

Ballakermeen  
High School

2023

# November Monthly News



Ballakermeen High School  
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28  
Nov

## Dear Parent or Carer,

As we approach the festive season, we are delighted to share the highlights of a busy and successful November at Ballakermeen High School. Our students have excelled in a wide range of activities, from sporting triumphs in hockey, futsal, football, and basketball, to creative achievements in art and languages. We've also seen fantastic engagement in events such as the Army Elite Skills session and the Year 11 Careers Fair, helping to broaden horizons and inspire future pathways.

We had our first Parent Café of the year this week and we were delighted to welcome a significant number of parents to a very positive and developmental session where we discussed many areas including reports, parental consultation and assessment. We thank all those involved and look forward to continuing positive development.

Looking ahead, December promises plenty of excitement, including our annual school show Dare to Dream Jr., the Christmas Carol Service, and various seasonal celebrations. I encourage you to join us for our upcoming events and share in the joy and talent of our students.

Year 11 students are in the final stages of preparation for their upcoming mock examinations, an important opportunity to consolidate learning and build confidence for the summer.

To support them at home, you might:

- Encourage a clear revision timetable with regular breaks
- Provide a quiet, distraction-free space for study
- Focus on healthy routines - balanced meals, sleep, and exercise
- Offer reassurance and remind them that mocks are a learning experience, not a final judgment

As you are receiving this newsletter, we have just concluded a rewarding day of mock interviews for our Oxbridge applicants. We been very grateful to welcome expert volunteers to assist and we appreciate the support. Some of these volunteers have a long association with BHS and in the new year we hope to share some exciting plans for the creation of a formal Ballakermeen Alumni; watch this space!

Good luck with your lights and baubles and thank you for your continued support in making Ballakermeen a vibrant and thriving community.

**Graeme Corrin**  
Headteacher

# Looking Ahead



## What's On in: December

### DARE TO DREAM JR.

A Disney MUSICAL REVUE

Our annual school show takes place in December this year, from Tuesday 9th to Friday 12th, in the Studio Theatre!

Starring 45 of our talented students from Years 7 - 12, Dare to Dream Jr. is a musical revue following an eager group of trainees on their first day at a fictional Walt Disney Imagineering Studio.

Drawing from a century of beloved Disney films, the show features a HUGE playlist of musical favourites including:

- Be Our Guest
- Part of Your World
- How Far I'll Go
- Surface Pressure
- Let It Go
- I Just Can't Wait to Be King
- Friend Like Me
- Bare Necessities
- ..and many more!

A thrilling mix of exciting songs, dazzling dance numbers, and brand-new medleys that are sure to surprise and delight Disney lovers of all ages.

Adults = £10.00, Under 16's = £5.00.  
Tickets may be booked [online here](#).



## DECEMBER EVENTS

**MON 08**

**YEAR 7 VALUES CELEBRATION**

**09 - 12**

**SCHOOL SHOW: DARE TO DREAM JR**

In the Studio Theatre for a total of 4 performances. Doors open 6.30pm for 7.00pm start. [Click here](#) to book tickets.

**TUE 16**

**BHSA UNIFORM-SWAP SHOP**

In the seating area between 2pm to 4pm.

**WED 17**

**BHS CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE**

7pm at St George's Church, Douglas.

**FRI 19**

**CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY**

**22 DEC -  
04 JAN**

**CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS**

Last day of school: Friday 19th December



## CRAFT A SNOWFLAKE: HOUSE COMPETITION

Create your own snowflake using paper or card, then decorate and colour it in.

Winning designs will be displayed on the House display boards.

Please submit one snowflake to Mr Lewis by Friday 12th December, with your full name clearly written or attached.



# November Roundup



## SENIOR GIRLS HOCKEY

Congratulations to the Senior Girls' Hockey team who finished their league games undefeated, making them the worthy winners of the Senior league competition! They have had a fantastic season, showing strength and depth of players across the squad and their ability to work well as a team.



## ART WINNER

Congratulations to former Ballakermeen student Patience Gore, who was awarded the Public Vote Prize in the Sovereign Trust Student Art Competition for her oil painting, 'Ornamental Absence - The Melancholy of the Forgotten Mother.' This is a stunning piece of work and a well-deserved recognition of her exceptional talent. Well done, Patience!



## YEAR 7 HOUSE FUTSAL TOURNAMENT

Thank you to all who took part in the Year 7 Futsal Tournament over the past month. All teams played some fantastic futsal throughout the competition.

Hillary secured the win in the 3rd vs 4th place play-off, and a huge congratulations to Patrick, who beat Langness 2-1 in the closely contested final!

## ARMY ELITE SKILLS

Over 30 students from Years 10 to 13 took part in an Army presentation and an Elite Skills session delivered by the British Army.

All students demonstrated an excellent attitude when engaging in the individual and team challenges. Feedback from the Army staff in attendance was very positive and we look forward to welcoming the Army careers team back to Ballakermeen next year!



## CONISTER HOUSE FUNDRAISING

We were delighted to welcome Peter, Oli, and Ellie from RNLI Douglas to collect a cheque for £2,500, raised by Conister House over the course of last year. Conister have chosen to continue supporting the RNLI this year, recognising the vital life-saving work the organisation carries out along our coast and in our community. Well done all!

## History poster competition



Winner!

Ben  
Year 7  
Maughold House

## HISTORY WINNERS

Well done to all students who produced such detailed and thoughtful posters on historical sites around the Isle of Man for the House History competition! Results: 1st

place: Ben (Year 7, Maughold) 2nd place: Ben (Year 8, Langness) 3rd place: Emil (Year 8, Conister) 4th place: Leighton (Year 7, Hillary) Maughold's victory means they have now reclaimed the lead for overall House Points!



# November Roundup



## YEAR 10 GIRLS FOOTBALL

Our Year 10 Girls competed in the Inter-Schools Football tournament, starting well with a 1-0 victory over QEII, followed by a goal less draw against RGS. A two game break disrupted their rhythm a little as they then had to face a strong SNHS, resulting in a 2-0 defeat. However, they bounced back immediately and showed real resilience in their final two games, winning both 3-0 against KWC (hat trick for Erin) and 4-0 against CRHS. Erin was our leading goal scorer with 6 goals total. Ballakermeen's determination resulted in an excellent 2nd place overall! Evie was selected as the player of the match in every game (by the opposition) and as a result was awarded the player of the tournament. Well done girls!



## SWIM CHAMPIONS

We are incredibly proud of all of our many students who took part in this year's Isle of Man Swimming Championships!



A huge well done to all involved - your commitment, hard work, and brilliant performances have made Ballakermeen extremely proud.



## MUSIC CONCERT

Good luck to all of our students, both past and present, performing in the Manx Youth Orchestra's Christmas concert on Saturday 6th December.

The programme looks fantastic, with a mix of traditional carols, festive classics and unexpected treats, including music from Star Wars, The Nightmare Before Christmas, and new works. We're proud to see so many talented young musicians involved! [Click here](#) to book your tickets.



## STAFF VS. STUDENTS CHARITY FOOTBALL MATCH 2025

Wednesday 19th November saw our annual Staff vs. Students charity football match, with the Sixth Form team reclaiming their title in a thrilling 3-2 victory!

The event raised an impressive £1,834.50, which will be shared between Langness' House Charity: Craig's Heartstrong Foundation, and the Sixth Form Prom fund - a fantastic achievement!

Well done to all staff and students who took part, all who helped to organise and run the event, and to those who came along to show their support. Thank you to [Vannin Photos](#) for capturing the event so brilliantly, and to Governors Athletic FC for kindly providing kit for both teams.





# November Roundup



## MFL HOUSE COMPETITION WINNERS

Well done to Vanya and Dimitar from Maughold House who were selected as winners of the MFL 'Birthdays around the world' competition for their fantastic creations!



## SENIOR BOYS BASKETBALL

Well done to the Senior Boys' Basketball team who took on Ramsey Grammar School in their first match of the 2025 basketball season.

This was a big step up for the current year 11 lads who played in the inters basketball team last year, mixing with more senior players. The lads went out strong and played some great basketball throughout the game.

The game finished 69 - 29 to Ballakermeen. A great win to start off the campaign! A particular shout out to Leon and James who played excellently under the basket, showing both skill and strength to secure many baskets.



## REMEMBRANCE DAY

Our Head Girl, Stella, and Head Boy, Guy, represented Ballakermeen with dignity and respect at the Douglas Remembrance Ceremony on Sunday 9th November, despite the

heavy skies overhead. Everyone at Ballakermeen joined in remembering the great sacrifices made by so many in the service of others.



## YEAR 7 HOCKEY

The Year 7 Hockey season drew to a close with an inter school tournament. The girls started really well, winning their first 2 games, with Breeshey and Naomi scoring the goals. They then had a 2 game break and the rest, coupled with dropping temperatures, left them struggling to find their previous form when they came back on to play. However, they managed two draws and a loss in the remaining three games which resulted in an excellent 2nd place overall!

Poppy was nominated as Ballakermeen's player of the tournament/season, but everyone was a crucial member of the team and they all worked together brilliantly in all the games and were a real credit to Ballakermeen.



## YEAR 11 CAREERS

Our Year 11 students attended the 2025 Employment and Skills event at the Villa Marina on 13th November, where they explored a wide range of career pathways and future learning opportunities.