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*Balla Secondary School,  
Balla,  
Co. Mayo.  
F23 KT65*

25 March 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians

I hope you are keeping well and that you are getting used to the new circumstances that we find ourselves in. Most of you will be aware schools will not reopen until after the Easter break at the earliest as efforts continue to stop the spread of COVID-19.

I understand that this is a very worrying time for everybody and want you to know that in order to keep things as normal as possible for our students, our teachers are regularly setting work and completion dates, along with providing motivational tips and study plans via a variety of online platforms. All correspondence to your child is via their school email account. If they are having trouble accessing their email or have forgot the password, please email [info@ballasecschool.com](mailto:info@ballasecschool.com)

Our students have been engaging well with the work assigned, I do know that remote learning is not easy for some and I want to thank you for your commitment in encouraging and supporting them in this and ask that you continue to do so.

I want to acknowledge that many of our exam students might find the uncertainty of the forthcoming weeks quite unsettling. I want to take this opportunity to reassure parents and students alike that the SEC and DES have always made decisions, which are student-centred and mindful of the immediate environment. While we have no control over what decisions the state agencies make, we do however, have control over what actions we can take. So please remain focused on your study schedules and your preparations for the state examinations. If you wish to contact me, please email [principal@ballasecschool.com](mailto:principal@ballasecschool.com) I will make every effort to respond to your query promptly and support you in any way I can.

If your child needs to collect books from the school, they can do so between 10-11 am on Thursday 26 and Friday 27 March. Please let Ms Finlay know in advance by email [deputy@ballasecschool.com](mailto:deputy@ballasecschool.com)

School is a quiet place without our students and we look forward to us all being back when the time is right. In the meantime, take care of yourselves and your families.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Teresa Walsh', written over a horizontal line.

Teresa Walsh  
Principal