

April  
Monthly  
News



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## Dear Parent or Carer,

As we reach the end of the spring term and reflect on another short but busy and rewarding month at Ballakermeen, we are delighted to share with you just some of the achievements, events and opportunities that have taken place across our school community during April.

This month has highlighted, once again, the enthusiasm, talent and generosity of our students. You will see in this newsletter the work of our Year 10 Global Perspectives students, whose organisation of the Soak the Teacher fundraising event not only brought plenty of laughter but, more importantly, raised vital funds for Victim Support. Their teamwork, leadership and sense of social responsibility are exactly the qualities we seek to nurture in our young people. We have also enjoyed celebrating success across a wide range of areas, including sport, music and academic enrichment. Outstanding performances at the Manx Music Festival, success in interschool badminton, and the fantastic achievement of our students securing places on highly competitive programmes such as NASA's United Space School all reflect the breadth of opportunity available at Ballakermeen and the dedication of both students and staff. April also gave us the opportunity to welcome visitors into school, including Sarah Maltby MHK, whose visit provided valuable real world insight for our Global Perspectives students. Experiences such as these enrich learning beyond the classroom and help our students develop a deeper understanding of their role within the Island community. We had mixed emotions as we celebrated Year 11 in their 'leavers' assembly. We will be sad to see them leave us but seeing them all together brought home what a sociable cohort they are but also how the vast majority have developed a strong and serious work ethic. This will no doubt stand them in good stead in their upcoming exams. We wish them all the best!

We have continued to celebrate weekly achievements during Ballamazing Friday's as well as celebrating 'Golden Tickets' and recognising strong values via our Ballakermeen Values Awards. Well done to all students who have been recognised and to all students whose behaviour and attitudes make Ballakermeen an even better place to work and study.

Finally, I would like to thank parents and carers for your continued support, and staff for their unwavering commitment to our students. Together, we continue to create a school environment that enables young people to thrive and succeed.

I hope you enjoy reading this month's newsletter and a window into life at Ballakermeen.

**Graeme Corrin**  
Headteacher

# Looking Ahead



## What's On in: May

### SCHOOL EVENTS

- MON 04**    **BANK HOLIDAY**
- TUE 19**    **BHSA UNIFORM SWAP-SHOP**  
In the seating area between 2pm to 4pm.
- THU 21**    **MAUGHOLD LED NON-UNIFORM DAY**  
Raising money for Maughold's House charity: Macmillan Cancer Support.
- FRI 22**    **INSERVICE DAY**
- MON 26**    **BANK HOLIDAY**
- 26 MAY - 6 JUN**    **BANK HOLIDAY**

## NEW HOUSE COMPETITIONS

In English, the Carnegie 2026 Book Club will take place every Friday, both lunchtimes, in L4. This is a great opportunity for students who enjoy reading to share their views and take part in voting for this year's Carnegie Medal winner. If you would like to join, please speak to your tutor or contact Miss Stimpson.

In Geography, students are invited to take part in a Rainforests competition. Entries can take the form of a 3D poster, a shoebox model, or a descriptive essay exploring the four layers of the rainforest, including key features such as plant adaptations. The deadline for submissions is 8th June. Students should speak to their Geography teacher if they require further details.

Coming soon: Mario Kart Tournament for Years 7 - 10 (sign-up available through tutors).

## MANX MUSIC FESTIVAL

Good luck to all students competing in the remainder of the Manx Music Festival this weekend. We've enjoyed hearing about the many successes so far and look forward to sharing them in the next newsletter! Please do get in touch via the [School's Facebook page](#) if you have any achievements you would like to share.

# April Roundup



## SOAK THE TEACHER FUNDRAISING SUCCESS

Our Year 10 Global Perspectives group organised a fantastic "Soak the Teacher" event to raise money for Victim Support, and what a splash it made! Students had the chance to donate and take their best shot at soaking some very brave teachers, all in the name of a great cause. We are incredibly proud of our Year 10 students for their hard work in planning and running this event, as well as everyone who took part or donated. Your support will help make a real difference to those in need. Well done to everyone involved!



Just before the Easter holidays, we said a fond farewell to our librarian, Ros, as she begins her retirement after many years at Ballakermeen. Ros has been at the heart of our school community for a long time, leaving a lasting impact on both students and staff, and we wish her all the very best for a happy and well-deserved retirement. She will be greatly missed.



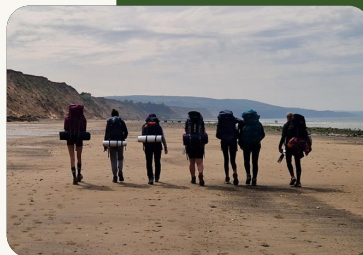
## GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES SPEAKER

We were delighted to welcome Sarah Maltby MHK into school to speak with our Global Perspectives students about local issues and the role of government on the Isle of Man. During her visit, students had the opportunity to ask questions, share their views, and gain valuable insight into how decisions are made within our community. This experience provided an excellent example of primary research in action, supporting their Team Project as part of their GCSE studies. A big thank you to Sarah for taking the time to engage with our students and inspire their learning.



## GIRLS BADMINTON

The Girls Interschool Badminton tournament for Juniors and Seniors was held on Tuesday 21st April at Bemahague. Ballakermeen Senior team were represented by Molly, Kelly, Laura, and Ameya. The Junior team were represented by Sophie, Lara, Abigail and Aamiya. Both teams were successful in securing the titles - the seniors winning all 16 games and the juniors 15 games! The girls thoroughly enjoyed the experience and are looking forward to defending their titles next year. Thank you to Bemahague for hosting and Mrs Miller for organising.



## DOE PRACTICE

23 of our Silver Duke of Edinburgh award participants completed their practice expedition over one sunny weekend in April, in the best possible weather! They took a challenging route through the hills, involving crossing bogs, big climbs and rocky, challenging descents.

What an amazing group of young people to spend a weekend with! Jeant dy mie!

# April Roundup



## HEAD STUDENTS BREAKFAST

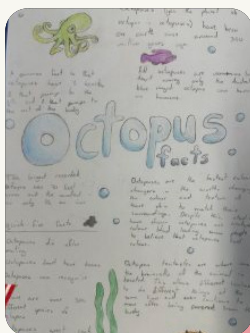
Head Boy Guy and Head Girl Stella attended a breakfast at Government House alongside Head Students from the Isle of Man's secondary schools, King William's College and UCM, as well as two nominated student nurses and two Tynwald interns. The event provided a valuable opportunity for these young people to meet one another and learn more about the role of the Lieutenant Governor.



## SPACE SCHOOL

A huge congratulations to Year 12 student Holly, who secured a place at the prestigious NASA United Space School in Houston, Texas this summer, following a highly competitive international selection process. After initially placing third in the Island's ManSat competition, Holly went on to take part in a further global selection stage, successfully earning her place on this elite programme!

Holly will now join fellow Year 12 students Dante and Isabelle, who also secured places through the ManSat competition earlier this year. Together, they will travel to Houston in July, where they will work alongside 50 other students from across the world, collaborating with industry experts on real-world space projects!



## POSTER COMPETITION

A massive thank you to Patrick House's charity, the ManxSPCA, for agreeing to judge our House animal poster design competition. They were very impressed with the effort pupils had put into creating their designs. 1st place: Lara (Hillary) 2nd place: Zoe (Maughold) 3rd place: Zandi (Langness). House points have been allocated and well done to everyone who got involved!



Congratulations to the Xenakis Singers who won the closely fought Concert Class at the Guild last Saturday!