

Ballakermeen
High School

2026

January Monthly News



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Dear Parent or Carer,

We are now well into the new term and I would like to extend my thanks to our whole school community for the positivity and energy that each of you continue to bring to Ballakermeen despite the inclement weather! January, apart from the wind and snow, has been a month filled with outstanding student achievements, each one reflecting the values we strive to instil in our young people. Some of these achievements are included in this month's newsletter.

It was pleasing to see our Year 9 girls' football team displaying great determination and teamwork at their recent tournament, securing a commendable 4th place despite being a player down. Their resilience and sportsmanship were matched by our talented Year 9 netballers, who recorded victories across all fixtures against St Ninian's. Congratulations once again to Chichi, Halle and Abbie for their Player of the Match awards, and to Elyn, Dzhuiana, Dana and Anna for their excellent scoring performances.

We were also delighted to celebrate the accomplishments of our swimmers—Charlie, Zoe, Faith and Rory—who competed at the Lancashire County Championships. Qualifying alone is a significant feat, and each student represented the school with dedication and pride. Further afield, Caleb (Year 11) and Tommy (Year 10) travelled to Turkey to compete on the international stage at the US Kids Golf Foundation Antalya Open—an exceptional opportunity that reflects their commitment to the sport.

Alongside sporting success, our students continue to shine academically and creatively. Congratulations to the Year 7 pupils who reached the Spelling Bee semi final, and to Lucas in Year 9 for once again claiming victory in the Paper Aeroplane Competition—an impressive achievement that also propels Langness back to the top of the House leaderboard.

Our year 11 students completed their mock exams in December and are now working hard to respond to the feedback and learning from those. Initial predictions look positive and close to last year's record-breaking results. Good luck to them and to our Year 13 students who completed their own mocks this month. Motivation levels and hopes are very high for this excellent cohort.

Finally, I want to thank everyone involved in yesterday's Year 6 Open Evening. The warmth, confidence and enthusiasm of our student helpers made a big impression on visiting families, and reflected very well on them individually and our schools.

Graeme Corrin
Headteacher

Looking Ahead



What's On in: February

KS4 OPTIONS

The Year 9 Options presentation is now available to [view here](#). Students should ensure they have watched the presentation in its entirety before accessing the Options website using the [link here](#).

Options forms will go live on Monday 9th February with a submission deadline of Friday 6th March.

HOUSE UPDATE

Well done to Lucas in Year 9 who won the Paper Aeroplane Competition and successfully retained his title from last year! While he didn't quite beat his existing school record, he came very close with an impressive throw of 25.2m. This result has also put Langness back in the lead on the House leaderboard!

Congratulations also to the following Year 7 students who have reached the Spelling Bee semi-final: Jake, Leia, William, Ryan, David, Caleb-Bon, Emily, Hanna, Douglas, Ishaan, Alex, Aamiyah, Joseph and Dorian. The semi-final will take place next Monday (2nd February) during first lunch. Good luck to all the spellers, and well done to everyone who has taken part so far.



SCHOOL EVENTS

THU 05

YEAR 9 ACADEMIC TUTORING

MON 09

YEAR 9 GCSE OPTIONS FORMS GO LIVE

TUE 10

BHSA UNIFORM SWAP-SHOP

2pm - 4pm in the Seating Area. Swap items, pick up replacements, or drop in unwanted uniform.

09 - 11

YEAR 12 MOCK EXAMS

FRI 13

YEAR 9 DROPDOWN DAY

FRI 13

HILLARY-LED NON-UNIFORM DAY

16 - 20

HALF-TERM

WED 25

YEAR 11 ACADEMIC TUTORING

THU 26

YEAR 13 ACADEMIC TUTORING



LOST PROPERTY

We currently have a large amount of unclaimed lost property (eg. jewellery, watches) held in the Finance Office. If you believe you may have lost any personal items, please visit the Finance Office so we can help reunite you with your belongings.

Any items that remain unclaimed after half term will be disposed of.

January Roundup



YEAR 9 GIRLS FOOTBALL

The final Year 9 girls' football tournament was held on the first Friday after Christmas. The matches were played in cold but windless conditions at KWC, where not only the football was exciting, but planes landing and taking off also added to the occasion. We were a player short as a number of girls were unavailable for the afternoon, but that did not deter the seven players from giving their all throughout the tournament. Ballakermeen secured 4th place, with a few narrow losses, a draw, and a win in our final game. Daisy, Gabrielle, and Grace were named Players of the Game, and every member of the squad played their part in the team's success. The girls represented the school brilliantly, showing all of our values throughout the afternoon.



GOLF STARS

Best of luck to Caleb (Year 11) and Tommy (Year 10) as they represent the Isle of Man this week at the US Kids Golf Foundation Antalya Turkish Open in Turkey! Both are competing as part of the junior boys' team, taking on international competition on a fantastic stage. We wish them the very best in their practice round and throughout the tournament!



We're proud to have raised a total £800 for Special Olympics Isle of Man through our Christmas Jumper Day last term! Thank you and well done to our students and staff for getting involved and spreading festive cheer for a great cause.



YEAR 9 GIRLS NETBALL

Year 9 netballers took to the court for fixtures against local rivals St Ninian's. Ballakermeen fielded three teams and were successful in all matches. Congratulations to Chichi, Halle and Abbie, who received the Player of the Match awards, though all players made a positive contribution and displayed the school's core values both while playing and spectating. A further well done to Ellyn, Dzhuliana, Dana and Anna for scoring. Well done to all involved!



SWIMMING SUCCESS

A huge congratulations to our fantastic BHS swimmers who competed at the Lancashire County Swimming Championships in Manchester - a brilliant start to the long course racing season. With tough entry standards required just to qualify, simply reaching this level is a huge achievement and a real credit to the commitment and dedication shown by our students. We are especially proud of Charlie (Year 8), Zoe (Year 11), Faith (Year 10), and Rory (Year 8) who all represented Ballakermeen High School superbly across a wide range of events. The second round of the competition takes place in two weeks. Good luck all involved!