



Scoil phobail beal Acha h-Ambraís

## BALLYHAUNIS COMMUNITY SCHOOL

David McDonagh *Principal*

Orla Macken *Deputy Principal*

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

Unfortunately, the national situation relating to Covid-19 deteriorated rapidly over the Christmas Break. Consequently, the Government has decided to close schools until the end of January to assist the national effort to reduce the number of cases, relieve the strain on our health system and to save lives.

The challenge now is to ensure that the impact on our student's education is minimised as best we can. Teachers will begin the process of Distance Learning for all students from Monday morning. It is hugely important that students engage with teachers immediately so as not to fall behind. We understand that every household is unique but we recommend that some or all of the following standards are applied where possible:

- Students should have a designated space to do their school work
- Set times should be established for school work. Please remember students ordinarily have 6 hours school each day with Homework in the evening. Where possible students should try and mirror this situation when engaging with Distance Learning.
- Bed times and sleep patterns should be similar to school nights/mornings.
- Students should be encouraged to be active and get some fresh air every day. It is important however that the Public Health Advice is adhered to rigidly when doing so.

We also ask that students and parents would familiarise themselves with the BCS Distance Learning Policy which can be found on our website. This should help students and parents get a greater insight into the requirements and expectations of Distance Learning.

If you have any queries/concerns over your child's education you can contact their Year-Head first and foremost. Details of the YH's email can be found on our website also.

The school is very aware that there are limitations to Distance Learning and we look forward to welcoming our students back when the Public Health Advice allows us to do so. However, if we work together in the next number of weeks we can mitigate significantly the impact of school closures on student education.

Thank you for your continued support. Take care and stay safe.

*David McDonagh*

Principal

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