



# Loreto Secondary School

Pembroke Hill, Ballynagee, Wexford. Y35WT28.



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Office hours: 7.45am to 4.15pm Monday to Friday

Wednesday, 05 January 2022

Dear parents/guardians and students,

I write this letter on the eve of school re-opening to highlight some important issues:

1. Even though we are very concerned about high Covid case numbers in recent times, we should be grateful for the fact that we are in a much better position than this time last year when we were faced with school closures that did not end fully until after Easter. Advances in science have led to this vastly improved situation and it is my sincere hope that as many as possible in the Loreto school community will avail of all vaccinations and boosters that are freely available to maintain this wonderful progress. The good of society requires this.
2. I am expecting higher than normal levels of absenteeism among both students and staff in the coming weeks. Whilst we will do our best in school to provide the greatest possible level of educational provision, there may be temporary shortcomings from time to time that might require specific actions. I shall keep you fully informed if such actions are needed.
3. Basic public health measures that have been highlighted repeatedly by the school in the past remain as important as ever, as follows:
  - a. Wearing clean face coverings properly
  - b. Cleaning hands regularly
  - c. Maintaining physical distance from others
  - d. Being mindful of the proper ventilation of classrooms by opening windows and doors as appropriate
  - e. Limiting the number of students in a classroom at break and lunch times to a maximum of 10
  - f. Staying at home if unwell
  - g. Following all advice in relation to self-isolating and restricting movements
  - h. Minimising social contacts
4. All parent-teacher and information meetings in relation to subject choice will proceed as per the school calendar but in an online format. More details will be provided ahead of each event.
5. Students must check their emails and One Note on a regular basis. This will be particularly important for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> year students in the coming months as arrangements are made for forthcoming mock and State examinations.

6. Our catering service tomorrow and Friday will be confined to break and lunch times only. Full service will resume from Monday next.
7. Students who miss school are urged to keep up with classwork by linking in with friends to find out what material is being covered in their absence. Our Deputy Principals should be contacted by students or parents in the case of prolonged absence to discuss any additional support measures that may be possible.
8. The school's Covid Review Group - made up of lead worker representatives, administration staff, Deputy Principal and Principal – will continue to meet every week to discuss all matters relating to the management of the pandemic in the school.
9. Christmas reports in respect of all students have been posted home this week. I ask all students to reflect carefully on the many positive comments in these reports as well as on the suggestions for further improvement.

I conclude by wishing you all a healthy, safe, happy and fulfilling 2022. As the song says – “things can only get better!” - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dlj-6fr2SI>

Kind regards,

Billy O' Shea,  
Principal.