



Loreto Secondary School Clonmel

Coleville Road, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary

Friday 23rd October 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Thank you to all our students and their families for their continued support during the first half of *Term One*. It has been a term like no other and with each member of our school community we got through these last 8 weeks together!

School Uniform Review

As you may know, during the last month we have resumed the consultation process of reviewing our current school uniform in order to provide the option of trousers for our students. All members of our extended school community (students, parents/guardians, teachers, SNAs, ancillary staff and Board of Management members) have been consulted.

From this consultation it is clear that a large majority of all cohorts wish to keep the pinafore. So, the school will go with the consensus i.e. a skirt is now ruled out. We have asked our suppliers to re-stock the pinafore.

To date the consultation of the entire Loreto community shows that there is equal preference for black or grey trousers. We will continue our consultation and will progress with identifying which type of trouser style that we will adopt for our uniform. As comfort is a priority, we will be asking some of the students to try various styles.

Parent Teacher Meetings

We had provisionally scheduled Parent-Teacher meetings as follows:

- 3rd Year Parent-Teacher meeting Tuesday 8th December 2020
- 6th Year Parent-Teacher meeting Friday 11th December 2020
- 2nd Year Parent-Teacher meeting Monday 25th January 2021
- 1st Year Parent-Teacher meeting Tuesday 23rd February 2021
- 5th Year Parent-Teacher meeting Monday 8th March 2021

We now realise that 3rd Year and 6th Year Parent-Teacher meetings scheduled for this side of Christmas will not be possible. As a result, teachers have agreed to prepare detailed reports for VSware. It is hoped that these reports will be available by 4pm on the day of the scheduled Parent-Teacher meeting. We will review the situation for Parent-Teacher meetings due to be held after Christmas nearer the dates for those Parent-Teacher meetings.

House Exams

As 3rd Years and 6th Years did not have written house exams last year the consensus among staff is that practise for longer length exams is needed prior to Mock Exams in February. So, we will have 3rd Year and 6th Year House Exams from Monday 23rd November 2020 to Friday 27th November 2020. This will allow for 3 weeks teaching prior to the November Exams and three weeks teaching after this date.

All other year groups will have House Exams as normal – approximately 5 working days before the end of the school term. Arrangements for these exams will be different to previous years due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Level 5 Restrictions

During this time off we would like to ask you to remind your daughter to adhere to all Level 5 Restrictions from the **Plan for Living with COVID-19**. The restrictions that are particularly relevant to students are:

- people will be permitted to exercise within a radius of 5km of their home
- there should be no visits to other people's homes or gardens
- it is possible to meet with one other household in an outdoor setting which is not a home or garden, such as a park, including for exercise
- non-contact training can continue for school-aged children only in pods of 15
- no social/family gatherings should take place

Please visit **gov.ie** at this [link](#) for complete details of Level 5 restrictions.

We want to underline the importance of our shared responsibility to stick to the Level 5 restrictions so that we can all be back safely together on Monday 2nd November 2020.

However, should it happen that we are closed we have a contingency plan prepared and we will be communicating this to you should the need arise.

School Hours during Midterm

As we begin a much-needed midterm break we would like to remind you that teaching staff will not be answering emails or messages on Teams until Monday 2nd November 2020.

The school office will be open from Tuesday to Friday from 9am to 1pm. If necessary you can contact the office at reception@loretoclonmel.ie or at (052) 6121402.

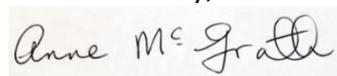
Thanks to our staff

A particular thanks goes to our COVID-19 Team – Ms Áine Powell and Ms Enya Bourke – whose commitment and dedication to keeping every member of the school community safe has meant that each challenge was met with a solution focused approach.

Thanks must also go to each and every member of our staff who have done an incredible job in taking care of our students. Getting everyone back to school happened because of the professionalism and good will of all of our staff members.

We hope that all members of the Loreto Clonmel community have a restful midterm break.

Yours faithfully,



Anne Mc Grath,
Principal



Sarah Rice,
Deputy Principal

HSE Advice

Further information on COVID-19 is available at: <https://www.hpsc.ie/> and <https://www.gov.ie/en/> or phone **Public Health South East** at 056 7784142 or **HSE Live** at 1850 24 1850



Coronavirus COVID-19 Public Health Advice

2m
(6 feet)

Please Ensure Social Distancing

HSE Rialtas na hÉireann Government of Ireland



Protect yourself and others from getting sick

Wash your hands

- after coughing or sneezing
- when caring for the sick
- before and after you prepare food
- before eating
- after toilet use
- when hands are visibly dirty
- after touching cuts, blisters or any open sores
- you can use alcohol hand rub, if hands are not visibly dirty

RESIST www.hse.ie/handhygiene

HSE



How to use Face Coverings

ALWAYS CLEAN YOUR HANDS BEFORE AND AFTER WEARING A FACE COVERING

Correct Covering
Medical masks should be reserved for health workers or patients in treatment. If you have been advised to wear a medical mask, always have the coloured side showing and the metal band at the top of your nose.

Check Your Fit
Check that the face covering is made from a fabric that you are comfortable wearing.
Check that it is easy to fit and completely covers your nose and mouth, all the way down under your chin.
Tighten the laces or ties so it's snug around your face, without gaps. If there are straps, tie them high on top of the head to get a good fit. Do not touch or fidget with the face covering when it is on.

DO NOT: Wear the face covering below your nose. Leave your chin exposed. Wear it loosely with gaps on the sides. Wear it so it covers just the tip of your nose. Push it under your chin to rest on your neck.

FOLLOW THESE TIPS TO STAY SAFE:
ALWAYS wash your hands before and after handling your face covering.
ALWAYS change your face covering if it is dirty, wet or damaged.
Carry unused face coverings in a sealable clear plastic bag, for example a plastic bag.
Carry a second unused face covering to put used face coverings in.
CHILDREN should not wear face coverings.
ALWAYS wash your face covering on the highest temperature for death.

Safe Removal
Use the ties or ear loops to take the face covering off. Do not touch the front when you take it off.

Disposing Of Single-Use Mask
Always dispose of single-use masks properly in a bin. Don't forget to wash your hands and keep social distance.

Stay safe. Protect each other.

HSE Rialtas na hÉireann Government of Ireland



Coronavirus COVID-19

Help prevent coronavirus

- Wash your hands
- Cover mouth if coughing or sneezing
- Avoid touching your face
- Keep surfaces clean
- Stop shaking hands and hugging
- Keep a safe distance

The virus spreads in sneeze and cough droplets, so regularly taking the above measures helps reduce the chance of it spreading.

Visit HSE.ie
For updated factual information and advice
Or call 1850 24 1850

Protection from coronavirus. It's in our hands.

HSE Rialtas na hÉireann Government of Ireland