

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

I am happy to report that the extension and refurbishment of the school are progressing well in recent weeks. It is envisaged that the extension will be open for the beginning of the next academic year. The refurbishment of the original building will be ongoing and is scheduled to be complete in March 2018. When the works are complete Ballyhaunis Community School will have state of the art facilities for our students to enjoy for many years to come.

On a national level there is also great change in the education sector. The New Junior Cycle is currently being embedded in schools across the country. One of the implications of this is that we have had to review our timetable. The Department of Education has stipulated that all classes must now be a minimum of 40 minutes from the beginning of the 2017-18 academic year. Traditionally we have had forty five periods in the school week, Thirty five 40 minute periods and ten 35 minute periods. We will now be moving to a forty two 40 minute period week with effect from the first day of the next academic year. This will mean that our start time of 9.00a.m. will remain the same. However, our finishing times will be changed to 4p.m Monday to Thursday and 1.20 p.m. on a Friday.

I understand that this is a significant change for all concerned but I am confident that there will be no adverse effect on the quality of teaching and learning in the school. I also wish to stress that this change was not initiated from within the school but was simply a reaction to a change of policy at national level.

I wish to thank you for your continued support and I would like to wish everyone a very pleasant and safe summer.

David McDonagh
Principal