

Ballakermeen
High School

2025

December Monthly News



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19
Dec

Dear Parent or Carer,

Welcome to the December edition of our newsletter that celebrates all the students who have lived our values of kindness, honesty and respect and worked hard to demonstrate the Ballakermeen learner attributes. We are also pleased with the excellent attitude of Year 11 who sat their recent mocks impeccably and I understand have returned some very positive results.

You will see in this newsletter that Ballakermeen athletes have shown outstanding resilience and teamwork. The inter-school cross-country race challenged runners who rose to the occasion with determination. Football has been equally exciting: after weather delays, the Year 9 Girls' A Team finally played their tournament, while the Year 7 Girls' B Team battled strong winds to finish joint-first with RGS, tied on goals scored and conceded - a fantastic achievement! Basketball has also been a highlight: the senior team faced Castle Rushen in a thrilling contest that went down to the wire, and the Year 7 boys impressed in their first inter-school tournament.

As 2025 draws to a close, Ballakermeen has been buzzing with activity, from festive celebrations to sporting triumphs and creative competitions. Our annual Christmas Carol Service at St George's Church was a beautiful occasion, bringing together students, staff, and families for a fabulously festive evening. Adding to the seasonal cheer, the House snowflake-making competition showcased incredible creativity - congratulations to Zoë in Year 7, whose winning design now tops the school Christmas tree! Also, hot off the press, our SPC have won the 2025 3FM Carol Cup. Congratulations to them and please do check it out on the 3FM website.

I would particularly like to thank Mrs Ryder who has recently led every year group in 'Recognition and Reward' assemblies celebrating subject commendations and sporting and Arts successes. It has been wonderful to see students genuinely celebrating each other's achievements.

As we wrap up (no Christmas pun intended!) an exciting term, I want to thank all students, staff, and families for their support and enthusiasm. Ballakermeen continues to thrive as a vibrant community where creativity, competition, and collaboration shine.

Remember that you can keep updated by visiting bhs.sch.im or following us on Facebook for photos, updates, and upcoming events.

Finally, I am delighted to share the winning [digital Christmas card design](#) created by Nyssa in Year 10 and I wish you all a joyful holiday season and a successful start to 2026.

Graeme Corrin
Headteacher

Looking Ahead



What's On in: January



JANUARY EVENTS

MON 05

SCHOOL RE-OPENS

06 - 12

YEAR 13 MOCK EXAMS

FRI 16

YEAR 7 VALUES CELEBRATION

Postponed from December.

WED 28

INTERMEDIATE MATHS CHALLENGE

THU 29

YEAR 6 OPEN EVENING

HOUSE UPDATE

Maughold remain in the lead to end 2025! Langness and Hillary are close behind in 2nd and 3rd place. Conister are also not too far behind in 4th. Patrick have some work to do in 5th place!

Attendance and praise points will be updated after the Christmas break!

1st: Maughold - 935 points

2nd: Langness - 890 points

3rd: Hillary - 810 points

4th: Conister - 755 points

5th: Patrick - 610 points

Thanks to everyone who has taken part in any of the house competitions so far! It's great to see the endless talent we have here at Ballakermeen.

A big thanks also to all of the staff who have put on a competition so far.

YEAR 7 SPELLING BEE



Year 7 students are invited to take part in our House Spelling Bee next term, taking place on Monday lunchtimes on 19th and 26th January, and 2nd and 9th February, in the Studio Theatre.

Each round, spellers must correctly spell one word to progress to the next stage. A time limit of 45 seconds per word applies, and competitors may request the definition of a word at any point.

If you would like to take part, please sign up with your tutor or English teacher. We look forward to seeing our Year 7 students showcase their spelling skills and House pride!

December Roundup



DARE TO DREAM JR

Our school show, Dare to Dream Jr., took place between 9th and 12th December and featured 45 talented students from across Years 7 - 12. The production was a dazzling, all-singing, all-dancing celebration of creativity, showcasing a wide range of performances in a truly joyful and memorable show. Well done to all the students involved for their many months of hard work in rehearsals, to the staff who helped bring the show to life, and to the audiences who came along to support and encourage our performers.



XMAS CARD DESIGNS

Congratulations to Amelia (Year 8) and Gracie (Year 7) on their success in the Mayor of Douglas' Christmas Card Competition! Amelia was selected as one of the winning designs, with Gracie named as a runner-up.



Their artwork will now be printed as part of the Mayor's official Christmas card collection for 2025 and sent to recipients across the island and beyond - a wonderful achievement and a fantastic showcase of their creativity!



SENIOR BOYS BASKETBALL VICTORY

The senior basketball team took on Castle Rushen High School in a thrilling, end-to-end match. It wasn't until the fourth quarter that Ballakermeen really began to find their rhythm.

Charlie showed his dominance and strength with consistent drives to the basket, while James hit a series of jump shots, allowing Ballakermeen to start pulling ahead. Castle Rushen fought back with two quick baskets to move one point in front, but Charlie finished the game with a strong drive to the basket, leaving only seconds on the clock.

Ballakermeen secured a dramatic one-point victory, earning their place in the semi-final!

A huge congratulations to our talented SPC students who were crowned winners of this year's 3FM Carol Cup! They've shown incredible teamwork and creativity in putting their song together, and we're so proud of all the effort they've put in. Take a moment to enjoy their performance [here](#).



CROSS-COUNTRY SUCCESS

There were some excellent performances at the inter-school cross-country event, which took place on an extremely challenging course featuring steep hills and difficult underfoot conditions. All runners competed with great determination, giving maximum effort and performing strongly despite the testing terrain.

Notable results included: Elena (Y13): 1st Senior girls; Piper (Y12): 2nd Senior Girls; Senior Girls Team: WINNERS; Faith (Y10): 1st Inter girls; Rory (Y8): 1st Junior boys; Corrie (Y9): 3rd Junior boys; Elliot (Y7): 3rd Year 7 boys.

Well done to all runners involved for their commitment and resilience in such tough conditions!

December Roundup



YEAR 7 GIRLS FOOTBALL

The Year 7 Girls' Football B team took part in the inter-school tournament, competing in challenging windy conditions. Despite this, the girls showcased excellent football skills throughout and finished joint first with RGS after the teams could not be separated on goals scored or conceded.

The girls represented the school brilliantly, showing all our values throughout the afternoon. A special mention goes to Ciera, who was voted overall Player of the Tournament after receiving the most votes from the other schools.



SNOWFLAKE WINNER

Well done to all who created a snowflake for our house competition! It was nice to see students from across different year groups getting involved. The winner of this year's competition is Zoë in year 7, who designed a pretty amazing snowflake, which can be seen at the top of our Christmas tree in the new canteen! 1st: Zoë (Y7) - Maughold; 2nd: Abhinav (Y8) & Ahmed (Y8) - Conister; 3rd: Ina (Y11) - Maughold; 4th: Olivia (Y7) - Langness; 5th: Lottie (Y8) - Hillary. Additional house points were awarded to each house for the number of entries!



YEAR 7 BOYS BASKETBALL

The Year 7 boys' basketball team competed in an inter-school tournament, with many experiencing competitive basketball for the first time. The team performed exceptionally well against strong opposition, putting into practice the skills and

strategies developed in training. Their hard work paid off, and the boys were crowned overall winners! The tournament was played with great enthusiasm and showcased plenty of talent, boding well for the future. A special mention goes to Zairus, who was named Most Valuable Player.



CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

Our annual Christmas Carol Service took place on Wednesday 17th December at St George's Church. It was a wonderfully festive evening, featuring performances from many of our talented students.

Our thanks to everyone at St George's Church for the use of their facilities and for their support in helping us deliver this special event.



December Roundup



MEMORIAL WALK FUNDRAISING

Rachael and Dylan from The Salvation Army visited school to collect a cheque for £500, raised via the school's biennial Memorial Walk which took place in July.

This year, alongside staff and students lost to us in previous years, we particularly remembered Peter Quayle, our school gardener, who we lost in January. The Salvation Army was very dear to Peter's heart.



YEAR 9 GIRLS FOOTBALL

After two postponements due to poor weather, the Year 9 Girls "A" tournament took place in glorious sunny weather. The girls were excited to finally get to play their matches and were keen

to demonstrate their skills against the other Secondary schools on the Isle of Man.

Ballakermeen secured 3rd place with one win, one draw, and two narrow losses. Darcy and Elle scored Balla's goals whilst Tara, Nancy, Darci and Alexie were named as players of the game. All members of the squad played their part in the team's success. The girls represented the school brilliantly, showing our all of our values throughout the afternoon.

We are looking forward to the "B" tournament on the first Friday after Christmas.



PANTOMIME PERFORMERS

Break a leg to our talented students who are performing in this year's pantomime, Cinderella, at the Gaiety Theatre, opening this evening! We are excited to see Kendra (Year 12) starring as Dandini, the Prince's friend, alongside Lottie (Year 11) and Teigan (Year 9), who are both performing as part of the Junior Ensemble in Team Bibbidi Bobbidi.

We're also proud to celebrate Ballakermeen alumni involved in the production, with Alexandra Slater appearing as the Fairy Godmother, Millie Christian as Prince Charming, and Eloise Barnes performing in the Principal Dance Ensemble. All 3 past students have gone onto to study the arts professionally and we couldn't be prouder to see them shining back on our Island stage once more.

Join us in wishing them a wonderful run as they help to spread festive cheer over the Christmas break!



Nollick Ghennal as Blein Vie Noa!