



## Loreto Secondary School

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15<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> Year Parent/Guardian,

As you are aware schools have been instructed to move to online teaching and learning, for a period until 31<sup>st</sup> January 2021 when it will be reviewed. This decision has led to a lack of clarity for all students about a number of issues including when we will return to school and what will happen regarding our assessments, in particular our house exams.

The date for reopening of schools is outside of our control and the decision lies with the Government based on the advice it receives from NPHE and other stakeholders. While waiting for this decision our students are faced with stress and uncertainty about the return to in school tuition and preparation for house exams.

Given this ambiguity around when schools will reopen for any students, **we have reviewed our assessment arrangements for 1st, 2nd, and 5th Years** and have cancelled this year's February exams. Teachers will assess students in a mode that is appropriate with the progress made in individual classes in online learning, within the class timetable when school reopens as normal.

This decision will remain even if the DES instructs that any or all of the students return to school before mid-term. If the DES instructs that any or all of the students return to school before mid-term, we will have in-school tuition time with the 1st, 2nd, and 5th Years from then on. Taking this decision affords the flexibility when we reopen to spend more time on in-school tuition time.

Revised preparations are now underway for the assessments for the rest of the year and will be communicated to students by Subject Teachers and Year Leaders as appropriate.

We will communicate information as it becomes available to the school from the Department of Education and Skills (DES) and the State Exams Commission (SEC). However, students and parents are encouraged to continue to monitor the relevant websites for updates.

[www.education.ie](http://www.education.ie)

[www.examinations.ie](http://www.examinations.ie)

We understand that it has been a very stressful time and we wish to thank students and parents for their cooperation and support.

I hope you and your families continue to stay safe and well.

Yours sincerely

Emma Raughter  
Principal