



**Loreto Secondary School,
Pembroke Hill,
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Wexford.**

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Office hours: 7.45 a.m. to 4.15 p.m., Monday to Friday

Monday, 25 May 2020

Dear parents/guardians and students,

As we enter the final week of term, I write to keep you up to date with current and future school events.

- 6th year teachers will be implementing the Calculated Grades process for the 2020 Leaving Certificate over the coming two weeks. Full details of the process are to be found on www.education.ie. To uphold the integrity of the process, it is essential that there be no contact between teachers and 6th year students or their parents/guardians during this period. Any questions about the process can be directed to me at principal@loretowexford.com.
- It is planned to organise a Graduation Service and Reception for 6th year students and their families in September, subject to public health regulations in force at the time.
- Transition Year students will have a remote Graduation Ceremony at 18.00 on Tuesday, 26 May. Along with the co-ordinating teachers, they have put a great deal of work into this event. We hope it goes well for everyone. It will be followed by another event in September, hopefully, when certificates of achievement will be presented to all students.
- Teaching of 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 5th year students will continue over the next couple of days but will come to a close for the summer by the end of the week. Summer reports in respect of these year groups are being prepared and will be posted to families in early June. Eportal is offline until all reports have been entered and checked.
- 12.00 on Friday, 29 May marks the end of term for all students. Email contact between students and teachers will cease at that time for the duration of the summer.
- We will be in contact with our incoming 150 1st year students again in the coming weeks as we prepare them for the transition from primary to secondary education. Meitheal

leaders will shortly be appointed and trained to assist the incoming students in very practical ways when they finally get to start their second level education.

- We are not permitted to grant access to the school to students or parents for the foreseeable future. When such permission is eventually granted to us, we will make suitable arrangements for students to retrieve possessions from their lockers. Any forms requiring a school signature or official stamp over the summer months should be posted to Reception and will be dealt with at once.
- Details of the 2020/2021 booklists and school calendar are to be found on the school website. You will appreciate that the calendar is entirely dependent on prevailing public health regulations.
- Work on the replacement of the hockey pitch surface is due to commence in mid-July with a 1 September completion date.
- Student timetables for 2020/2021 will be available on Eportal from Monday, 17 August.
- It is expected that detailed planning will take place over the summer months at both national and individual school level in preparation for the re-opening of schools for the 2020/2021 academic year. It is too early to give any definite information as to what the arrangements will be to ensure the health and safety of every member of the school community. I shall keep you informed of developments in this area over the coming months.

As I conclude this letter, I think it appropriate to sincerely thank all members of the Loreto school community – staff, students and parents – for your hard work, resilience, commitment, flexibility, patience, tolerance and support over the past eleven weeks. The demands placed on you all were huge but the consolation is that the sacrifices that you made were instrumental in keeping the worst ravages of Covid-19 at bay. We enter the summer months with a sense of immense relief that all public health indicators are going in the right direction at this point in time. However, we know that serious obstacles remain, most particularly in relation to public health and the recovery of our societal and economic prospects. What helped me hugely over the past five weeks, in particular, was the sight and sound of hundreds of our students who joined class and year group assemblies on MS Teams. I was so impressed, girls, by your contributions, good humour, courtesy and questions and I really hope that we will all get to meet up again, in person, as we walk through the doors of Pembroke Hill in safe fashion come September.

For now, I wish all Loreto families as much joy, good health and togetherness as possible as we head into what will hopefully be a warm and pleasant summer, given everything that is happening.

Yours faithfully,

Billy O' Shea,
Principal.