

Ballakermeen
High School

2026

March
Monthly
News



Ballakermeen High School
St. Catherine's Drive
Douglas
IM1 4BE

(01624) 648700
bhsenquiries@sch.im

31
Mar

Dear Parent or Carer,

As we move into the final stretch of this busy spring term, I'm delighted to reflect on what has been an uplifting month here at Ballakermeen. In addition to some outstanding performances from the 6th Form in the Junior Achievement Companies Programme and the One World Centre Charity Challenge, March has also given us many reasons to celebrate the hard work, kindness and respectful behaviour that we see in so many of our students every day. Most notably, following our recent Year 10 drop-down day, the visitors to Ballakermeen who were delivering the sessions were at pains to comment on the behaviour, respect and engagement of the Year 10 students. Well done to them! This kind of behaviour shows visitors clearly who we are and what we do here!

A further highlight has been the growing number of Positive Values Awards issued across the school as part of our renewed emphasis on praise and recognition. Staff have been spotting students modelling the very best of the Ballakermeen values - whether through acts of kindness, moments of honesty or simply acting with respect to those around us. These awards capture the spirit of our team beautifully, and I want to congratulate every student who has earned one this month. I hope that many parents have seen the letter that I have personally presented to the many students 'spotted'. The example that these students set, does indeed set the tone for others and demonstrates the culture we are so proud of and continue to grow.

We also celebrate those students who have gone above and beyond in their learning through our Golden Tickets. These are given to students who have been extra-special in class - offering particularly thoughtful contributions, showing impressive confidence in their SHAPE responses, or giving that bit of additional effort that truly stands out. The smiles (and occasional happy disbelief!) when students receive a Golden Ticket remind us how powerful recognition can be. You may also have heard updates from your children about 'Ballamazing Friday'! This half term, we have taken the opportunity every Friday to celebrate achievements and successes, both in and out of school, over the previous week. Recognition and appreciation is given in really positive daily line-ups and at lunchtime we have enjoyed Ballamazing Bingo, Ballamazing Disney Sing-along and most notably, Ballamazing Karaoke! Balla is a happy, vibrant place to work and study and there is a growing attitude of gratitude that we are all part of it!

On a final positive note, this week, every year group is enjoying their own Celebration Assembly, providing an opportunity to recognise the many subject commendations earned throughout the term. These commendations reflect teachers' appreciation for effort and positive engagement across all subjects. It has been wonderful to see so many students applauded by their peers and staff alike. Thank you, as always, for your continued support. I hope you enjoy this month's bumper newsletter.

Graeme Corrin
Headteacher

Looking Ahead



What's On in: April

YEAR 11 LEAVERS

The official Year 11 Leavers day takes place on Friday 24th April, although lessons will continue after this date and students are expected to attend to support their exam preparation. To view extra revision support sessions for each subject, plus further Leavers information, please [view here](#).

DOE NEWSLETTER

The BHS Duke of Edinburgh March 2026 newsletter is out! Containing information all about the Awards evening, expedition information, and reminders about communication. Read more [here](#).



SCHOOL EVENTS

WED 01

YEAR 10 ACADEMIC TUTORING

08 - 17

EASTER HOLIDAYS

MON 20

BACK TO SCHOOL

TUE 21

BHSA MEETING

6pm in the School Library. All are welcome to attend.

FRI 24

YEAR 11 LEAVERS DAY

WED 29

JUNIOR MATHS CHALLENGE

AUTISM IN MANN SCHEME

Please find [here](#) Autism in Mann's Easter Holidays Activity Scheme, designed for young people with learning disabilities and/or autism.

March Roundup



SENIOR MATHS CHALLENGE

Well done to our Sixth Form mathematicians who took part in the Senior Maths Challenge, achieving an impressive set of results with four Gold, eight Silver and ten Bronze awards!

George achieved a Gold award and was named Best in School, while Gnaan and Kenneth each received Gold awards and were recognised as Best in Year. Martin also achieved a Gold award. Silver awards were achieved by Rishi, Isabelle, Abraham, Francine, Daniel, Jacob, Charlotte and Abigail. Bronze awards went to Muneeb, Martin, Daniel, Hollie, Sarah, Amy, Vanesa, Patrick, Ameya and Pawel.

George's outstanding performance also qualified him for the British Mathematical Olympiad, placing him among the top 1,000 students nationally, where he also achieved a Merit certificate. Gnaan, Kenneth and Martin also qualified for the Kangaroo round, and were awarded Gold, Silver and Bronze respectively. Congratulations to all of our students who took part!



Lilee in Year 7 was the first ever Manx Female Youth to enter the Isle of Man Darts Festival, and received a signed dartboard from professional darts player, Deta Hedman.



YEAR 10 DROPDOWN

Year 10 took part in a Drop Down Day focusing on the theme of safety. Thank you to all of our fantastic volunteers from the Police, Fire Service, Isle Listen, Motiv8 Addiction Services - IOM Charity 275, the Isle of Man Constabulary Roads Policing Unit, and St John Ambulance for their time and for helping to prepare our students for future experiences, enabling them to make safe and informed choices. It was an enjoyable and educational day for all.



YEAR 9 FOOTBALL VICTORY

The Year 9 football team capped off an outstanding season by securing the Year 9 Shield with a fantastic performance against SNHS in front of a large crowd at the Bowl. The victory completed an incredible undefeated season, highlighting the team's consistency, determination and quality throughout the year.

The match itself showcased the team at their best, with goals from Corrie, Ollie P, Ryan and Olly D sealing an impressive win. At the other end of the pitch, the defence remained solid, with Rhys and Ben leading the back line superbly and ensuring the team stayed organised under pressure.

It was a brilliant all-round team performance and a fitting way for the Year 9 squad to finish a memorable undefeated season and lift the Year 9 Shield!

March Roundup



CHARITY CHALLENGE

Huge congratulations to our two outstanding teams of Year 12 students, who were crowned winners at the One World Centre Charity Challenge!

Competing against other Island secondary schools, students are challenged to research a chosen charity, raise awareness, organise fundraising activities, and deliver a multimedia presentation to a panel of judges, showcasing both their cause and the work they have undertaken.

Ameya, Isabelle, Rohan and Gnaan were named overall winners, securing £1,500 for their charity, Disability Africa. Fran, Scarlet, Ciara and Rosa were also recognised with the Advocacy Award, earning £1,500 for The Coral and Pearl Hostels Trust. An amazing achievement for two truly deserving causes!



GERMANY TRIP

Well done to Leon and Abigail in Year 11 who applied (through PASCH and the Goethe Institut) to win a free 3-week trip to Germany in the summer! They were chosen due to their impressive motivational letters.



SENIOR GIRLS NETBALL

The Senior Girls Netball team had a tough season, working hard to balance their studies and other commitments. This meant that we often had a different line-up each week, making it difficult for the girls to settle into any kind of rhythm. However, there was a great amount of resilience shown each week and every member of the team competed with a great sense of sportsmanship. They should all be very proud of their achievements this season!



UKMT INTERMEDIATE MATHS CHALLENGE

On Wednesday 28th January, over 30 students from Year 9 and 10 took part in the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge, along with students across the UK. This challenge tested their problem solving skills.

Jiayue received a Gold certificate, Best in School and Year 10. Ian received a Silver certificate and Best in Year 9. Anesu, Timothy, Aedan and Moamen also received Silver certificates. Ellyn, Ignacy, Jerry, Stella, Christopher, Rayner, Jajuan and Sirin were all awarded Bronze certificates. Great work all!



YOUNG ACTOR OF MANN 2026

Congratulations to Maddie in Year 12, who was named joint Young Actor of Mann 2026, alongside former student Emma-Louise! Well done also to all of our students who took part and delivered such strong performances. We are very proud of you all!



March Roundup



DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARDS

The Duke of Edinburgh Awards ceremony for Bronze and Silver took place at the Gaiety Theatre. Awards were presented by the Minister for the Department of Education, Sport and Culture and by Lieutenant Governor Sir John Lorimer. It was another record year for Bronze Awards, and we are extremely proud of all the students who achieved their awards. Jeant shiu dy mie - well done!

PREFECTS

During House assemblies, we said goodbye to our wonderful Year 11 Prefects and presented them with certificates to thank them for all their hard work this academic year.



YEAR 9 NETBALL

The Year 9 netball season ended on a high, with the first team winning a closely contested final against Castle Rushen on Friday, 22-18. The final, held at The Roundhouse, was played in front of a packed crowd, and both teams entertained their supporters with fast, positive play. Balla started slowly and trailed 3-6 after the first quarter. However, after a positive team talk, they settled into the rhythm they have shown throughout the season and began to claw back the lead that Castle Rushen were determined to maintain. A few tactical positional switches allowed Balla to finish strongly and hold on for a four-goal victory, 22-18. Dzhuliana was awarded Player of the Match by both umpires. Throughout the season, more than 30 girls have trained and represented the school in netball, all showing commitment and demonstrating our school values each week. Well done all!



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

A group of our Year 12 students marked International Women's Day by attending a special debate on the issues they face as young women. Joining students from the other Island schools, Holly, Maja, Emilia, Phoebe, and Eleanor, put forward a motion on the legal protections and accountability measures to address gender-based violence, and also contributed to debates on the gender pay gap, playing an important role part in a wide-ranging and detailed discussion. The students spoke with conviction and confidence, and were supported by Ann Corlett MHK, who chaired the debate, and Daphne Caine MHK. The event was a powerful showcase of our young women's capability, insight, and commitment to engaging with important social issues.



March Roundup



JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT

Well done to all of our Year 12 Junior Achievement teams on their success at this year's Student Company of the Year competition.

Valoris, made up of Amalia, Rio, Daisy, Isabelle, Johan and Joe, achieved an outstanding third place overall. Their innovative product, PureSip, is a flavourless dual-purpose drinking straw with built-in testing strips to indicate the possible presence of drugs. The team were also recognised with the Utmost International Future Ready Award, and the Continent 8 Technologies Award for Brand Excellence.



Tron, consisting of Abraham, Daniel, Martin, Muneeb and Dante, were awarded the Zurich Digital Innovation Award for their product SensoGrow, an all-in-one app designed to monitor temperature, pH balance and moisture levels for indoor plants.

Abraham from Tron and Daisy from Valoris were also among the five recipients of the Lloyds Bank International Team Player Award, recognising their outstanding teamwork, collaboration and positive approach. Well done to all of our students involved for their hard work, commitment and impressive dedication throughout the competition!



SPRING CONCERT

Our 2026 Spring Concert took place on Thursday 12th March and was a wonderful evening of music and song! Special thanks to our amazing accompanist: Dannii Bridson, various colleagues who contributed to the night's success, and most importantly our fabulously talented students.



YEAR 7 SPELLING BEE

After 5 gruelling weeks of competing, Emily was crowned the winner of the Year 7 Spelling Bee, spelling all of her allocated words correctly, including floccinaucinihilipilification! Congratulations also go to Caleb-Bon, Leia, Aamiya, Dorian and Ishaan for being amazing runners-up. Well done to all students who participated and to those who came to cheer on their peers.

YEAR 7 NETBALL

The Year 7 netball season ended with a festival for one team only against all of the other schools. Special mention to Jasmine and Ciera who were named joint Players of the Festival for Ballakermeen, and a shout-out to all of the girls that have represented Ballakermeen throughout the rest of the season, when we regularly had 3 teams. The progress that all of the girls have shown has been fantastic and they have represented Ballakermeen with pride, being great ambassadors of the School's values.



MADF YOUTH PLAYS

Several of our students took part in the Youth Plays section of the MADF Festival of One Act Plays. Grace (Year 8) appeared in Elite Theatre Arts' 'Lockdown'; Maddie, Florrie, Phoebe and Bella (Year 12), performed in 'In Juliet's Garden'. Congratulations to all involved. We are very proud of our students for their contributions to the festival and the arts!



March Roundup



JA TEAM PLAYERS

Year 12 students Abraham, Daisy, Oscar and Sam, were invited to Government House as winners and nominees of the Junior Achievement Lloyds Bank International Team Player Award, attending a special celebratory breakfast with Sir John Lorimer. Each of these students had been nominated by their mentors for going above and beyond during the programme, consistently supporting their teammates, stepping up when it mattered and demonstrating outstanding teamwork. The event provided a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the commitment, teamwork and leadership shown throughout the JA Company Programme.



HADESTOWN PERFORMERS

Several of our talented students performed in The Platform Theatre School's production of HADESTOWN: Teen Edition at the Studio Theatre. Lucinda in Year 13 took on the role of Hermes, Rosie in Year 12 played Orpheus, and Samantha in Year 10 played Hades. Seren in Year 10 and Scarlet in Year 12 performed as two of the Fates, while the chorus included Allyssandra in Year 8, Izzy in Year 7 and Lucy in Year 9. Well done to all involved on a fabulous show! Photo credit: Hayley Brophy



YEAR 8 BOYS HOCKEY

Well done to the Year 8 boys who took part in a hockey tournament towards the end of the month. Competing against other Island schools, the team remained undefeated across all matches, showcasing some excellent hockey throughout. Captain Sam had an outstanding tournament, scoring multiple goals and earning the Umpires' Player of the Tournament award. Marcus also delivered a brilliant performance, and was deservedly named Coaches' Player of the Tournament. An incredible team effort, Year 8 hockey champions!



YEAR 8 FOOTBALL

The Year 8 football team competed in a closely contested final against St Ninians, delivering a strong and determined performance throughout. Despite going two goals down, the team showed great resilience to fight back and level the score at 2-2, with Bobbie scoring both goals. Unfortunately, St Ninians secured a late winner in the final moments of the game. There were impressive performances across the team, with Player of the Match was shared between Bobbie and Buddie. The team demonstrated excellent commitment, teamwork and sportsmanship throughout, representing the school with great pride.



HANDBALL

Well done to the U15 Boys' and Girls' Handball teams who competed in a round robin tournament at Bemahague. For some players, this was their first experience of competitive fixtures, but they held their own and produced some very good performances along the way. The improvement shown from one match to the next was fantastic to watch, and they should all be proud of their efforts! (Pictured: girls team)