

**Ballakermeen
High School**

2026

October Monthly News



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Dear Parent or Carer,

I hope you enjoy our October newsletter that comes at the end of a half term that has been rewarding in many ways but also so very difficult for everybody in the Ballakermeen family.

Our new year 7s are not new anymore and their politeness, enthusiasm and good manners have really added to Team Balla. As we know, our outgoing year 11s performed so well in their summer exams, but they also represented themselves brilliantly at their prom and leaving ceremony. We were sad to see them go and they are a tough act to follow! However, it is brilliant that the year 7 cohort has picked up the mantle, and they are rising to our challenge to set themselves the highest of standards. Having said that, we are also really pleased with year 10 who have begun life in key stage four with great maturity and applied themselves in class in a way that suggests that they are going to threaten the records set last summer. Similarly, year 11, after a few settling in issues, have begun to show great maturity and it's pleasing that they seem to see the seriousness of their final year of compulsory education. Back to key stage three year 8 and year 9 are together in morning lineups and it's fair to say that they are setting a high standard in terms of good uniform, being equipped and ready to learn. Finally, we welcomed several students from other schools and KWC to our new year 12 cohort and it is pleasing to see how well they have settled and mixed. Our year 13 students remain perfect role models for them!

It was wonderful to see just a small sample of our amazing students during our annual Prize Day last week. It was a brilliant afternoon of celebration and performances that gave a further reminder of the talent, maturity and work ethic that runs right through the school. As ever, it was a shame that the venue could only accommodate just over 100 students as no doubt we could multiply that by 10 or more and still not recognise the great things that our students every day here.

In my address at Prize Day, my theme was 'belonging'. Recent tragic events have really highlighted what it means to belong to the Ballakermeen community. We are all still coming to terms with our loss but there was some comfort in the way both students and staff have come together to support each other. We were grateful too for the direct support of students offered via DESC. Our sense of loss however is nothing compared to that of the family and all our thoughts remain with them at this extremely sad time.

I wish you all a restful half term break.

Graeme Corrin
Headteacher

Looking Ahead



What's On in: November

NOVEMBER EVENTS

ARBOR APP

Our primary method of communication for whole school messages and letters is email (this includes detention notifications). If you change your email address, please let us know. To ensure you do not miss important information we recommend enabling push notifications for emails on your mobile device.

We recently launched the Arbor Parent Portal and Parent App. These platforms can be used to check your child's attendance, behaviour (praise and conduct) and progress. As such, we are no longer using the epraise app to reward our students.

If you haven't signed up to the portal and app, please look at the communication you were sent via email, which details the steps you need to take. If you encounter any technical difficulties when setting yourself up, please contact us via: bhsenquiries@sch.im

ACTIVITY SCHEME

Manx Mencap, in partnership with Autism in Mann, have put together an October half-term activity scheme designed for young people with learning disabilities and/or autism. [Read more here.](#)

07 - 08

REMEMBER ME TO ALL AT HOME

Remembrance Concert taking place in the Studio Theatre. Hosted by Goodbye Piccadilly Productions, the evening features two one-act plays and a performance by the IOM Arts Council Choir. All proceeds will go to the Royal British Legion. Tickets [available here.](#)

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YEAR 11 EMPLOYMENT & SKILLS FAIR

SUN 16

BHSA INDOOR CAR-BOOT SALE

1pm - 3pm in the School Dome. Entry fees: 16 and over: £1, under 15s: £0.50. Contact Ballahighschoolassoc@gmail.com if you'd like to book a space (£10 per pitch).

WED 19

PARENT CAFÉ

6pm - 7.30pm in the Sixth Form Centre.

WED 19

STAFF VS. STUDENTS FOOTBALL MATCH

Tickets £3.00 each, available via ParentPay. All proceeds will be split between Langness' house charity: Craig's Heartstrong Foundation, and the Sixth Form Prom fund. Kick off: 16.00 at the Bowl Stadium.



ENRICHMENT WEEK 2026

In July 2026, during the final week of the school year, we're excited to launch our Enrichment Week - a fantastic opportunity for students to explore new experiences, discover hidden talents, and learn in fresh, inspiring ways. We're currently putting together a diverse programme of activities for students to sign up to, and we'd love your help! Do you have a hobby, skill, or passion you'd be willing to share? Please get in touch at BHSEnquiries@sch.im to discuss how you can get involved.

October Roundup



SENIOR HOCKEY

Our Senior Hockey team faced King William's College in their second game of the season. It was an exciting end-to-end match, showcasing some fantastic hockey and impressive individual skills. The game was fast paced and technical and the girls really pulled together as a team to secure a 9-5 victory! Elena was named Player of the Match by the KWC team, but every member of the squad played a vital role in achieving the win. Well done!



YEAR 7 HOCKEY

Our Year 7 students travelled to King William's College for their hockey fixtures, and it was fantastic to see such a great turnout - including many girls playing hockey for the very first time! Every player represented the school with pride, demonstrating our values brilliantly both on and off the pitch. The team came away with one win and one draw - an excellent result! Congratulations to all involved!



IRISH DANCING

Congratulations to Clodagh in Year 9, who has achieved outstanding results in recent Irish dancing competitions.

In September, Clodagh travelled to Bristol, where she placed 1st and 2nd in her events. She then competed at the British Championships in Banbury in October, earning 4th and 6th place finishes. Well done Clodagh on your fantastic achievements!

Ms Cretney's Year 8 Manx class have been designing their own Christmas cards to enter the Mayor of Douglas' xmas card competition! Their festive designs look fantastic! Great work.



YEAR 12 GEOGRAPHY

Our Year 12 Geography students took part in a fantastic fieldwork day exploring a range of physical and human geography topics across the Island, including measuring the microclimate of Conrhenny Plantation, and collecting river data from the River Groudle. Throughout the day, students demonstrated excellent teamwork, curiosity, and care - not only for each other but also for the natural environment. A big well done to all involved.



YEAR 8 HUMANITIES

Year 8 Humanities students have been learning about the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in AD79, exploring both the geographical and historical aspects of this fascinating event. They studied the Earth's structure and tectonic plates to understand why earthquakes and volcanoes occur, and examined what the tragedy of Pompeii reveals about life in Roman times. Students presented their research and demonstrated their handmade volcano models using baking soda, water, washing-up liquid, and vinegar to recreate an eruption. Next half term, you can look forward to seeing their African adventure!

October Roundup



POETRY BOOK DONATION

Some of our poetry loving students were presented with a free poetry book from the collection of Hilary Adams, who sadly passed away, leaving her daughter Kate with a vast collection of poetry books to deal with. This photo shows Kate with some of the lucky students who were selected by their teachers and the librarian to receive a book.



MAUGHOLD HOUSE FUNDRAISING

A big thank you to Anna from Macmillan Cancer Support, who visited us to deliver an inspiring assembly about the charity's incredible work.

Last year, Maughold House raised an amazing £2,500, which our Year 11 prefects proudly presented to Anna. Maughold are delighted to be continuing their support for Macmillan this year through a series of exciting fundraising activities - watch this space for more details!



THEATRE STARS

Congratulations to two of our talented Year 12 students, Maddie and Phoebe, who performed in Centre Stage Productions' 'The Band' at the Gaiety Theatre during October.

Maddie starred as Young Rachel and Phoebe as Young Zoe in this jukebox musical set to the hits of Take That.

Both girls have worked incredibly hard over the past 6 months of rehearsals for the show and shone brightly on the stage. Well done both, we're very proud of you!



CONISTER HOUSE FUNDRAISING

A huge well done to Conister House on their sold-out Waffle Sale fundraiser.

The delicious treats proved a big hit and helped raise an impressive amount for Conister's chosen charity, the RNLI. Fantastic work all!



PRIZE DAY 2025

On 15th October we celebrated our annual Prize-Giving in the Studio Theatre. A big thank you to our esteemed guests and parents for honouring us with their presence, as well as our fantastic musical performers. The most important people of the day were of course our incredible students. We were immensely proud to have the opportunity to formally recognise their achievements and to celebrate our thriving school community.

October Roundup



PATRICK HOUSE FUNDRAISING

Patrick House presented a cheque for £2,500 to Krysia from the ManxSPCA, raised through fundraising efforts over the past year.

During her visit, Krysia delivered an engaging and informative presentation in Patrick House assembly.

Later in the year our prefects look forward to visiting the ManxSPCA to see first-hand the difference their fundraising helps to make!



LANGNESS HOUSE FUNDRAISING

We were delighted to welcome Paul from Craig's Heartstrong Foundation to deliver an inspiring Langness House assembly all about the charity and its vital work raising awareness of undiagnosed heart conditions in people aged 14 and over. Last year, Langness House raised an incredible £3,500 for the charity, which our prefects proudly presented to Paul during his visit.



HILLARY HOUSE FUNDRAISING

Hillary House welcomed Susan from Hospice Isle of Man to their house assembly, to talk about the incredible work Hospice do for both children and adults. Thanks to last year's fundraising efforts, Hillary House raised an amazing £2,500 for Rebecca House, which our prefects proudly presented in a cheque handover during the assembly.



2025 SCHOOL SHOW TICKETS ON SALE

Tickets are now on sale for Disney's Dare to Dream JR!

The show follows a spirited group of trainees on their first day at a fictional Walt Disney Imagineering Studio. As they embark on a journey of self-discovery, they learn how dreams, when shared, have the power to unite, inspire, and turn the impossible into reality.

Featuring a dazzling selection of songs from a century of iconic Disney films including The Princess and the Frog, Coco, Encanto, Frozen II, and many more, this show promises to surprise and enchant Disney fans of all ages...

Tickets available to book online [here](#).

