

Ballakermeen
High School

2026

July Monthly News



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23
July

Dear Parent or Carer,

As we reach the end of another successful academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our students, families, staff and wider community for their continued support, encouragement and commitment to Ballakermeen High School. The summer newsletter provides a wonderful snapshot of just some of the many achievements, experiences and opportunities that have taken place over recent weeks, and I hope you enjoy reading about them.

This term has been particularly busy, with students taking part in an extraordinary range of activities both in and beyond the classroom. From university visits and international exchange programmes to sporting events, competitions, performances and enrichment activities, our young people have demonstrated the enthusiasm, resilience and ambition that make Ballakermeen such a special place. Their willingness to embrace opportunities, challenge themselves and support one another continues to make us immensely proud.

Academic success remains at the heart of what we do, but we are equally proud of the personal growth, creativity and character shown by our students throughout the year. Whether representing the school in competitions, contributing to the local community, performing on stage, taking part in educational visits, or simply working hard every day in lessons, our students have embodied our values and have been excellent ambassadors for the school.

I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to our dedicated staff, whose hard work and commitment make these opportunities possible particularly noticeable during the relaunched Enrichment Week. Their passion for education and genuine care for our students ensure that Ballakermeen continues to provide a rich and rewarding experience for every student in our care. My thanks also go to parents and carers for the vital role you play in supporting your children's education and working in partnership with the school.

For many students, the summer break is an opportunity to rest, recharge and spend valuable time with family and friends. For those receiving examination results in August, I wish you every success and look forward to celebrating your achievements. Remember that your results represent only one part of your journey, and there will always be staff available to offer guidance and support.

On behalf of everyone at Ballakermeen High School, I wish you a safe, happy and relaxing summer holiday. We look forward to welcoming students back in September for another exciting year of learning, achievement and opportunity.

Graeme Corrin
Headteacher

Looking Ahead



What's On in: AUG/SEPT



SCHOOL EVENTS

THU 18

A-LEVEL RESULTS DAY

THU 20

GCSE RESULTS DAY

THU 08

SCHOOL STARTS

*Have a great
Summer!*

BHSA UNIFORM SWAP-SHOP

A huge thank you to our parent volunteers who have ran the Swap Shop this year. Their dedication and hard-work has ensured the service runs smoothly and provides invaluable support to our school community.

Additional drop-in sessions will be held during the summer holidays. Dates are currently being finalised and will be shared with parents and carers via the [school Facebook page](#) once confirmed.

As the service relies entirely on donations, we kindly ask that everyone only takes what they need so that as many families as possible can benefit.

As always, if uniform is needed outside of these drop-in sessions, please email bhsswapshop@gmail.com. Several members of the volunteer team monitor the inbox and will be happy to help. Please feel free to pass this email address on to parents and carers who may benefit from the service.

For more information about the Uniform Swap-Shop please visit our website [here](#).

SUMMER HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

There are plenty of activities taking place across the Island over the summer holidays to keep children and young people entertained!

The Department of Education, Sport and Culture has put together a wide range of opportunities to suit different ages and interests, including sports, creative arts, outdoor adventures and specialist provision.

Highlights include:

- [Manx Sport & Recreation](#): Daily multi-sport activity days at the National Sports Centre, as well as venues in Castletown, Peel and Ramsey. Prices from £20.05 per day, with 10% off a full week.
- [Kensington Arts](#): Three weeks of creative workshops in digital media, visual art and performance throughout August.
- Youth Clubs and the Outdoor Learning Centre: Activities including paddle sports, bushcraft, mountain biking, trips, gaming and much more.
- DESC Holiday Activity Scheme and Teenage Activity Group: A specialist programme delivered in partnership with Autism in Mann for autistic young people and those with social communication needs or learning disabilities.

For further information, activity dates and booking details, please visit the relevant providers' websites, or the Department of Education, Sport and Culture's summer activities page.

July Roundup



OXFORD TRIP

Some of our Year 12 students visited St Peter's College, Oxford, for their summer Open Day. Over the past 6 years, Ballakermeen have sent a total 19 students to Oxford or Cambridge university. Our hosts kindly gave us free accommodation and two lovely breakfasts whilst students were able to visit all 32 colleges that offer courses to undergraduates. Despite warm conditions, most students managed to walk around 25,000 steps a day and attended subject specific lectures, personal statement sessions and college tours.



JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT 'JUST THE JOB'

It was a pleasure to welcome Junior Achievement back to Ballakermeen last week for the delivery of their Get a Job programme with our Year 10 students. Throughout the morning, students developed a range of valuable employability skills, including writing CVs, searching and applying for jobs, preparing for interviews and making a positive first impression. They also had the opportunity to create their own CV using the Justthejob.im CV Builder, providing them with a great foundation for future applications.



BALLA'S GOT TALENT

Later today will see the final of Balla's Got Talent taking place in the Studio Theatre, with our talented finalists taking to the stage to perform in front of an audience of their peers plus esteemed judges (Photos are of some finalists from their tech rehearsals). Best of luck to everyone competing later today!



DT LONDON TRIP

Year 10 and Year 12 Design & Technology students enjoyed a trip to London, where they attended the New Designers Awards 2026 - the UK's premier graduate design exhibition. The visit also included time exploring some of London's fantastic museums. It was a fantastic opportunity to experience the creative industries firsthand and see where Design & Technology can lead! [Click here](#) to watch video.



Students from Ballakermeen's Chinese exchange partner, No. 1 High School, Liuyang, visited the Isle of Man between 27th June - 5th July. Whilst here they enjoyed staying with our Mandarin students' families, and joining in on cultural visits to different parts of the Island, including the Laxey Wheel, and in school lessons. Both sets of students and teachers attended a reception at Douglas City Council. This was the first leg of our annual exchange agreement. Students who study Mandarin in Years 9, 10 and 12 will be visiting China in October!

July Roundup



YEAR 9 HISTORY PROJECT

Year 9 students put their historical research skills into practice by investigating the impact of the First World War on the Isle of Man. Students presented their findings in a variety of creative ways, including PowerPoint presentations, posters and booklets, with an impressively high standard of work produced throughout the year group. The top projects were invited to a special reception, where Dana was awarded first place, Anna second place and Dylan third place. Congratulations to all three students on their excellent work! The winning projects will now be displayed in the main corridor for everyone to enjoy. A huge thank you to Sarah Maltby Douglas South MHK and Anthea Young from Manx National Heritage for giving their time to judge the competition.



YEAR 7 MATHS OLYMPIAD

Last month, 10 of our talented Year 7 mathematicians travelled to King William's College to take part in the Year 7 All-Island Maths Olympiad, joining pupils from the other five secondary schools across the Isle of Man for a morning of teamwork, problem-solving and mathematical challenges. The event brought together 60 Year 7 pupils, who were placed into mixed-school teams, with one student from each secondary school in every team. This gave students the opportunity to collaborate with pupils they had never met before while tackling a range of exciting mathematical challenges.

A special congratulations to Douglas, whose team were crowned overall winners, and to William, whose team finished as runners-up - fantastic achievements for both students and their teams!



YEAR 12 JUNIOR TYNWALD

Some of our Year 12 students took part in this year's sitting of Junior Tynwald. Each year, students from the Island's secondary schools take on the role of Members of Tynwald, putting questions to Government Departments and debating motions on issues that matter to them, giving them a chance to experience the Island's parliamentary process. Well done to our students for their thoughtful contributions, preparation and enthusiasm!



CHESS TOURNAMENT

Following an exciting day of competition, Timothy, in Year 10, was crowned this year's 2026 Chess Champion, receiving a beautiful £130 mahogany chess board as well as having his name engraved on the prestigious BHS Legacy Shield. Second place went to Ethan C in Year 8, while Ethan G and Aditya, also in Year 8, were our joint semi-finalists. Well done to all 100+ students from Years 7 - 10 who took part. From the morning league matches through to the afternoon knockout rounds, the standard of play, strategic thinking and sportsmanship on display was outstanding. A huge thank you to Mr Klimach for organising another fantastic tournament, and to the BHSA for generously supporting this year's prizes.

July Roundup



YEAR 12 SPORTS / FUN DAY

On the afternoon of Friday 17th July, our Year 12 students headed outside to enjoy some sunshine and a Sports/Fun Day to celebrate the end of term. Tutor groups competed in a range of fun events, including a dodgeball tournament, three-legged races, sprint races and the classic egg and spoon race, whilst staff also got involved with a teachers' race. Congratulations to Miss Karran's tutor group who were crowned Dodgeball Champions, and to Mrs Wells' and Mrs Brooks' tutor group, who claimed the overall Sports Day title after accumulating the most points across all of the events. A huge well done to our Sixth Form Prefects Libby, Katie and Emilia, who did a fantastic job organising the afternoon, to Kayleigh-Dee for providing brilliant commentary throughout the event, and to everyone else who helped make the afternoon such a success. We wish all of our Year 12 students a wonderful summer and look forward to welcoming them back in September as our new Year 13 cohort.

UNIVERSITY TRIP

Our Year 12 University Trip saw 62 students visiting 20 universities across England and experiencing a variety of campus styles, including city, parkland and collegiate settings. From the bustling city campuses of Manchester, Huddersfield, Sheffield and Leeds to the quieter, green surroundings of York, Nottingham, Lancaster and Keele, students gained valuable insight into the wide range of higher education options available to them. For those with an interest in sport, visits to the impressive facilities at Loughborough, Leeds Beckett and Edge Hill provided even more inspiration and variety throughout the trip.



JA CHALLENGE FOR CHANGE

Congratulations to Y9 students Dana, Anna-Maria, Lewis, and Victor of Team 'Low Expectations' who placed first in Junior Achievement's Challenge for Change Interschool Finals, with their winning idea, Scan Chef - an app designed to help families and university students reduce food waste!



UKMT JUNIOR MATHS CHALLENGE

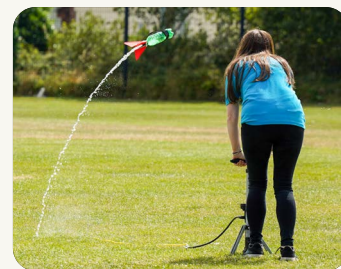
Back in April, over 30 students from Year 7 and 8 took part in the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge, along with students across the UK. This challenge tested their problem solving skills. William received a Silver certificate, Best in School and Year 7. Oliver received a Silver certificate and Best in Year 8. Ethan also received a Silver certificate. Leo, Cian, Ethan, George, Ahmed and Aditya were all awarded Bronze certificates. Great work all!

July Roundup



SCHOOL SHOW REHEARSALS

Rehearsals are well underway for this year's school production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*! All of the cast are making fantastic progress on this much-loved Andrew Lloyd Webber classic. Even at this early stage, there are already so many standout performances, both from individual cast members and in company numbers. 'Joseph' has been a favourite with audiences for decades, and it's impossible to sit through rehearsals without smiling! If this is where the show is already, we can't wait to see where it will be by show time. Tickets will go on sale sometime next term... More photos available on our [Facebook page](#).



RETURN OF ENRICHMENT WEEK

The final week of term saw the return of Enrichment week for Years 7 - 10, the first time since 2019!

Over three days, students were able to choose from more than 40 different activities, with opportunities to learn new skills, try something different and form friendships. Activities ranged from overseas trips to Liverpool and Barcelona, to on-Island experiences such as Laser Mayhem, Curragh's Wildlife Park, bowling, and trips on the Steam Train. Back at school, students also enjoyed a wide variety of activities including army cadets, science experiments, pottery painting, cookery, sport, board games, arts and crafts, and many more.

We hope all of our students had a fantastic week and enjoyed making the most of the wide range of opportunities on offer. A huge thank you to Kristen in the school office, as well as all the staff, volunteers and external providers who made the week possible. More photos [available here](#).

