



Loreto Secondary School Clonmel

Coleville Road, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary

18th March 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I hope you and your family are well.

As you know these are clearly unprecedented days. We are committed to working to maintain and support all in our school community in the current climate.

This may be a long haul - beyond 29th March 2020. We are only at the beginning of something that is new and is occurring within the context of a national crisis situation.

Loreto's school community catchment area is a large area. Within this there are variances of IT accessibility across students and their families and, indeed, teachers. We need to move forward with care and with equity.

We, as your child(ren)'s teachers, are not in competition with any other school, or with each other in this evolving process. Our responsibility is to our own school community - students, families and teachers.

It is recognised that students and parents/guardians are under equal pressure to ourselves and we need to ensure we engage with each other in a manner that is clear and allows us all to maintain calm.

We are committed to moving forward together: that means not overreaching ourselves today on day one!

Our starting common position is contact through Microsoft 365 (including Class Notebook, Teams and @loretoclonmel.ie email addresses). Other strategies may evolve over the duration of this closure phase as we all settle in and work together with remote Teaching and Learning. However, at this time we are satisfied that Microsoft 365 provides us with what is required.

Our core objective for this week (Wednesday 18th March to Tuesday 24th March) is testing our strategy and securing it and the confidence of our students and their families in it as a viable means for operating remote Teaching and Learning.

Students and their families are reminded from today Wednesday 18th March of the protocol re contacting their teachers during school hours (on working days) only. You are asked, where possible, to respect these times. It may be the case that students or teachers need to work flexibly owing to personal circumstances, so please be patient and understanding of each other.

Parents/Guardians are asked to encourage students to email teachers in the first instances before parents/guardians contact the school.

There is no expectation that 'class' takes place at the normal timetabled time each day. What we are seeking to do is to ensure work and learning materials are being issued out to all year groups and completed corrected work is returned and/or feedback given.

As a school we are aware (as we are sure parents/guardians are also aware) that student and staff personal circumstances may vary over the next few weeks and this is something that we need to be conscious of when communicating with each other.

At present the school email (reception@loretoclonmel.ie) is being managed from 9am to 4.30pm (with the office closed for lunch from 12.45pm to 2pm) each working day during the closure period. This is subject to change.

To date we have not received written communication from the State Examinations Commission regarding future planning for the Leaving Certificate and Junior Certificate Examinations. We will contact you as soon as we have any new information.

Together we will work through this. Please see below a short reflection.

We are sending this letter to you via email, should you not receive an email please send your correct email address to reception@loretoclonmel.ie as going forward we will use email as a means of communication.

Thank you for your continued support and best wishes to you all for today and beyond,

Anne Mc Grath,
Principal

