

# Ballakermeen High School Newsletter, July 2019



Dear Parent/Carer,

As another successful year draws to a close, I would like to thank you for working in partnership with us. Our students make us proud on a daily basis and although it would be almost impossible to list their many achievements, particular highlights include Gravity, the Year 12 Junior Achievement Group, who represented the Island in Lille, France, at the European competition and the Memorial Walk (it's not often you take 1200 students for a walk!) In recent days, the House Sports afternoons, the Sports Award Evening, the Year 7 Poetry Slam and the Year 10 'Drop Down' days have shown our students to be enthusiastic, extremely talented, bright, receptive and creative. Of course, we must also make special note of students, present and former, who dazzled us with their accomplishments at the Island Games.

## **The Final Week of Term**

Students in Years 7 – 9 are taking part in 'Enrichment Week' activities from Monday to Thursday. They are allowed to wear their own clothes and to save you having to prepare uniform for one day, the same applies on the last day of term. Year 10 and many Year 12 students will be participating in work experience. This will be an inspiring and motivating experience for them and I would like to thank the employment sector for the help and support in offering so many great opportunities.

Last year, we made strenuous efforts to improve school uniform and there was a marked improvement - thank you! If you are purchasing uniform over the summer, it would be very helpful if you refreshed your memory about our uniform requirements. Full details are available on our website [www.ballakermeen.com](http://www.ballakermeen.com) (Click on 'Information' and the 'Uniform' tab can be found at the bottom).

## **Examination Results**

There are three examination results days in the summer:

A Level Results            Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> August

GCSE Results              Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> August

Students receiving CAIE results have been given a login and their results will be available on-line from 6.01 am on each respective results day. Staff will be on hand to offer advice to students, prioritising Years 13 and 11.

## **Farewell**

Each year, much loved colleagues move on to new adventures and I wish all our leavers every success and thank them for their contribution. No matter their length of service, their contribution has been valuable. On this occasion, I would like to mention Mr Thomson and Mr Kane who between them have almost 50 years of experience at Ballakermeen. Both gentlemen are modest and will not thank me for this publicity, but as they are both retiring from distinguished careers in education, I thank them for their service and dedication to generations of young people.

## **The New School Year**

You may have seen news items about the large numbers of students at Ballakermeen. In September, there will be around 1700 students on our site. There are a similar number of people living in Laxey and the space they inhabit is certainly bigger than our building and play areas!

Our priority is to keep students safe and in our environment, we must all behave sensibly and be aware of others around us. We will have high expectations of student behaviour and appreciate that we have a duty to ensure that our students understand how to conduct themselves appropriately. We are hopeful that a new hard play area will be completed over summer (Thank you Department of Infrastructure!) and there will be refurbishment of classrooms, but it is an inescapable fact that courtesy for and consideration of others must be our watchwords. We will be far more explicit about our expectations. Respect, good manners, punctuality and an excellent work ethic are important life skills and with your help, we will do all we can to ensure our students develop them in abundance.

## **School Meals**

The cost of a school meal will increase to £2.90 in all island secondary schools.

## **Curriculum Developments**

Next year will continue to see further developments to our curriculum. We are adding a number of exciting subjects in Key Stage 4 including Global Perspectives and BTEC Sport. At Key Stage 3, we will continue to offer the broadest range of subjects. We have increased the number of sets in English and Maths to five to ensure that we offer the very best, tailored support for our students.

## **The New Term**

School re-opens on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September.

## **And Finally,**

Apologies for the cryptic message, but to the parent who contacted the school in February, but wished to remain anonymous, I cannot tell you how touched the staff were by your kindness.

With very best wishes for a lovely summer,

P. A. Burnett,  
Head Teacher