The winning mottos from each house are:

Conister: *'Weather the storm, refuge will come'* - Jasmin, Year 11

Maughold: *'Guided by light, strengthened by fire'* - Ben, Year 9

Patrick: *'Echoes of the Dhoo, Voices of Patrick'* - Hayden & Rhiannon, Year 8

Hillary: *'The higher the tide, the stronger our pride'* - Uthara & Pablou, Year 8

Langness: *'Never settle for less, we're Langness'* - Ella & Peyton, Year 11

Well done to our winners for their creativity and school spirit!



MFL COMPETITION - ENDING SOON!

Celebrating birthday traditions around the world! To enter, students are invited to either bake a themed birthday cake and bring it in for a photo, or create a poster or birthday card showcasing a country's birthday traditions. You might choose to research, ask family members, or draw inspiration from your own family traditions! Deadline for entries: this Friday (3rd October). Please hand entries to your languages teacher.

HISTORY COMPETITION

Capture Our Heritage! Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 are invited to take a photograph of a historical site on the Isle of Man and write a paragraph of around 300 words explaining its significance. Entries should be handed in to your history teacher by Monday 3rd November 2025. Showcase your knowledge of the island's history and get involved!

