



Scoil Phobail Beál Átha h-Amhnais

BALLYHAUNIS COMMUNITY SCHOOL

David McDonagh *Principal*
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June 2025

Dear Parent/Guardian/Student,

I hope you are having a pleasant summer.

I am aware that the school holidays just started a few short weeks ago but already attention has turned to the return to school later this summer. The school calendar for 25-26 and the return to school schedule for August are now available on our website.

I wish to remind you that the “Admin Fee” which covers locker rental, student insurance, printing allowance and also the Microsoft Licences is now due and can be paid on the Way2pay system. The cost of the fee remains the same:

- 1 Child: €50
- 2 Children: €90
- 3 Children: €120

Invoices will issue presently on the Way2Pay system. The student insurance is 24/7 cover for the year both in and out of school. The MS Licence allows students to download the MS suite of Apps to their device and gives them access to the School’s digital Teaching & Learning platform. I understand families are facing significant costs at this time but I feel that the Admin Fee represents good value for money.

I’m very aware that many parents/guardians are already preparing for the return to school and beginning to get uniforms ready for the new academic year. Please note that once again this year that there is a school jacket available and that this is the only jacket that students are permitted to wear around the school. The design was chosen in consultation with students and is an attractive option for the student body. The jacket is available locally. I would strongly encourage all parents to avail of this option.

I also wish to remind everyone that the school requires students to wear plain black shoes. Shoes bearing brand logos or other markings are generally more expensive. Please be mindful of this as you purchase shoes for the new school year as we do not want to parents/guardians to incur unnecessary costs.

In recent years a number of students have taken to wearing sports jerseys under their uniforms and then tend to wear these jerseys around the school. This will not be permitted in the next academic year and we expect students to wear white T-Shirts inside their uniform if they require an extra layer during the winter months. This requirement is contained in the School’s Code of Behaviour.

From the beginning of the next academic year 6th Year students will no longer have permission to go downtown during lunch break. This decision was made in the interests of the Health & Safety of the students.

Please be mindful also that nose rings/eye brow piercings are not permitted in school. This is a Health & Safety measure and applies to all students. Students who choose to get such piercings over the summer holidays must understand that they have to be removed before they return to school.

For the 2025/26 school year all students will receive free schoolbooks and certain other resources. These will be in place on the return to school. Students who entered 5th Year last September and availed of the Book Rental Scheme will not have to pay a fee this academic year.

Please note that these books will not be replaced by the school if they are mislaid. That responsibility lies with the parent(s)/guardian(s).

All schoolbooks and core classroom resources provided under the new scheme will remain the property of the school, so that they can be reused in future years (where applicable).

There may be some additional classroom resources that are not covered by the scheme. Students will be advised of this in the new academic year.

Please enjoy the remainder of the summer holidays!

David McDonagh

Principal