



**Loreto Secondary School,  
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**Office hours: 8.15 a.m. to 4.15 p.m., Monday to Friday**

Thursday, 22 February 2018

Dear parents/guardians and students,

I wish to inform you of a number of issues at this time, as follows:

#### **New School Update**

Sr. Helen (chairperson, Board of Management) and I attended a meeting in Tullamore this week with senior officials from the Department of Education and Skills (DES) and the National Development Finance Agency (NDFA). The following are the main points arising from this meeting:

1. The NDFA is awaiting the outcome of talks that are taking place in London this week between the PPP Co. (in the form of DIF) and Sammon Construction with a view to coming to an agreement to conclude the building work on all four sites in PPP Bundle 5. Should the talks be successful, NDFA officials will then travel to London to, hopefully, give State approval to such agreement. If agreement is reached, re-mobilisation of work crews on all sites will begin very quickly.
2. In the event that DIF cannot reach agreement with Sammon, other building contractors, with whom there has already been engagement, will be brought into the equation.
3. DIF is engaging separately with other companies to provide 25 year facility management services to all six buildings in the bundle.
4. It is recognised by all participants in the talks that the Wexford and Bray schools, both virtually complete, could be opened with the appointment of just a facility management service that would also have the capability to complete the very small amount of outstanding construction work. Both of these schools are being prioritised in the current negotiations as it is recognised by all parties that it is in everyone's interests to open schools as quickly as possible.
5. DES and NDFA officials have been made very aware of the limited windows of opportunity that exist to move into the new buildings between now and the summer.

We found this meeting to be very informative and were greatly impressed by the intense efforts being made by the different parties to resolve the current situation in as short a time frame as possible.

We will be attending a further briefing meeting in Tullamore on Tuesday, 6 March 2018 and will issue another letter to families upon conclusion of same. If there is good news to report before that date we will happily relay it at once.

### **New Junior Cycle Inservice Training**

You will be aware by now that the school is implementing the full programme of reform relating to the new Junior Cycle. To this end, it will be necessary to close the school to students on Tuesday, 6 March 2018 so that teachers can avail of inservice training being provided by the DES.

### **New Child Protection Procedures**

The DES has introduced new procedures in all schools relating to child protection. A separate section of the school website has been established to provide all relevant information to the full school community and to ensure that Loreto, Wexford will be compliant with all legislative requirements.

The DES has sanctioned two half-day closures in the current school year to enable all staff to become familiar with these new procedures. The first of these closures will be on Friday, 16 March 2018 when classes for all students will finish at 12.25.

### **Two reminders**

- You are asked to ensure that all student absences are explained in full by means of the absence note that is to be found in each students' journal. Failure to comply with this straightforward procedure will be recorded by the school on a student's attendance record.
- All students are responsible for the safekeeping of their personal property. To this end, it is essential that students keep their lockers fully secured by means of a lock at all times. The school will accept no responsibility for the loss of, or damage to, personal property, especially when it is left in unsecured lockers.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or comments in relation to these matters.

Yours faithfully,

Billy O' Shea,  
Principal.