

Ballakermeen  
High School

2026

February  
Monthly  
News



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## Dear Parent or Carer,

As we start the new half term and hope to see signs of Spring after what seems like a never-ending Winter, I want to take a moment to highlight an area of school life that sits at the heart of Ballakermeen: praise and recognition. Over recent weeks, we have been working hard to refine and relaunch our approach to celebrating students who consistently demonstrate our values and expectations. This renewed focus is rooted not in extrinsic rewards or behaviour management, but in something far more important; that is building a culture where genuine effort, kindness, and success in all its forms are noticed and celebrated.

Our updated Praise and Recognition Policy sets out a how we recognise the many positive contributions our students make each day. From daily acknowledgements such as Golden Tickets and Spot Awards, to weekly celebrations like Ballamazing Friday, and our more formal half-termly, termly, and annual events, our aim is simple: to make praise visible, authentic, and meaningful.

By reinforcing expectations through positive reinforcement, we want to strengthen our sense of belonging as a school community. When students see that their achievements matter, be that academic, personal, social, or creative, it nurtures confidence and fosters a school culture where success is something to be shared and celebrated. This is entirely aligned with our core value of Kindness. To "build others up", as our School Council have defined Kindness, is one of the most powerful habits we can instil in young people, and recognition plays a central role in this. I am proud of the way our students support one another and demonstrate our values daily.

As we continue to embed this approach, I encourage parents and carers to join us in celebrating the small victories as well as the big achievements. This week we have sent out some communication regarding the Arbor app and this is where you can find information about Praise points and Achievement Points, including Golden Tickets. These Golden Tickets are very special and only given to a maximum of one student in each class for extra-ordinary focus, effort or contribution. Keep an eye out for these on the app and celebrate them as they very much must be earned!

As I write we are enjoying our first weekly 'Ballamazing Friday!' This will occur each Friday and provide the opportunity to celebrate achievements, students and successes from the previous week. It also includes fun and collective lunchtime events. A nice way to end the week!

**Graeme Corrin**  
Headteacher

# Looking Ahead



## What's On in: March

### PROM-SHOP

This year we will once again be opening up our Prom-Shop for students in Year 11 who may struggle to find an outfit for this special once-in-a-lifetime event. We have a large number of dresses and accessories donated, but are in need of suits. If you have a suit which you no longer need and would like to donate to the Prom-Shop then Miss Burden, Head of Year 11, would love to hear from you; please contact us via [BHSEnquiries@sch.im](mailto:BHSEnquiries@sch.im) with the subject 'Prom Shop', or drop any donations in to the school reception desk. Further information about Prom Shop will be given directly to Year 11 students in due course, who will be able access the service directly from within school.

### LOVE TECH

Love Tech IOM is hosting a careers-focused panel event featuring NASA astronaut Nicole Stott, alongside Christopher Stott and Christina Korp. Taking place on Friday 6th March, 4:30pm - 6pm, in the Studio Theatre. This inspiring session will explore the wide range of career pathways within the global space industry - including science, engineering, business, communications and leadership roles. Find out more and book [here](#).

### SCHOOL EVENTS

- MON 02** YEAR 7 SPELLING BEE FINAL
- FRI 06** GCSE & SIXTH FORM OPTIONS DEADLINE
- MON 09** SENIOR SCHOOLS PUBLIC SPEAKING  
Held annually by the Rotary Club of Douglas.
- WED 11** PARENT CAFÉ  
6pm - 7.30pm in the Sixth Form Centre.
- THU 12** SPRING CONCERT  
7.30pm in the Studio Theatre. Tickets available [here](#).
- WED 18** JA STUDENT COMPANY OF THE YEAR  
Taking place at the Comis hotel - good luck to our Year 12 teams!
- THU 26** YEAR 12 ACADEMIC TUTORING
- TUE 31** BHSA UNIFORM SWAP-SHOP  
2pm - 4pm in the Seating Area. Swap items, pick up replacements, or drop in unwanted uniform.



### YEAR 7 SPELLING BEE

Congratulations to Dorian, Joseph, Aamiya, Ishaan, Hannah, Emily, Caleb-Bon and Leia, who all progressed to the Year 7 Spelling Bee final!

Well done to all who have taken part so far, and best of luck to our finalists as they prepare for the final round on Monday!

# February Roundup



## HEROES OF MANN

Huge congratulations to Kyra in Year 10, who was awarded the Heroes of Mann 2025 Superstar Award for Courage and Bravery Despite Facing Challenges!

Kyra is an incredibly inspirational individual who faces significant personal challenges with remarkable resilience, determination and positivity. She has undergone multiple life-saving surgeries during her childhood, including airway reconstruction at the age of four, and is currently the only child on the Island living with a tracheotomy. Despite ongoing health challenges and limited specialist care locally, Kyra continues to work exceptionally hard at school and approaches each day with strength and a smile.

This award is thoroughly deserved, and we are immensely proud of Kyra and all that she achieves! See more [here](#).



## ENGINEERING STUDENTS

Well done to Abraham, Isabelle and Daniel in Year 12, who have been successful in their applications to attend an Engineering Residential at St Peter's College, Oxford. Taking place from 11th - 12th April, the residential will give students a taste of life at Oxford, including the opportunity to meet engineering tutors, speak with current undergraduates, and take part in academic tutorials.



Congratulations to Lilee in Year 7, who was awarded Best Junior Female at her very first darts competition, held at the Long Hall. An impressive debut performance that showed confidence and serious potential - well done, Lilee!



## YEAR 8 DROPDOWN

Year 8 have taken part in a Drop Down Day with the theme of "Exploitation". The day began with a drama performance by Kensington Arts, followed by sessions led by Motiv8 Addiction Services, Isle Listen, the Police, the Financial Intelligence Unit, and Kensington Arts. The students thoroughly enjoyed the day and we are extremely grateful for our continued support from the external agencies who allow these days to take place.



## WORKSHOP STUDENTS CREATION

With thanks to the BHSA for funding materials, our wonderful Year 11 workshop students have built twelve cornhole games that will benefit our students who would like to play during lunchtime! Game bags can be collected from the Teacher on duty in exchange for a smartcard.



# February Roundup



## YOUNG SINGER OF MANN COMPETITION

Congratulations to all of our students who took part in the Young Singer of Mann competition. It was wonderful to see so many Ballakermeen students sharing their talent and performing so confidently on stage.



Well done to Alyssandra in Year 8, who achieved second place in the Intermediate category. In the Senior category, Kendra in Year 12 was awarded second place, and Scarlet in Year 12 received a special prize for her performance.

We are incredibly proud of all students who had the courage to take part and put themselves forward! Bravo all.



## Y12 INFO EVENING

We held our Sixth Form information evening on 12th February, welcoming many current BHS Year 11 students and parents, as well as external students interested in our School. Applications to Sixth Form close on 5th March.



## SPACE SCHOOL WINNERS

Congratulations to Year 12 students Dante and Isabelle, winners of this year's prestigious ManSat competition! They've earned the exciting opportunity to attend the NASA United Space School in Houston, Texas this summer!

In partnership with the Department of Education, Sport and Culture, ManSat sponsors scholarships for up to three Year 12 students from the Isle of Man, in an island-wide essay competition.

Congratulations also must go to Year 12 student Holly who placed third, and is currently competing in the worldwide competition to also gain a place.



## IN-SCHOOL CHARITY CHALLENGE WINNERS

Our Year 12 Charity Challenge students took part in the One World Centre in-school final, presenting to a panel of judges about their chosen charities and the work they have undertaken. Since September, each team has been researching their charity, raising awareness, and organising fundraising activities.

Congratulations to our two winning teams (pictured above): Fran, Scarlet, Ciara and Rosa, representing The Coral and Pearl Hostels Trust, and Ameya, Isabelle, Rohan and Gnaan, representing Disability Africa. They will now go on to represent the school at the All Schools Final in March. All participating teams will receive £100 for their charities, in addition to the funds they have already raised.

Well done to all students who took part, and thank you to our judges - Head Governor Gill Skinner, former Headteacher Adrienne Burnett, and friend of the school Sue Breadner - for giving their time to support the event!



# February Roundup



## YEAR 8 NETBALL

The Year 8 netball season has come to an end, and it was great to see the girls develop from game to game.

Their enthusiasm could not be mistaken, and we were able to field three or four teams against every other school each week.

We are very proud of Zac in Year 13, who is currently performing in the ensemble of the Douglas Choral Union's production of 'Guys and Dolls' at the Gaiety Theatre this week!

A talented singer, songwriter and musician, Zac regularly performs in productions across the Island as well as competing successfully at the Guild. During his time at Ballakermeen he has contributed to many of our Christmas Carol Services, school shows and Spring Concerts, as well as supporting productions behind the scenes with technical work in the Studio Theatre.

We are very proud of his continued commitment to the world of performing arts and music in his final year of school. Break a leg to Zac and the rest of the cast and crew, including many Ballakermeen alumni, for their final shows this weekend! Tickets available [here](#).

