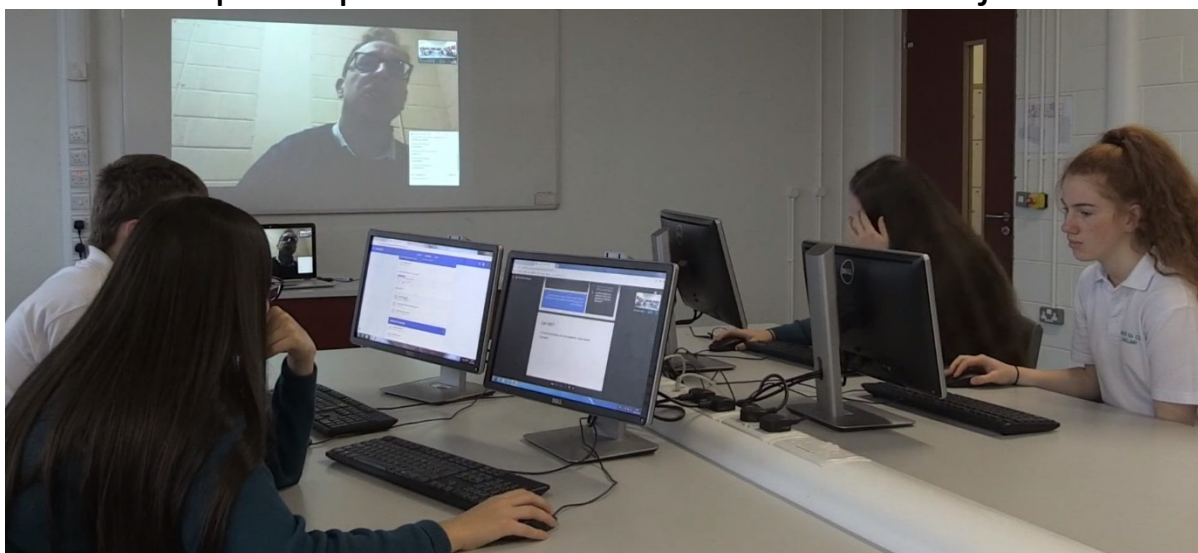




An Roinn Oideachais
agus Scileanna
Department of
Education and Skills

Scéim Aitheantais Scoileanna Gaeltachta

Information Note for Schools and Application Form to participate in Gaeltacht e-Hub Pilot Project



Teagasc agus Foghlaim na Fisice Ar Líne – deiseanna foghlama nua a sholáthar do scoláirí

Background

The Department of Education and Skills (DES) is establishing “a hub or e-school with virtual classrooms in existing schools connected to a number of small Irish-medium schools or Irish-medium units in Gaeltacht areas” (Policy on Gaeltacht Education 2017-2022; p.21). The Department has undertaken research on similar e-learning initiatives globally, where students supplement their existing curriculum with online courses for some subjects, where opportunities to take those subjects are not available in their own school.

Informed by this research, the Department is piloting an online Leaving Certificate Higher-Level Physics course through the medium of Irish within a number of Gaeltacht post-primary schools that are currently unable to offer this subject on the curriculum through Irish. The pilot will be carried out by the Gaeltacht Education Unit with the assistance of H2 Learning. The online course will be taught by two Physics e-Teachers with experience in the teaching of Leaving Certificate Higher Level Physics

through the medium of Irish. The e-Teachers will be based in their own post-primary Gaeltacht schools and will teach students across a number of post-primary schools in the Gaeltacht.

The Department is now seeking applications from post-primary schools that wish to take part in the full e-Hub pilot to commence in September 2019. The Department will select post-primary schools that have students who wish to take Higher-Level Physics through the medium of Irish as one of their optional subjects for the Leaving Certificate examination in 2021. We are specifically targeting post-primary schools that do not currently have the teaching capacity to offer Higher-Level Leaving Certificate Physics through the medium of Irish as a subject choice for the 2019/20 school year.

What the post-primary school needs to do

Post-primary schools that wish to participate in the full e-Hub pilot for Higher-Level Leaving Certificate Physics for 2019-2021 will be required to:

- nominate (1 to 5) students who are choosing Higher-Level Leaving Certificate Physics with effect from September 2019 and who will sit the Leaving Certificate examination in 2021
- satisfy themselves that the students nominated to study Higher-Level Leaving Certificate Physics online have demonstrated an aptitude for a course that contains a significant Mathematics-based element
- confirm that students nominated to study Higher-Level Leaving Certificate Physics online are not also studying the separate Leaving Certificate Physics-Chemistry course as only ***one*** of these subjects may be studied
- confirm that students nominated to study Higher-Level Leaving Certificate Physics online have a sufficient proficiency in Irish to follow the course and take the Leaving Certificate Physics examination through Irish
- nominate an appropriately qualified post-primary teacher for the role of e-Mentor who would be interested in participating in the pilot e-Hub project in the receiver school. The e-Mentor should, insofar as possible, hold a qualification in Science or Mathematics and precedence should be given to the post-primary teacher thus qualified in the event of expressions of interest being received from a number of post-primary teachers for the role
- commit to releasing the e-Mentor in the receiver post-primary school to work on the e-Hub project for 3.5 hours per week for up to two years **(an allocation of 3.5 additional teaching hours per week will be provided by the Department to facilitate this)**
- provide a suitable quiet room to locate the e-Hub. The room must be capable of accommodating up to 6 people comfortably **(a once-off allocation of €5,000 will be provided to equip the e-Hub room)**
- make provision in the post-primary school timetable to facilitate the Physics classes (up to 5 class periods per week, each of 40 minutes, in a combination that will include at least one double-period) and accommodating the attendance of the e-Mentor throughout.

Participation requirements for delivery of pilot e-Hub initiative

It is envisaged that up to 6 post-primary schools will be selected as e-Hub 'receiving' schools initially. A key requirement is that each participating school provides a quiet room where students can participate in online classes uninterrupted. A large office, resource room or library could provide a good location. The room will be set up with video conferencing facilities, tables and chairs to accommodate up to 6 students. The room will require a connection to the school's broadband. Ideally, the conferencing equipment should not be used for other purposes.

The e-Mentor Role

The role of e-Mentor serves an important function in the partnership between the participating post-primary schools, e-Teacher(s) and students. The e-Mentor will provide onsite support for students to ensure they can successfully participate in the Higher-Level Leaving Certificate Physics course. The e-Mentor role in participating receiver schools will include the following:

- Communicate with the e-Teacher(s), participating students and their parents, as required
- Ensure that participating students are comfortable with the processes established for accessing work, communicating issues and submitting work
- Ensure participating students can access technical support as required
- Deal with any concerns the e-Teacher may raise about student participation or performance
- Notify the e-Teacher of any issues relating to the students' engagement, behaviour or communications from teachers and/or parents
- Where behavioural or work issues arise, ensure that these are processed through the school's pastoral care system and ensure that there is follow through
- Provide guidance to students on how to become self-managing independent learners
- Monitor and track student progress on a regular basis.

If your school wishes to participate in this innovative programme, please complete the Gaeltacht e-Hub Pilot Application Form and return it to the Gaeltacht Education Unit, Department of Education and Skills at aog@education.gov.ie by **Friday, 29 March 2019**. **If you have additional questions, please contact the Gaeltacht Education Unit at aog@education.gov.ie**

Gaeltacht e-Hub Expression of Interest Form

A: This section to be completed by the Principal

Ainm an phríomhoide: _____

Ainm na scoile: _____

Seoladh ríomhphoist: _____

Uimhir ghutháin: _____

Uimhir rolla na scoile: _____

Seoladh na scoile: _____

Please outline why the school would like to participate in the e-Hub Leaving Certificate Physics Pilot Project with effect from September 2019 through to the Leaving Certificate examination 2021.

Please confirm that the post-primary school can satisfy the following:	Please tick	
	Yes	No
Nominate 1-5 students to commence Higher-Level Leaving Certificate Physics in Sept 2019		
Confirm that the students nominated have demonstrated an aptitude for Higher-Level Leaving Certificate Physics (which contains a significant Mathematics-based element)		
Confirm that students nominated are not also studying the separate Leaving Certificate Physics-Chemistry course		
Confirm that students nominated have sufficient proficiency in Irish		
Nominate a member of the teaching staff as e-Mentor		
Release the e-Mentor for 3.5 hours per week from September 2019 through to the Leaving Certificate examination 2021		
Provide a suitable quiet room to locate the e-Hub		
Accommodate a composite inter-school timetable for the online Physics course		

I confirm that the students I have identified satisfy the requirements as outlined in the information note that accompanies this form.

Name of nominated e-Mentor: _____ Date: _____

Principal: _____ Date: _____

B: This section to be completed by the e-Mentor

Teacher's Name: _____

Email Address: _____

Teaching Council
Qualification: _____

Teaching experience: _____

Level of proficiency in
Irish: _____

Have you experience of teaching online previously? Yes No

Are you willing to participate in a series of online workshops on online learning from May 2019? Yes No

Please outline why you would like to participate in the e-Hub Higher-Level Leaving Certificate Physics Pilot Project and act as an e-Mentor with effect from September 2019 through to the Leaving Certificate examination 2021.

I confirm that I satisfy the requirements for the e-Hub project as outlined in this information note that accompanies this form.

E_Mentor: _____ **Date:** _____

C: This section to be completed by the student

Student's Name: _____

Please outline why you want to choose Physics for your Leaving Cert examination in 2021.

Tell us about your interest in Science and Mathematics.

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Student

I confirm that I have read the Information Sheet for Students and Parents on the Gaeltacht e-Hub project.

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Parent/Guardian

The main purpose for which the Department requires the personal data provided by you is in relation to your school's application to participate in the pilot e-Hub project which is being implemented under the terms of the Gaeltacht School Recognition Scheme and the Policy on Gaeltacht Education 2017-2022. The personal data provided may be exchanged with other sections within the Department of Education and Skills, the Gaeltacht E-Hub Service Unit, the Teaching Council, where appropriate, in respect of the status of your registration, the Revenue Commissioners, the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection as required by law, and any other bodies to which you have instructed the Department to forward voluntary deductions made from your salary, as appropriate. Full details of the Department's data protection policy setting out how we will use your personal data as well as information regarding your rights as a data subject are available at www.education.ie Details of this policy are also available in hard copy upon request from: **An tAonad um Oideachas Gaeltachta, An Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna, Sráid Maoilbhríde, Baile Átha Cliath 1, DO1 RC96**