

Ballakermeen  
High School

2026

May  
Monthly  
News



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

(01624) 648700  
bhsenquiries@sch.im

21  
May

## Dear Parent or Carer,

As we enter the TT holiday period, it is a pleasure to share with you just some of the highlights from May at Ballakermeen High School. This edition reflects the breadth of opportunity available to our students and the pride we take in their achievements across academic, creative and extracurricular pursuits.

This month has once again seen a wide range of enriching experiences. Our Year 10 historians benefitted from an inspiring trip to Leeds and Manchester, bringing their studies vividly to life, while our Duke of Edinburgh participants at both Bronze and Silver level demonstrated resilience, teamwork and good humour in challenging outdoor conditions. We have also celebrated success in music and performance, from the Manx Music Festival to outstanding individual achievements such as Llangollen International Eisteddfod selection and examination success in Musical Theatre.

Student leadership and innovation continue to shine, particularly through our Year 12 Junior Achievement teams, who have been recognised at a European level for their creativity and entrepreneurial thinking. Alongside this, events such as the Global Perspectives charity fundraiser highlight our students' commitment to making a positive impact in the wider community.

I am also pleased to announce that alongside our recently appointed Student Governor Katie Jones, we have now appointed our Senior Prefect team from a very strong group of applicants. Our Head Prefects will be Ameya Malikireddy and Abraham Olayiwola whilst their deputies will be Scarlet Brophy, Libby Moore and Isaac Potts. We look forward to seeing the impact of the senior team, and all our outstanding prefects, as role models and advocates for the rest of the student body.

I would also like to commend the many students who have represented the school in sport, mathematics and the arts, achieving success at both local and national levels, and demonstrating the all-round excellence we value so highly.

Finally, I want to recognise the outstanding attitude shown by our Year 11, 12 and 13 students as they approach and undertake their examinations. Their maturity, focus and determination have been exemplary, and they have engaged with this demanding period in a calm and positive manner. We wish them all the very best in their remaining exams. Thank you, as always, for your continued support and I wish you and our students a safe and enjoyable TT.

**Graeme Corrin**  
Headteacher

# Looking Ahead



## What's On in: June

### ENRICHMENT WEEK RETURNS

Enrichment Week is taking place from Monday 20th July to Wednesday 22nd July, the first time since 2019!

The aim of Enrichment Week is to offer students the opportunity to take part in various activities across the island and in school, along with creating new friendships and experiences.

There are lots of activities to choose from over the 3 days. Some activities will be offered free of charge while others may include a cost.

Find out more on our website [here](#).

Please read through the above booklet carefully before making choices. Activities will be offered on a 'first come, first served' basis.

Activity places will be confirmed after TT Week.



### SCHOOL EVENTS

**MON 08**

**BACK TO SCHOOL**

**TUE 09**

**YEAR 10 UCM TASTER**

**15 - 19**

**YEAR 7 GEOGRAPHY FIELDTRIPS**

**WED 17**

**YEAR 9 CHALLENGE FOR CHANGE DAY**

**18 - 19**

**HIGHER EDUCATION FAIR**

Fair opens to the public Thursday evening 6.30 - 9pm.  
Island schools visit the fair on Friday.

**22 - 29**

**YEAR 10/12 MOCK EXAMS**

**TUE 30**

**YEAR 10 GEOGRAPHY TRIP**

### XENAKIS SINGERS

Xenakis singers will restart on Tuesday 9th June during breaktime in M6. Rehearsals take place weekly, with a new piece each week to see what the group enjoy. New members are very welcome, including current Year 7 students!

# May Roundup



## YEAR 10 HISTORY TRIP

Towards the beginning of the month, our Year 10 History students travelled to Leeds Thackray Museum of Medicine and the Manchester Imperial War Museum. The students had a great time learning about the History of Medicine ahead of their GCSE exams. The Imperial War museum was an added bonus where they saw tanks, and other objects from WW1, WW2 and the Cold War era. However, the most thought provoking piece had to be the twisted metal from the Twin Towers.



## BRONZE DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

From first aid to mastering the art of cooking Pot Noodles, our Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award students did it all last week! Two groups of over 40 students took on two days of unpredictable weather to complete their training. After practicing skills at St Johns Arboretum, they put their navigation to the test on a practice expedition out to Port Soderick. Proud is an understatement! Massive thanks to Heroes on the Water for letting us use their facilities.



## SUCCESS AT MANX MUSIC FESTIVAL

Congratulations to all of our students who took part in the Manx Music Festival between 25th April - 2nd May.

We loved hearing about all your many successes!



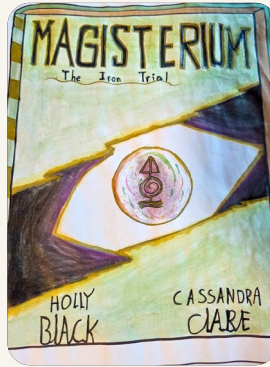
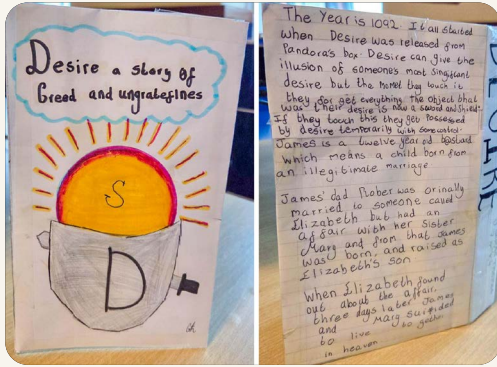
## SWIMMING CHAMPION

Charlie in Year 8 delivered an outstanding weekend of swimming at the Derby Excel Last Chance National Qualifier, producing a series of fantastic performances against a very strong field of competitors! Competing across multiple events, Charlie achieved several impressive Personal Bests, and represented his club brilliantly, showing determination and confidence across the weekend's racing. Huge well done Charlie, outstanding achievements!



Well done to Florrie and Holly in Year 12, who performed in The Manx Operatic Society's production of Legally Blonde last week! It was a fabulously fun show, and we are incredibly proud of both students for their performances. It was also wonderful to see so many talented Ballakermeen alumni involved in the production too.

# May Roundup



## DESIGN A BOOK COVER WINNERS

Congratulations to the winners of our House Design a Book Cover competition! Students were invited to create their own original book cover, and we were really impressed by the creativity and effort shown in all of the entries. George in Year 7 (Maughold House) took first place with an outstanding 3D book cover, complete with a blurb! Emily in Year 7 (Hillary House) was awarded second place, and Jacob in Year 8 (Patrick House) came third. Well done to all who entered!

Huge congratulations to Ciaran in Year 12, who achieved a Merit in his Grade 7 Musical Theatre singing exam. A fantastic achievement, well done Ciaran!



## SINGING SUCCESS

Huge Congratulations to Year 12 student Breasha on being accepted to compete in the 'Young Classical Voice of the Future' and the 'Young Voice of Musical Theatre' categories at the 2026 Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod in July! Wishing you the best of luck!



## YEAR 12 JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT

Two of our Year 12 JA Company Programme teams were nominated and shortlisted for prestigious Gen\_E European awards, with the chance to progress even further if successful. Tron were shortlisted for the Johnson & Johnson Brilliant STEM Innovation Award with their product SensoGrow - an all-in-one app designed to monitor the precise temperature, pH balance and moisture levels for indoor plants. Valoris were shortlisted for the Entrepreneurial Journey of Growth Award, sponsored by the Euroclear Foundation with their product PureSip - a flavourless dual-purpose drinking straw featuring built-in testing strips that indicate the possible presence of drugs. Both teams took part in online award interviews yesterday and we wish them the best of luck for the result! We're incredibly proud of both teams for representing the Island with such innovative ideas and entrepreneurial spirit.



## SILVER DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

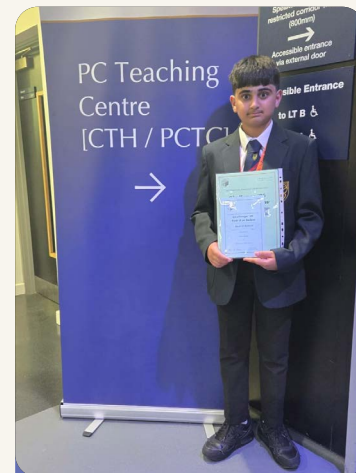
Great teamwork, frankly odd gymnastics and some serious "haute" camp cuisine! Our second Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award practice expedition weekend saw participants spend two nights and two days practicing the skills that they learned in Bronze and levelling up to some seriously tough walking conditions. A massive well done to all who took part!

# May Roundup



## YEAR 10 GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES

Our Year 10 Global Perspectives students were proud to present a cheque to Lorna from Victim Support, following their hugely successful "Soak the Teacher" event before the Easter holidays! A fantastic effort by everyone involved, raising money for an important local cause while having plenty of fun along the way. Well done to our Year 10 Global Perspectives group!



## YEAR 8 MATHMETICIAN

Congratulations to Ahmed in Year 8, who achieved a Certificate of Merit in the Liverpool University Maths Challenge for students in Year 8 and below. The challenge was held across schools throughout the UK, with more than 1,100 students from 165 schools taking part. Of those participants, only 65 students qualified for an award, making this an outstanding achievement. Well done Ahmed!



### DETACHED YOUTH TEAM TT 2026

For those that don't already know us from schools and the community, you will recognise us from the Youth logo on our clothing

**Support for young people**

Our team will be out in the evenings over the TT fortnight in Douglas centre, promenade and Grandstand / Nobles Park areas

**Keeping young people safe**

Come and say hello.

We are there should you need us.

Detached Youth Workers - who are we? .....

We are the Youth Workers you will see out and about - here to chat, support and help without any judgement



[youth.sch.im](http://youth.sch.im)

Family Action, registered as a Charity in England & Wales no. 264712  
Registered as a Charity in the Republic of Ireland no. 1031. All services Company Limited by Guarantee in England and Wales no. 30348196

## STREETWISE

A safe space during the TT event

- 6pm - 12am, every night
- on Douglas Promenade

Back again, the Streetwise team will be on Douglas Promenade during this year's TT event to offer support, advice or a break from the crowds for any young person who may need it.

The team will also be out and about. You'll recognise us by our orange high vis jackets featuring 'Streetwise' on the back.

Save the STREETWISE number in case you're feeling unsure, overwhelmed or don't know where to turn.

Call or text  
**07624 404512**

Note: this number is for use only during the TT event. If you need support any other time, please contact 01624 611666.

**29th May to 7th June**