

BALLYMENA ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

CARING FOR THE INDIVIDUAL, INSPIRING LEARNING
AND ACHIEVEMENT



Ballymena Academy is delighted to announce the appointment of Alan O'Connor as Head of Rugby Development and Alana Doyle as Head of Hockey Development.

Both will work alongside Director of Rugby, John Nicholl and Head of Hockey, Diane McNeill, to promote active participation in hockey and rugby across all year groups. They will manage all aspects of on-field coaching and will bring rugby and hockey players at Ballymena Academy on a journey of continuous improvement.

Alana takes on this role having represented Ulster U23 and Ireland U23, as well as the Irish Senior 'A' Hockey team. She is currently Captain of the Ards Ladies Hockey Club 1stXI.

Alan brings a wealth of expertise to this role having captained Ulster Rugby, and making over 200 appearances during his time at the club.

Both appointments have been made possible by the generous support of our sponsors and the Irish Rugby Football Union in partnership with Ulster Rugby.

We wish both Alana and Alan every success in their new roles and are excited to see the impact they will have on sport at Ballymena Academy

Ballymena Academy Earns Prestigious Green Flag Award

Last week, members of the Young Environmentalist Society (YES) proudly represented Ballymena Academy at the Keeping Northern Ireland Beautiful Awards, held at the Ballymena Showgrounds.

The Academy was honoured with the prestigious International Eco-Schools Green Flag Award, a recognition reserved for schools that demonstrate an ongoing commitment to environmental action and sustainability throughout the school community.

This year, our primary focus for the award was Biodiversity. Assessors were particularly impressed by the school's wellbeing garden, outdoor staff area, school pond, and raised beds—all of which contribute to creating a healthier, greener environment.

Secondary areas of focus included Healthy Living and Outdoor Learning. As part of these efforts, YES members regularly engage in a wide range of eco-friendly activities such as planting flowers, bird watching, litter picking, and growing vegetables, which pupils can take home to enjoy with their families.

The wellbeing garden has also become a vibrant space for learning and creativity, where pupils and co-curricular clubs enjoy reading, writing poetry, and sketching among the colourful blooms. YES takes great pride in maintaining these areas, knowing they benefit the health and wellbeing of both staff and pupils alike.

This achievement is a testament to the hard work, dedication, and passion of everyone involved. Congratulations to all!



Summer Term in Photos

History Trip



Summer Term in Photos

Fun Days



Summer Term in Photos

Sport



Health and Wellbeing

We were delighted to be awarded Platinum status for our Take 5 Steps to Well-Being Programme. The school is the only post-primary school in Ballymena and one of very few in the Northern Trust to be accredited at this highest level. We have also received designation as a Being Well Doing Well school for our provision for Emotional Health and Wellbeing. These awards highlight the school's excellent pastoral provision for our pupils and staff.



Volunteering

The Minister for Education, Paul Givan (MLA) presented Year 13 pupils with Volunteer Now Awards at the start of June. We were delighted that 34 of our Year 13 pupils collectively gave 2000 hours of their time to local and global community initiatives.

We are so proud of their achievements and are delighted that they have set such a positive example to younger pupils in the school and the wider community.



School Sponsorship

- 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 John Nicholl at marketing@ballymenaacademy.org.uk.
- 3** You can also keep up to date with upcoming events on our social media channels: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

We look forward to meeting all of sponsors at our Sponsors Breakfast in August.



BA Foundation
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