



# Gairmscoil na Mainistreach

## Abbey Vocational School

Baile Dhún na nGall,  
Co. Dhún na nGall

Donegal Town,  
Co. Donegal

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Príomhoide:  
Gearóidín Bn Uí Dhuibhir

Principal:  
Geraldine Diver

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Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna Dhún na nGall  
Donegal Education and Training Board

13 March 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Many thanks to parents/guardians and students for the patience and cooperation shown in response to yesterday's announcement. As directed by An Taoiseach, the school will remain closed from 6pm, March 12<sup>th</sup> until March 29<sup>th</sup>. In light of these extraordinary circumstances, I would like to provide you with some information which I will outline below:

- Staff and students have been preparing for the possibility of remote teaching and learning for a number of weeks. We are well equipped to keep both teaching and learning well on track during the closure period.
- Students have school Gmail accounts and access to Google Apps including Google Classroom platforms, which all teachers have set up. This can be accessed remotely by the Google app on their phone or by a laptop/computer. Please ask your son/daughter about this. Please also take time to sit with your son/ daughter to ensure that he/she can access his/her account.
- Students have been instructed to bring home any books/resources they will need.
- Teachers will be setting work, correcting work and covering content from the relevant courses.
- Students need to follow their school timetable during the day to keep up with work set by their teachers.
- Please support your son/daughter in establishing a structured and consistent approach to his/her school work over the coming weeks.
- Encourage your son/daughter to engage fully with the supports available to him/her through the online platforms and instructions his/her subject teachers have given them.

Students can:

- Use websites such as [Scoilnet.ie](http://Scoilnet.ie), [Studyclix.ie](http://Studyclix.ie), [Schooldays.ie](http://Schooldays.ie), and [tes.com](http://tes.com), for resources.
- Our Guidance department will continue to update our Guidance website. Go to [www.AVSDonegal.com](http://www.AVSDonegal.com) - click on the **Guidance Guidance** button.

Please note that I will continue to keep you updated on any contingency plans made by the State Exam Commissions (SEC) as they unfold.

It is important to note the following while the school is in this period of closure:

- Queries will be dealt with through the 'Contact Us' section on our website [www.avsdonegal.com](http://www.avsdonegal.com).
- The school phone lines will be attended to between 9am-12noon and 1pm to 4pm.

Please read the following extract from today's statement by the Department of Education and Skills:

*An announcement was made this morning by the Taoiseach Leo Varadkar TD of the closure of schools, pre-schools and further and higher education settings, for a period until 29 March 2020, to support efforts to contain the spread of Covid-19. This will take effect from 6pm this evening, Thursday 12 March. This is in line with the advice of the National Public Health Emergency Team.*

*All pupils and students, from preschool to third level are urged to practice social distancing, and to minimise physical contact with each other, to help avoid the spread of Covid-19. This should include minimising social contact, avoiding meeting up and keeping physical space between them. Parents and guardians are urged to support their children to maintain this approach.*

We will keep you informed via the school website ([www.AVSDonegal.com](http://www.AVSDonegal.com)) and by text message of any further information.

I hope that you and your families stay safe and well during the coming weeks.

Yours sincerely,



Geraldine Diver  
PRINCIPAL