



**Coláiste Naomh Feichín**  
**Corr na Móna**  
**Co. na Gaillimhe**

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**gretb**

Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna  
na Gaillimhe agus Ros Comáin  
Galway and Roscommon  
Education and Training Board

18ú de Mhárta, 2020

A chairde,

*Beatha agus Sláinte. Ba mhaith liom mo bhuíochas a ghabháil lenár pobail ar fad, daltaí, múinteoirí, tuismitheoirí, foireann na scoile agus foireann an GRETB as a gcabhair agus gníomhartha dearfacha le linn na hama seo. Is ábhair mórtais dúinn bhur bpáistí agus foireann na scoile do phobal na scoile seo ar fad.*

*Tuigim go maith go bhfuil an am seo ina ábhair inní dár ndaltaí, ba mhaith liom an deis seo a thógáil chun meabhrú do dhaltaí, do thuismitheoirí agus do phobal na scoile go mbeidh an Roinn Oideachais agus Coimisiúin na Scrúduithe Stáit ag feidhmiú ar son leas ár ndaltaí agus go bhfuil siad eolas ach ar an cás ina bhfuil daltaí na tíre ann. Níl aon smacht againn ar na céimeanna a thógann na heagraíochta seo ach tá smacht againn ar na gníomh a thógann muid. Mar sin impím oraibh fócais a chóiméad ar na leabhair agus bhur staidéar.*

I would like to thank our staff for their assistance and proactive actions to support your daughter(s) and son(s). The staff and your daughter(s)/son(s) are a credit to our school community.

I also want to acknowledge that many of our 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 DoES have always made decisions which are student-centred and mindful of the immediate environment. 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.

I hope this letter finds you well during these unprecedented times. I know all of our community are working very hard to be caring and mindful of each other in these exceptional times for everyone. Further to the Government's decision to close schools to support efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19, I am writing to advise you of school continuity measures taken to date by **Coláiste Naomh Feichín**.

- **Roimh Déardaoin 12-03-2020 / Prior to Thursday 12-03-2020**
  - Management and Staff advised all students to bring home their school books and class materials that weren't necessary for everyday schoolwork.
- **Ó Déardaoin 12-03-2020 / From Thursday 12-03-2020**
  - A number of measures were taken to ensure that our students and staff could work remotely.
  - Our school has gotten great support from the GRETB helpdesk and from our secretary, Sarah, to ensure that all students could access their Outlook and Teams, and have their log in details. I am very grateful for their great work and endeavours, which took time to ensure the smooth working of same. Our teachers have given revision guidelines and support through Microsoft Teams to ensure continued engagement with their curriculum during the closure.
  - Our school closed following a directive issued by the Department of Education and Skills (DoES).

- **Dé Luain 29-03-2020/ Monday 29-03-2020**
  - Like all school, we have been issued with this as our provisional return date to school.
    - If and when the DoES confirms we can re-open, I am inviting our students to bring a small hand towel, soap and hand sanitizer in a plastic zip-lock bag into school.
- In the interim, our school will continue to support and prepare for our return to our school in due course.
- The following guidance is to support students as they prepare for their summer/state examinations.
  - **The State Examinations Commission** (SEC) will circulate guidance on contingency arrangements if they are required.
    - The school will communicate any such arrangements through normal channels such as SMS, student emails, VShare, and school website.
    - The practicals and orals have been postponed for our students, it is essential to note they will be delayed **for all students** across the country. Please check for accurate updates on the [SEC website](#).
    - In the interim, Leaving Cert students must keep preparing for the orals/practicals as if they are going to proceed as planned.
  - **Blianta Scrúduithe / Examination Years**
    - Our teachers will endeavour to support you as a matter of priority through blended learning (online support & work assigned to you before closure).
    - Generally speaking, online classes will be created Microsoft Teams on existing class structures within the school. ***Your current school timetable provides you with an excellent structure to organise your day. If parents could encourage their daughter(s)/son(s) to submit assigned work, we would be most grateful. Please urge them to do so within agreed timeframes.***
    - Other online supports available:
      - [www.khanacademy.org](http://www.khanacademy.org)
      - <https://irevise.com/ie> (Additional notes and tutorials)
      - [www.studyclix.ie](http://www.studyclix.ie) (Exam builders)
      - [www.examinations.ie](http://www.examinations.ie) (Past exam papers and marking schemes)
      - [www.careersportal.ie](http://www.careersportal.ie)
      - <https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus/coronavirus.html>
      - [www.education.ie](http://www.education.ie) – (Education related news)
  - **Blianta Neamh-Scrúduithe / Non-Examination Years**
    - Your teachers are engaging with you through Microsoft Teams, homework and classwork is issued daily to support your progress and educational development.
    - Parents are encouraged to get their son(s) or daughter(s) to organise and create a bank of flashcards, mind maps and other suitable study aids, and to work as per their school timetable.
  - **Folláine / Wellbeing**
    - We would encourage you to stay in contact with your friends, through phone calls and emails. We can all support each other using modern methods like FaceTime or video calls. Peer learning is one of the most effective methods to support curriculum engagement. Use technology **sensibly** to connect and learn together.
    - Breaks, exercise and healthy diets are crucial to staying healthy.
  - **Tacaíocht TFL / ICT Support**
    - [eolas.feichin@gretb.ie](mailto:eolas.feichin@gretb.ie) – our emails are monitored daily.

**Ár ndaltaí ar fad – Treoir Staidéar / All years – General study guidance**

<b>Timetable subject</b>	<b>Learning Activity</b>	<b>Preparing for assessment</b>	<b>Assessment at the end of the week</b>
i.e. Geography – Pick a topic in your textbook	Make notes/mindmaps/flashcards on the topic under review	Use irevise/studyclix to identify questions from past papers and prepare answers and notes	Use studyclix to create exam questions to test themselves.

Other online supports are available here:

- <https://www.scoilnet.ie/scoilnet/news/article/news/detail/News/des-announcement-and-scoilnet-supports/>

This is an unprecedented situation, and the school community is conscious that in these difficult times, we will come together to find solutions. We always work in the best interest of our students. It is an unusual time for us all, and we need to work together to delay and limit the transmission of the COVID-19 virus. We encourage parents to emphasise the importance of social distancing to all in their care, so we as a nation can protect the most vulnerable in our communities.

If you wish to contact me, I am available at [eolas.feichin@gretb.ie](mailto:eolas.feichin@gretb.ie). We will make every effort to respond to your query promptly and support you in any way we can.

Yours sincerely,

*Gearóidín Ní Thonghaile*

Principal