



**Loreto Secondary School,  
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**Office hours: 7.45 a.m. to 4.15 p.m., Monday to Friday**

Monday, 12 October 2020

Dear parents/guardians and students,

I write this letter at the start of week seven of our return to school. Happily, I can report that school is operating very smoothly to date and that teaching and learning are progressing well, albeit in strange circumstances. I wish to extend my most sincere gratitude to all members of the Loreto school community – students, staff, parents/guardians – for an abundance of care, co-operation, support and good cheer since our return on 31 August.

We must, however, be realistic about where we are in relation to Covid-19. The so-called second wave has clearly arrived with more than 4,500 confirmed positive cases throughout the country over the past week. As you know from previous correspondence, we have had two positive cases in our school community since re-opening. As a school, we keep our preventive measures under weekly review and it is in this regard that I now wish to bring the following to your attention:

- In order to facilitate additional social distancing between students and to minimise interaction between year groups, the Board of Management has decided to shorten lunch break to 40 minutes with effect from Wednesday, 14 October. This means that early lunch will be taken from 12.25 to 13.05, with late lunch running from 13.05 to 13.45. As a result, the crossover period of 20 minutes between students in all year groups that has operated up to now will no longer apply.
- The shorter lunch break means that school will finish earlier each day – 15.45 on Monday and Tuesday, 15.05 on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.
- Supervised study will continue to operate but with a slightly earlier start and finish time.
- This shorter lunch will apply for the duration of Covid-19 preventive measures. Once these measures can be lifted safely, the normal duration of lunch break will be restored.

- The guidelines for students have been kept under ongoing review over the past seven weeks. Please see the revised guidelines by clicking [here](#). Areas of change are highlighted in red.
- The current preventive measures mean that a number of scheduled events cannot proceed. Accordingly, I regret to confirm that parent-teacher meetings for 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> year students have been cancelled. A detailed written report will be issued as normal in respect of all students prior to Christmas. Any parent/guardian with a particular concern about a daughter is invited, as ever, to contact the school to arrange a conversation with a teacher.
- It will not be possible to hold our Autumn General Meeting of parents that was scheduled for Monday, 19 October. Instead, a powerpoint presentation will be posted on our website next week incorporating the annual report from the Board of Management and a statement from the Parents' Association.
- Instead of a meeting, our Guidance Department will issue a detailed powerpoint presentation within the next week to 6<sup>th</sup> year parents regarding "Going to College".
- I will be meeting all students in scheduled assemblies over the coming weeks to keep them fully-informed of developments and to deal with their questions/comments.
- Letters to families will continue to be issued so that the general parent body is kept up-to-date on matters. Feel free to email me with any questions/comments.

For the school to stay open, it is essential that the Covid-19 virus not be allowed enter the building. I implore you to ensure that you and your household follow all public health advice and guidelines, however demanding they may be, in the coming weeks so that your daughters' education will not be adversely affected by an enforced school closure.

We all have an individual and collective responsibility to get this virus back under control. We have done it before; now we must do it again.

Yours faithfully,

Billy O' Shea,  
Principal and Secretary to the Board of Management.