



Scoil Phobail Beal Atha h-Amhnais

BALLYHAUNIS COMMUNITY SCHOOL

David McDonagh *Principal*

Orla Macken *Deputy Principal*

Dear Parent/Guardian/Student,

Hope you are keeping well.

The recent announcement by Minister for Education Ms. Norma Foley in relation to the Junior Certificate Exams brought much needed clarity for all. The prevailing public health situation and the extended periods of school closures, both this academic year and last, created huge uncertainty for students and we very much welcome the clear path that now exists.

However, despite the exams being cancelled there is a responsibility on us all to continue with these student's education and properly mark the completion of the Junior Certificate Cycle. At the end of this academic year the school will publish a **Junior Cycle School Report** for our 3rd Year students. To fully reflect the realities of their experiences of the Junior Cycle the report will be based on the following:

- Online Engagement/Assessment: Teachers will award marks for student engagement during the current phase of school closures. Students who have been unable to engage for legitimate reasons will not be penalised.
- Completion of Classroom Based Assessments: At present all 3rd Year students are to return to school on April 12th. All outstanding classroom components will be completed before the end of the year.
- Final Exams: At the end of the school year exams will be held in all subject areas.
- Existing evidence: Evidence of student achievement in each subject area over the course of the JC Programme.

The weighting attached to the above components will be communicated to students on their return to school.

The plan outlined above will hopefully focus and motivate 3rd Year students in what is a very challenging situation. It is hugely important that students continue with their education over the next number of weeks as they need to do so to prepare properly for senior cycle.

Much of the above of course depends on the phased return to school continuing as envisaged. We sincerely hope that it is possible to have all students back to school on April 12th. It is important however to stress that these plans may change if the public health situation deteriorates.

Thank you for your ongoing co-operation.

David McDonagh

Principal