



NEWSLETTER

END OF TERM | FRIDAY 28TH JUNE 2024



DEAR & AMAZING PARENTS OF KING WILLIAM'S COLLEGE & THE BUCHAN SCHOOL,

The smashing summer term has clattered to its close and I have composed a substantial end-of-term update to reflect the breadth and depth of your children's achievements.

Firstly, as promised on Founders' Day, I am delighted to present to you the full School Improvement Strategy for 2024-29 as recently ratified by the Governing Body. The five Strategic Priorities were first communicated in January this year. Since then, we have been thinking carefully about the objectives which sit underneath each priority. We look forward to further developing and implementing this strategy over the coming months and years.

OUR VISION for the next five years of King William's College and The Buchan School is:

A joyful and flourishing learning community in a spectacular natural setting.

THE PURPOSE OF OUR SCHOOL IS:

To provide first class, distinctive independent education to children from Early Years to Sixth Form, to prepare them for their exciting future lives on and off the Isle of Man. Our pupils, no matter what their ability, will work hard, succeed, and leave school confident in their own identity, proud of their badge, and eager to embark on further study, employment and service around the world.

WE ARE GUIDED BY A LONG-STANDING SET OF VALUES:

The Buchan School Motto is *Fortior Qui Melior (The braver the better)*, while The Buchan Charter states "*We are kind. We are honest. We are polite. We always do our best. Love your neighbour (everyone) as much as you love yourself.*"

The KWC Motto is *Assiduitate Non Desidia (Through industry not sloth)*. KWC is proud to be an IB World School and espouse the IB Learner Profile. We want our pupils to be: *Inquirers, Knowledgeable, Thinkers, Communicators, Principled, Open-minded, Caring, Risk-takers, Balanced, and Reflective.*

We have developed the following five Strategic Priorities for the next five years, and, underneath each priority, five objectives:

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1

Secure excellent academic outcomes which position the School unequivocally as the leading school on the Isle of Man and competitive with UK non-selective independent schools.

Our objectives are to ensure that:

1. The academic side of the School is structured to facilitate excellent results.
2. The curriculum is re-defined to reflect the changing world.
3. Staff are appropriately trained, resourced and rewarded to deliver outstanding provision to pupils of all abilities.
4. Pupils are motivated to work hard and possess the appropriate study skills and habits of mind to succeed in the modern age.
5. Parents understand their children's academic lives and support them from home, working with the School as informed partners.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2

Ensure that the School's pastoral care remains outstanding so that we are always known for our distinctive character education and the caring, kind, healthy and well young people we produce.

Our objectives are to ensure that:

1. The pastoral aims of Kindness, Wellbeing and Challenge and The Buchan Charter are lived and breathed by every member of the School.
2. The House system provides incredible opportunities for cross-year group socialisation, leadership and fun.
3. Effective peer mentoring is embedded throughout the age range.
4. The programme for Personal, Social, Health Education (PSHE) helps pupils be healthy, safe and prepared for future study, employment, service, and life.
5. We continue to provide first-class medical care to meet the evolving needs of our community.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3

Broaden and deepen the range of co-curricular activities offered to give pupils unforgettable experiences outside the classroom.

Our objectives are to ensure that:

1. The School's structure allows improvement in this area to take advantage of our superb campus, prime location, and full school day.
2. Our co-curricular partnerships thrive on and off-island.
3. Our co-curricular programmes are diverse, relevant and appeal to all.
4. The schedule of trips and expeditions is expertly planned, and supports the School's aims.
5. Staff are trained and deployed appropriately to deliver an inspiring range of activities.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4

Building on the School's international ethos, inculcate a truly global mindset in all stakeholders.

Our objectives are to ensure that:

1. The School's boarding ethos is ingrained in all pupils.
2. The School celebrates its diverse population.
3. International projects put our School on the global map.
4. Our membership of worldwide bodies expands our offering to international pupils.
5. The school environment continues to display the highest levels of friendliness and inclusivity.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 5

Re-position the School at the heart of Manx life – the warm hub of the community with a profound interest in local affairs and a clear measurable benefit to the whole island.

Our objectives are to ensure that:

1. The School's communications are modern, warm, and personalised, fostering a sense of pride and attachment in all stakeholders.
2. Outreach partnerships blossom across the age range.
3. We celebrate our rich heritage and history as an iconic part of the island landscape.
4. Our charitable fundraising and service to the local community are extensive.
5. The Christian character of the School remains a central part of daily life.





Moving on from strategy, here is my write-up of the often sunny and always jam-packed summer term at College.

As in any summer, the chief order of business was examinations. The IB Diploma exams started in late April and finished on Friday 17th May, with a whole week to spare before Founders' Day. It was pleasing to see some of the U6 come back to school on the Monday after their last exam for Emergency First Aid Training – this is crucial knowledge for them as they go off to further study, travel, and employment. One attractive feature of IB is that the results come out on 6th July, meaning that students do not have to stew all summer long. This year, the UCAS situation is promising, with many students holding offers for competitive courses/universities. We cross our fingers for U6; do watch out for the press release. Certainly, the rites of passage for U6 were superb: Valedictory Dinner, Founders' Day with Verity Macleod as Guest Speaker, and the exhilarating May Ball.

Meanwhile, for Upper 5, GCSE exams began at the end of April for Art/Photography, with 8th May being the first written exam and the last on 18th June (well done for holding on, D & T candidates!). These results, by contrast, do require a long wait - until 22nd August. U5 and parents, please refer to the communications which have come to you from the Exams Officer Mrs Brew - all the details of the day and post-results services are on Firefly. I am delighted that a good number of U5 are staying with us for Sixth Form. You will thrive in the IB, whether on the Diploma pathway, or with Courses. As Mrs Kneen said at the U5 Valedictory dinner, for those students moving on, remain in touch: you will forever be 'stayers' in our hearts! Lastly on U5, it was not a school event but I must thank the organisers of the U5 Prom on 27th June; I hope it went well.

Outside public exams, other year groups had exams as well, this time of the internal variety. I was delighted to observe how seriously the vast majority of students took these summer tests. They are especially important for the Lower Sixth as the results will partly inform their predictions for university applications next year. The UCAS support at KWC is outstanding. There was an excellent presentation to L6 parents on Tuesday 14th May by Miss Broadbent. Representatives from Oxford and Cambridge university met our prospective Oxbridge candidates last week; Mrs Morgans then took the whole year group to the Island's Higher Education Fair at Ballakermeen High School where they met officers from UK universities. And, to round it off, our own in-house Higher Education Day took place this Wednesday on the back of the Parents' Evening on Tuesday. My encouragement to L6 students is to make sure you keep the momentum up with UCAS research over the summer. Time spent in reconnaissance is never wasted, as the old military maxim goes. I know you also have Extended Essays and Internal Assessments – a busy summer awaits!

Not to be outdone, Stenning saw U4 Parents' evening on Wednesday 24th April and L4 on Thursday 9th May. End-of-term reports have been written for all year groups not doing public exams. They will be sent home next week.

Pastorally, I have been delighted again this term with how have students have embraced the Kindness-Wellbeing-Challenge mantra of Mr Corrie and the Heads of Year. The Pastoral Team had an away morning where they discussed their role in the School Improvement Strategy, particularly maintaining the excellent reputation for pastoral care, the potential growth of the co-curricular provision, and how we can be more present in the community. The Team also discussed the Behaviour Management Policy, focussing on Colours Awards and being more transparent in this area, and the results of a recent pupil questionnaire where Careers advice was picked up as an area for improvement.

Preparations for the November ISI Inspection are under way in many corners of the school. We recently had a training visit and have issued some parental feedback surveys. Please do fill in the relevant survey if you have not already. The snapshot we get will be immensely valuable to us, as is all other feedback throughout the year. Here are the links again:

THE BUCHAN SCHOOL
[Parent Feedback](#)

KING WILLIAM'S COLLEGE
[Day Pupil Parent Feedback](#)

KING WILLIAM'S COLLEGE
[Boarding Pupil Parent Feedback](#)



It has been a veritable humdinger of a summer term for co-curricular activities and trips. Highlights have included:

- Bronze, Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award Expeditions and the Presentation evening on Tuesday.
- Fantastic Music and Public Speaking success at The Guild.
- Terrific last Live Lounge of the year.
- Energetic 4th Form Music and Drama celebration.
- The Stenning Triathlon raised £4,000 for Looky's Aid on the May Bank Holiday.
- Intermediate and senior debating successes.
- CCF Sailing trip to Southport.
- GCSE Art & Photography Exhibition.
- The College's annual Sports' Day at the NSC with two school records broken in L5 (Amira took the Girls' 200m record down to 27.63s and in the Boys' High Jump Finlay soared to a new mark of 1.73m).
- The annual cricket fixture against the MCC was a memorable event both for the match itself – a valuable learning experience for our boys, offering insight into high-level cricket – and for our younger boys and girls who benefited from coaching sessions with MCC players.
- The Derbyhaven Bay Swim on Monday 24th June featured 17 competitors plus two teachers braving the 13-degree water. Alex Brown was the winner in 13m15s with Tilly Bird-McGowan second in 14m23s and Georgie Ford third in 14m26. Very well done to the winners and all participants.
- Chapel saw a beautiful and poignant Grandparents' service on 21st June, well attended as always.
- Coming up, CCF Training Camp will take place as usual in Altcar in the first week of July and there is a Watersports Trip to France in July.

In boarding, as usual we hosted a group of European students for our three-week summer boarding experience. As well as ESOL lessons with Mrs Ellson, the group enjoyed a rich cultural programme around the island. The highlight for me was judging the 'Summer boarding bake-off' - delicious bakes! Well done and come back soon to Christina, Camilla, Stefano, Victor, Federico, Amelie, Augustin and a huge thank you to Mrs Ellson, the boarding staff, and everyone else who helped look after the group.

Just last week, our team of Lower 5 scientists won the STEM Olympics competition at The Grange School in Cheshire as they competed against over 20 other North-West schools in five tasks designed to test their science skills and teamwork. Well done Brodie, Alex O, Alicia and Amelie and thank you to Mrs Brown for preparing and accompanying the team.

Staffing-wise, this August we will say goodbye to a number of teachers. I was pleased to be able to say something about each of them on Founders' Day and also attend their Valedictory Dinner

and emotional final Chapel service just a few moments ago. They all carry with them our very best wishes for their various onward destinations and we know they will stay in touch.

Best wishes to Mrs Craine as she heads off on her maternity leave and let's not forget Ms Shimmin Director of Sport, who will be back at Christmas, and Mrs Shimmin Head of Design and Technology whose maternity leave started earlier this term and runs to next summer.

Well done to the following staff on their promotions for next academic year:

Miss Kerr	Head of English Faculty
Miss de Vos	Head of Mathematics Faculty
Mme Heckel	Head of Languages Faculty
Dr Morgans	Head of Sciences Faculty
Mr Daykin	Head of Arts Faculty
Miss Clark	Head of Humanities Faculty and Subject Lead Geography
Mrs Gerry	Subject Lead ESS
Mrs Beesley	Head of Fourth Form
Mr Davidson	Head of Lower Fifth
Mrs Jeffers	Head of Middle Fifth
Mr Jeffers	Head of Upper Fifth
Mrs Bland	Deputy Head of Boarding

In September, we will welcome the following new teachers:

Mr Steven Barrett	Subject Lead Physics
Dr Jesman Changudega	Physics
Miss Kira Buchan	PE 1 year
Mrs Lucy Titley-Brabban	has been appointed permanently to start in April 2025 in PE
Mr Tim Lowey	English Part-time, and RS Maternity cover Part-time
Mrs Heather Daykin	Music maternity cover Part-time
Mr Abayomi Dejonwo	Subject Lead Biology and Deputy Head Boarding
Mrs Catherine Gallacher-Hay	Subject Lead History and Deputy Head Sixth Form
Miss Jocelyn Day	French
Mr Clwyd Parry	Subject Lead Design and Technology Maternity cover Part-time
Mr Tendai Kamba	Cover Supervisor

Our alumni engagement has been pro-active as always. The Lady Laura Lunch on Saturday 18th May was attended by 76 alumnae and raised £1,140 for cookery provision. Planning is underway for next year's 150-year celebrations for the Buchan.

Looking ahead to next year, a few weeks ago there was a Sixth Form taster day for Middle Fifth, which saw students opting to attend a variety of different lessons. This was a useful and engaging morning for the students and will support the decision-making process around studies after GCSE. I know Mr Jeffers has written to all M5 with some thoughts about the bridge to U5 and Sixth Form.

'Moving up' day for other year groups went well also and I am pleased to report that we are now effectively full for September in certain year groups across The Buchan and College.

I have just come out of an inspiring final Chapel of the year to send us off into the holidays with a bounce. We all need a long break, but we are looking forward to September already.

On a more prosaic note, please can I ask for the return of textbooks, library books and other borrowed equipment not yet returned. Please drop at the Bursary. There will be a charge for unreturned items.

Three other points of housekeeping before I go:

New uniform. Please note the 12-month phase-in period begins from September i.e. the children may wear the new uniform from this September ('24), and have to wear the new uniform from next September ('25). The pastoral team have asked me to issue a clear directive at this point – it's either old, or new, not a bit of both: no mix and match please!

Please may I make a plug for the **Summer Reading Challenge**. You can find information, inspiration and recommended books here: [Summer Reading Challenge Simple read, record, and share your thoughts, for a chance to win rewards. Log your reading using the link.](#)

Earlier this week, Mr Corrie and the pastoral team sent out some important information to you about online **safeguarding** together with a link to our own e-safety policy. If you have not already read this information, please take a moment to do so very soon. I know you will help your children achieve a healthy balance between digital and analogue lives this summer.

In September I will be writing to you with updates about our school policies for Notice, and Absence Requests.

Finally, a personal thank-you to all who have welcomed the Henderson family this year and made us so comfortable on the island. I have been particularly touched this last week by the number of expressions of solicitude about the condition of my feet. Truly a caring community!

With best wishes for the summer.

Yours sincerely



PRINCIPAL



THIS TERMS' COLOURS

FULL COLOURS

Full Academic Colours are awarded to:

Milica Bodioga
Teodora Stefaro
Luke Sutton

HALF COLOURS

Half Colours for Music are awarded to:

Mikhaella Harris
Lizzie Jenkins
Loki Reader
Leo Reisch
Aidan Smith

INTERMEDIATE COLOURS

Intermediate Colours for Boys' Cricket are awarded to:

Samson Curtis
Zack Heunis
Will Osbourn
James Osbourn

Intermediate Colours for Athletics are awarded to:

Amira Crookall
Fin Taggart

Intermediate Colours for Music are awarded to:

Ida Orkin
Martin Vorster

Intermediate Colours for Drama are awarded to:

Alicia Kiernan
Lily Mildwaters
Brodie Millar

JUNIOR COLOURS

Junior Colours for Boys' Cricket are awarded to:

Theo Kiernan
Adi Malikireddy

Junior Colours for Athletics are awarded to:

Pierre Goosen
Séamus Hall
Carter Kneale

Junior Colours for Swimming are awarded to:

Carter Kneale

Junior Colours for Music are awarded to:

Aoife Cogan
Alice Hemensley



MUSICIAN OF THE WEEK

FINLAY TAGGART
KWC

Good Work recently
with fretboard
visualisation and
navigation using
major scale forms.





THE BUCHAN SCHOOL & KING WILLIAM'S COLLEGE



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