



Loreto Secondary School

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15th January 2021

Dear 6th Year Parent/Guardian,

As you are aware schools have been instructed to move to online teaching and learning, for a period until 31st January 2021 when it will be reviewed. This decision has led to a lack of clarity for all students and in particular our Leaving Certificate students who are concerned about a number of issues including when we will return to school and what will happen regarding mock 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 NPHET and other stakeholders. While waiting for this decision our students are faced with stress and uncertainty about their preparation for the Leaving Certificate including the Mock exams.

Given the ambiguity around when schools will reopen for any students, we have reviewed the date for **Mock exams** for both 6th Years and 3rd Years and these will **now begin on Monday 22nd February**. 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 6th and 3rd Years for that period and mocks will begin on 22nd February.

Revised preparations are now underway for the mock exams and the timetable has now been altered accordingly. The revised timetable will be published on the school website and will be emailed to students via their school email address on Monday 18th January.

We await communication from the State Examinations Commission (SEC) or the Department of Education and Skills (DES) with regards to any proposed changes to the structure of Leaving Certificate written exam papers, coursework or orals/practical's schedule. As information becomes available to the school from the DES and the SEC, we will communicate that information. However, students and parents are encouraged to continue to monitor the relevant websites for updates.

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

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

Yours sincerely

Emma Raughter
Principal