



Loreto Secondary School

Bray, Co. Wicklow. Telephone 01 2867481 Fax 01 2867481
info@loretobray.com www.loretobray.com

26th March 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

As you know, all of us are being asked to do things differently at the moment to help to contain the spread of Covid-19, and in the wake of Tuesday's announced extension to the school closures until 19th April, I write to clarify for you the arrangements that are in place to support our students' learning in these weeks.

For student wellbeing, it is important for them to maintain a familiar routine when other things are changing around them. Teachers have been asked to facilitate students to stick to a routine of normal school timetabled hours and to continue contact with their subject classes in all year groups on a regular basis – proportionate to the number of class periods they would have with them in an ordinary school week. (Exceptions to this include SPHE, PE, Guidance and Senior Cycle Religion.)

It is important to remember that by its nature, 5 periods of a subject in our current online school environment in a week is a good deal more intense than 5 periods in our physical school, and therefore teachers will try to manage the volume of work assigned accordingly so as not to overload students.

Teachers are encouraged and expected to maintain a regular two-way channel of communication with students through the use of online classes, where possible. It will be possible and suitable for some teachers to provide virtual online classes at various times throughout the week but this is not possible or suitable for other teachers. Similarly, we know it will be possible and suitable for some students to participate in virtual online classes at various times throughout the week but this is not possible or suitable for other students.

Teachers will document and keep a record of the work they do with their classes as they would normally do. This includes keeping a record of student engagement in general and recording attendance in the case of online classes.

If, however, it is the case that students in any year group report that they are feeling overwhelmed because they feel they are getting too much work on a given day, they are encouraged to communicate this to their subject teacher in the first instance, or if needs be to their Year Leader.

These arrangements are for teacher-student communication only, and any parental queries should be directed to info@loretobray.com

On Tuesday, the Taoiseach reiterated how important it is to be vigilant regarding social distancing, handwashing, taking care when coughing and sneezing, and limiting the amount that we socialise with others. It is essential that we only go out when it is absolutely essential, that we limit social gatherings outside to a maximum of four, and that we avoid visiting other people's houses.

We would like to commend or encourage full support for those who work in the Health Service and all front line services. We know that a number of them are members of families in our school community. We applaud them!

Our school website will be updated regarding the advice on Covid-19, alongside updates regarding teaching and learning in our school during this period.

We hope that you and your loved ones stay safe and healthy at this time, and we look forward to seeing you all again in person soon.

Yours sincerely,

Emma Raughter
Principal