



Loreto Secondary School

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26th March 2020

Dear Student,

I am writing to you in the wake of the extension to school closures until 19th April, to clarify for you the arrangements that are in place to support your learning in the coming weeks.

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. For your wellbeing, it is important that you maintain a routine during this time to give your days a structure, and to stay engaged with your schoolwork, and keep connected to our school community, even if we are physically apart.

Teachers have been asked to facilitate you 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 are feeling overwhelmed because you feel you are getting too much work on a given day, you are encouraged to communicate this to your subject teacher in the first instance, or if needs be to your Year Leader, just as you would do in school.

At this stage you are all furnished with your school email, and have been using the various platforms, but if you are experiencing problems in this area, please email googleclassroom@loretobray.com

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

We would like to commend and 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!

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 hope that yourself and your loved ones stay safe and healthy during these weeks, and we look forward to seeing you all in person again soon.

Kind regards,

Ms Raughter