



Loreto Secondary School Clonmel

Coleville Road, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary

Friday 15th January 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

At the end of our first week of Remote Teaching and Learning we write in the hope that your daughter and your family have settled into a comfortable routine at this stage.

State Examinations Commission Information

We received an email from the State Examinations Commission yesterday (Thursday 14th January 2021) which said:

Planning for the 2021 examinations is underway and the stakeholder advisory group will consider all the various issues arising in relation to the holding of the 2021 examinations, including public health considerations and appropriate contingency measures. As this work is continuing, the SEC is not yet in a position to issue the detailed timetables and schedules of key dates for the forthcoming examinations.

We want to assure our 6th Years and 3rd Years that we will keep you informed of any decisions that the DES makes at all stages between now and the end of the school year.

School Office

Please remember to contact reception@loretoclonmel.ie if you have any queries or family issues and your email will be directed to the relevant person.

Remote Teaching and Learning

Following consultation by survey and discussion with students and staff we have made some changes and recommendations for all our students. Please see page 2 and 3 for these.

We want to say a huge thank you to all our staff who have made it possible for every one of our students to engage in a very meaningful way with remote classes. We know from listening to our students that the time spent in remote classes this week has been positive and lots of learning has taken place. This would not be possible without the dedication of our staff members, as well as the enthusiastic participation of our students along with the support of their parents/guardians.

We wish you all a happy, safe and restful weekend.

Yours faithfully,

Anne Mc Grath, Principal

Sarah Rice, Deputy Principal



Week Beginning Monday 18th January 2021

Additional information

following consultation by survey and discussion with students and staff

Follow the School Timetable

All academic classes, PE and learning support classes, will occur as within the timetable. Students will be following their normal Year Group break times and lunch times.

- 1st, TYs and 6th Years have break at 10.55am to 11.10am and lunch time at 1.10pm to 1.50pm
- 2nd, 3rd and 5th Years have break at 10.15am to 10.30am and lunch time at 12.30pm to 1.10pm

3rd Year RE

This is a Junior Cert examinable subject so this continues for 3rd year students.

Careers

This will continue for Senior Cycle students.

SPHE, CSPE, Life Skills, IT, Pastoral Care

These classes will not occur in order to give students time to get organised for academics, but most importantly to give students time away from screens.

RE

Teachers will arrange one or two live classes which will serve as a “check-in” for our students.

Student Journals

These should be used to record classwork, homework and when the next live lesson is taking place for each subject.

TIP: set your alarm for 5 minutes before your live class if you are likely to forget the time! Once you turn your alarm off set it for the next live class!

Live Class Times

Live classes start at the start of the scheduled period. They finish after 30 minutes *where possible*.

The remaining class time will allow students and staff time to have:

- Time for questions and answers
- Screen break
- Bathroom break
- Organise gathering books and homework for the next class.

Roll Call happens every day at first class.

Note if you are scheduled to have *CSPE, SPHE, RE, Life Skills, IT, Pastoral Care* first class please go to this live class in order to be present for the roll call. Once finished the call will be ended to allow students to get on with preparing for other classes.

Roll call is taken every day and texts are sent home if a student is absent

Please note that students are expected to be at their desk at 8.55am, ready to join their first class. The teacher is the only one who can start the live class. Students who are not present for roll call at 8.55am will be marked absent and a text will be sent home.

Parents/Guardians and students received information regarding how to access unlimited mobile data on smartphones. Please look into this if you have WIFI issues.

However, if it is the case that you are unable to join a Teams call due to **connectivity issues**, please try one or both of the following:

- If a student is finding it difficult to join the call please write a message underneath the call which will appear in the chat of the call (with the time noted) so the teacher will see it immediately
- Or a student can text a friend in the class who can tell the teacher

Then the teacher will try to ring the student into the call. If none of this works the student should let their parent/guardian know before 9.15am, who can then email the school, to let the school know before 9.30am that the student is at home with WIFI issues. Hopefully this will avoid unnecessary texts about attendance.

Lag

If students are seeing a lag in their video - the lag might be an issue with the home WIFI. Perhaps try your mobile data rather than WIFI to see if this helps the situation.