



Scoil Phobail Beal Atha h-Amhnais

BALLYHAUNIS COMMUNITY SCHOOL

David McDonagh *Principal*
Orla Macken *Deputy Principal*
Patrick McGarry *Deputy Principal*

January 20th, 2025

Dear Parent/Guardian/Student,

Hope you are keeping well.

Planning for the next academic year is well underway in the school. At the end of this academic year your son/daughter will have completed 3 years at Junior Cycle and perhaps Transition Year. They have significant decisions to make before moving into or continuing with Senior Cycle. It goes without saying that this is an important next step on their educational journey. Key decisions will have to be made around subjects and programmes and these decisions will have an impact on their future career choices.

3rd Year Students will choose one of the following:

- Transition Year Programme
- Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA)
- Established Leaving Certificate with the option of the Leaving Cert Vocational Programme (LCVP)

Current TY students will choose from either:

- Established Leaving Certificate programme with the option of the Leaving Cert Vocational Programme (LCVP)
- Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA) programme.

To assist students in making informed and good choices around the Senior Cycle programmes and in particular on choosing subjects for Leaving Certificate we are planning a '**Senior Options Week**' with a number of information sharing events to take place during the week of Jan. 27th as follows:

Monday, Jan. 27th	Teachers speak about their college journey	All Students
Tuesday, Jan. 28th	TY / LCA Presentation Information session for Parents of 3rd Yrs	3 rd Years Assembly Area at 5.30pm
Wed. Jan. 29th	Subject choice / LCA / LCVP Presentation	TY's
Thursday, Jan. 30th	Subject Choice Event – School GYM Parent-Teacher Meeting for Parents of TY's	TY / 3 rd Years School Gym from 4.15pm

I encourage you to take the time in the coming days to explore the options with your son/daughter.

Please view the Senior Cycle Presentations on our website www.ballyhauniscs.ie by navigating to the 'Departments' tab and select Senior Cycle or click on this link <http://ballyhauniscs.ie/senior-cycle/>.

[PTO](#)

Details on the various programmes on offer as well as information on the Subjects for Leaving Cert are listed. We have also compiled a frequently asked questions section to assist you if required.

Students opting for the established Leaving Certificate programme have a choice of 17 subjects to choose from. Last year we introduced two additional subjects: Computer Science and Physical Education, both of which were highly popular among students.

Students are encouraged to consider all subjects before making their selection. To that effect we are hosting a Subject Choice Event giving students the opportunity to find out more about all subjects on offer, meet the teachers of those subjects and ask questions from students already studying the subject.

5th Year Subject Choice Forms are available from the school or can be downloaded from the school website. Completed subject choice forms are to be dropped to the office. **NOTE:** All 3rd-year students must complete a subject choice form, regardless of whether they are applying for Transition Year (TY) or the Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA) programme. Please note that places in these programmes are limited, and students who are not allocated a place will automatically progress to 5th year.

The school's Guidance Team: Ms. Annmarie O'Reilly and Mr. Brian Waters are available to answer any queries you may have. They can be reached by email or by calling the school to arrange an appointment.

Ms. O'Reilly: guidance@ballyhauniscs.ie

Mr. Waters: b.waters@ballyhauniscs.ie

- LCA / TY Applications letters to be emailed to Mr. Caulfield c.caulfield@ballyhauniscs.ie
- The final date for applications to TY / LCA and submission of Subject Choice forms is **Wednesday, Feb. 12th**

This is an important transition for students, time invested in learning about the many options and subjects will pay dividends to ensuring students make good decisions for Senior Cycle.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you want to discuss any of the options.

Regards,

David McDonagh

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Principal