



Loreto Secondary School Clonmel

Coleville Road, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary

23rd April 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I hope you and your extended family members remain well in these difficult times. As there is so much uncertainty in our world at present I wanted to open up lines of communication with you in relation to the 2020-2021 school year.

The situation around Junior Cycle exams and/or assessments has been unclear over the past few weeks in relation to format and timing. This combined with the fact that the students have not been in the school building for face-to-face teaching and communications I wanted to contact you directly to address some questions you may have at this time.

It has been established for definite that the Junior Cycle Timetabled exams for June have been cancelled. It is also the case that these specific timetabled exams WILL NOT take place in September. At present it seems that there may be some form of school-based assessments, but this has not been clarified. There are a couple of outstanding Junior Cycle CBAs (Classroom Based Assessments) and we expect further clarification on those later this week. As soon as this arrives, we will be in contact again with you. Like all of you I wish the Minister would make a decision so we can plan properly for the final term!

So, you may be wondering what your daughter should be doing now and over the coming months? The only definite we have at present is that school is continuing until Friday 29th May, so your daughter needs to continue engagement with her teachers until the end of term.

As there are so many 'unknowns' for all of us at present we are also giving you the opportunity to have a 'change of mind' on your decision about doing TY or 5th year because your family situation may now be very different from what it was in January of this year.

If your daughter had opted for TY for 2020-2021 then you will be aware that the 1st instalment of the fee was due by 13th February. To date, a number of people have not made any payment towards this first instalment. As the 2nd instalment falls due in a few weeks I wanted to open up a discussion around these payments.

If your daughter still wants to do TY but your financial situation has changed considerably due to the current Coronavirus pandemic please contact me directly at the school email reception@loretoclonmel.ie so that we can discuss your personal situation and a payment plan that would work for you.

If your daughter has had second thoughts about TY or you believe your general family situation has changed to such an extent that it requires that she go directly into 5th year for

2020-2021 there may be an option available for her to do so. Please contact me IMMEDIATELY at reception@loretoclonmel.ie if this is the case.

If your daughter had opted for 5th year 2020-2021 and now due to the changed circumstances in which we find ourselves you and she think **it would be more beneficial for her to be in TY next year** rather than 5th year, then we may be able to accommodate her in TY for 2020-2021. However, **it is really important that you contact me IMMEDIATELY if this is the case** as all of these decisions have an impact on school resources and despite the current crisis schools are expected to continue to plan and prepare for 2020-2021!

You do not need to contact us if there is no change to your daughter's decision for September.

However, please do contact me at reception@loretoclonmel.ie if I can be any help at all.

Stay safe.

Yours faithfully,

Anne Mc Grath,
Principal