



## Loreto Secondary School

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13<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

As you are aware an announcement was made yesterday by the Taoiseach of the closure of schools, pre-schools and further and higher education settings, for a period until 29 March 2020, to support efforts to contain the spread of Covid-19. This is in line with the advice of the National Public Health Emergency Team.

The Department of Education & Skills also stated that *'all pupils and students, from pre-school to third level are urged to practice social distancing, and to minimise physical contact with each other, to help avoid the spread of Covid-19. This should include minimising social contact, avoiding meeting up and keeping physical space between them. Parents and guardians are urged to support their children to maintain this approach.'*

In order to minimise the impact on teaching and learning all schools have been asked to continue to plan lessons and, where possible, provide online resources.

The following arrangements are in place in Loreto Bray:

- All students were advised yesterday to bring home their books.
- Students are reminded that useful learning resources are available on [www.scoilnet.ie](http://www.scoilnet.ie) and 6<sup>th</sup> year and 3<sup>rd</sup> year students should be aware that past examination papers and sample answers are available from [www.studylix.ie](http://www.studylix.ie).
- In addition, all students are encouraged to engage in an element of self-directed learning.
- Some teachers will have already assigned additional work to their classes.
- All students have been given a Loreto Bray email address for school use only.
- Online applications (Edmodo and G Suite including Google Classroom, Gmail, Hangouts, etc.) will be used by teachers to communicate with students and assign work.

Please note that the online communication arrangements are for teacher-student use only. Any parental queries should be emailed to [info@loretobray.com](mailto:info@loretobray.com) as normal.

Students are reminded that they are *'expected to follow the same standards and expectations of behaviour online, on social media and through any other forms of communication as they would in person'* (Code of Behaviour 2019/2020).

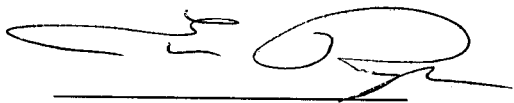
If students experience difficulty accessing their Google Classroom or their email account, they should email Ms Fernandez at [googleclassroom@loretobray.com](mailto:googleclassroom@loretobray.com).

It is important for students to keep a routine. We would suggest students stick to their regular school timetable. By keeping a routine, they will maximise the use of their time and a routine/timetable will also make them feel much more positive about their day's work.

As information becomes available to the school from the Department of Education and Skills and the State Examinations Commission, we will communicate that information. However, parents are encouraged to continue to monitor the relevant websites for updates.

We hope everyone stays well and healthy during these weeks and look forward to having everyone back to normal routines as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Emma Raughter', written over a horizontal line.

Emma Raughter  
Principal