

JUNE 2024



BALLYMENA ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

CARING FOR THE INDIVIDUAL, INSPIRING
LEARNING AND ACHIEVEMENT



WELCOME

Welcome to the Ballymena Academy Newsletter, a publication designed to share good news and celebrate some of the many successes of our pupils and staff. In this term's edition, we share some of our highlights of the summer term and look back at another fantastic year at Ballymena Academy.

In all that we do, our aim is to care for the individual and inspire learning and achievement.

ITALY TRIP

In April 2024, 90 Year 13 and 14 pupils headed to Rome and Sorrento. The article below is a pupil perspective on what was a fantastic trip!

I think there were mixed feelings on the buses at 3:00am on the first morning. Tiredness, excitement and anticipation. We'd all spent months waiting for the trip so when we landed in Rome, it almost didn't feel real. We obviously had to start our trip in Italy right, by eating pizza and pasta by the Spanish Steps. We finished the night enjoying gelato at the Trevi Fountain.

The next day, we woke up early and headed to the Ara Pacis. We ate lunch in St Peter's Square then headed into the Vatican. We were stunned by the intricate paintings and amazing statues, followed by the Sistine Chapel, St Peter's Basilica. We wandered through the Piazza Navona and then went to dinner, which was of course, pizza!

We started the next day, bright and early, with the Colosseum. We were amazed by the Roman Forum and the Palatine Hill, where our heads were filled with many interesting facts by our amazing tour guides (Mrs Coulter and Mr Hayes). The streets of Rome were packed but our group of 90 made them even more packed! Despite this, we headed to the Pantheon, where we were stunned by the amazing architecture. Back to the hotel we went, where we got ready for a glamorous night at the opera. We enjoyed our food while being serenaded by Mr Reid's unexpected performance.



Next came a bus trip to Amalfi, again not for the faint hearted. We wound around the Amalfi Coast and Positano and finished our journey in Amalfi. Our evening was filled with competitiveness as teams took part in the quiz.



We boarded the bus the next day for the road trip to Sorrento. We knew we were in Sorrento when we saw lemons, lemons and more lemons! We made our way down the scenic road to a picturesque farm. We were greeted by baby goats, cows and more lemons! This is where we made our own pizza and I think everyone can agree that this was the best pizza we'd ever eaten. The next day, we ventured out for a slightly choppy boat trip to Capri. Those of us who were brave enough went on the chairlift to Ana Capri and witnessed the beautiful views of the islands around us.

On the final day, we packed up and headed to Pompeii. We truly looked into the past as our tour guide vividly described what life was like in Pompeii. We were able to see ancient buildings and artefacts that remained intact. The trip was incredible and filled with super activities. We will all be able to cherish memories made on this trip along with other memories of Ballymena Academy.

BALLYMENA ACADEMY ACCREDITED WITH TAKE 5 AWARD



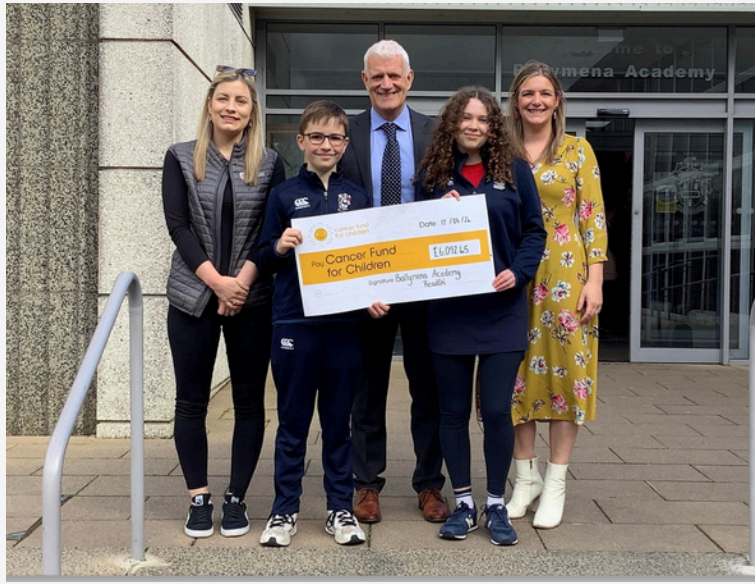
We are delighted to have been accredited with a Level 3 Take 5 award in recognition of our efforts towards pupil and staff health and wellbeing within Ballymena Academy!

Thanks to Mrs Kerr for her continued work on health promotion in school.

READON RAISES OVER £6000

Mr Black, Mrs Murray, Rory Hughes and Sam Glenn presented a cheque for £6092.45 to Rebecca Oates from the Cancer Fund for Children. This fantastic total was raised through the Readon challenge, thanks to the fundraising efforts of all the Year 8, 9 and 10 pupils and parents. Rebecca praised the pupils for their generosity and explained how children and families affected by cancer benefit from their donations.

Thanks to Rebecca for coming to school and well done to all the pupils and staff involved. Each year, Ballymena Academy is one of the top Readon fundraising schools in Northern Ireland and we look forward to taking on the challenge again in 2025!



SUMMER TERM IN PHOTOS

As the school term comes to an end this week we reflect upon a busy, successful summer term from a co-curricular perspective. The cricket season was packed with fixtures across the year groups. We were delighted to see the return of girls cricket and football this term which saw our junior girls playing a number of fixtures against other schools.

On the athletics field there were a number of successes at District and Ulster level. Some pupils were recognised for their contribution to the co-curricular life of the school at the Sports and P.F Martin Awards Assembly.



SUMMER TERM IN PHOTOS



CYBER FIRST AWARD

In January 2024, Ballymena Academy applied to become a CyberFirst School and in April 2024 the school was made aware that it had achieved the Bronze Award. Mr Gourley and Mr Moore both attended the CyberFirst annual conference on 28th May to meet with the CyberFirst team and receive the Bronze Award.

Ballymena Academy have already benefitted from many opportunities offered by CyberFirst, which include participation in ICT related competitions and careers events highlighting the opportunities in the ICT industry.

As a school, we look forward to building upon our work with CyberFirst and want to thank Mr Gourley and Mr Moore in the ICT Department and all the pupils who have taken part in the CyberFirst initiative.



SENIOR PREFECTS APPOINTED

We are delighted to welcome the following pupils to our Senior Prefect team for 2024/2025. We know that they will represent the school to the best of their abilities and we look forward to seeing them take on their new roles and duties from September. Well done everyone!

Head Girl: Olivia DRAIN Deputy Head Girls: Evie MILLAR and Naomi TURTLE
Head Boy: Reuben ALLEN Deputy Head Boys: James GREGG and Matthew WRIGHT

Senior Prefects:

Grace GUNNING Callum CRANSTON
Kristen KELLY Isaac McCLINTOCK
Ruby THOMPSON Ben O'HAGAN



We are delighted to announce the return of our Pre-Loved School Uniform and Sports Kit Recycling Sale. This year the sale will take place on Friday 28th June in the Assembly Hall. Everyone welcome!

All stock for the Pre-loved Uniform and Sports Kit sale is still urgently needed, so please keep donating. Items can be left in the Sixth Form Centre foyer until 11am on Friday. Your support is greatly appreciated.

FROM BALLYMENA TO LOS ANGELES!

Year 14 pupil Joel McIntyre, Mr Turtle and Miss Wylie travelled to Los Angeles, California to represent Northern Ireland at the 2024 ISEF (International Science and Engineering Fair).

Regeneron ISEF provides a global stage for the world's best and brightest young scientists and engineers. Through this competition, Regeneron and the Society are fostering the next generation of STEM leaders who are pioneering solutions to improve our world. ISEF 2024 is the world's largest pre-college STEM competition with around 1600 competitors.

Well done to Joel on qualifying to represent Ballymena Academy and Northern Ireland on the world stage!



BA FOUNDATION

WAYS TO GIVE...

- ✓ Give Your Year initiative
- ✓ Team playing kit
- ✓ Team warm-up kit
- ✓ Pitch-side advertising boards
- ✓ Drama/Music programmes
- ✓ Work Shadowing

WAYS TO CONNECT...

- 1 To find out more about the BA Foundation and how you can become involved click [here](#).
- 2 To find out how you or your business could support the school please email info@ballymenaacademy.org.uk
- 3 You can also keep up to date with upcoming events on our social media channels: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).



BA Foundation

Help Us Maintain Excellence