



Loreto Secondary School

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11th February 2021

Dear Third Year Parent/Guardian,

As you are aware, since January 11th, we have been operating school online, as per public health advice. Despite much speculation, no firm decision has yet been taken about the reopening of Post Primary schools, or about what form Junior Cycle Assessment will take.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend all of the students for their engagement and commitment to online schooling, in what is a challenging time for everyone. I would also like to thank the students for their feedback and communication with their teachers and urge them to continue this dialogue with us.

As you are aware, we had intended to run Mock Examinations for Third Years beginning on Monday 22nd February. However, because no decision has been taken by the State Exams Commission (SEC), we have taken the decision in Loreto Bray that **Mock Examinations will not take place at that time.**

Mock examinations will not take place online.

Any decision that we do take regarding Mock Examinations for you will take a number of factors into consideration. We cannot make a final decision about whether Mock Examinations can take place, and what form they will take if they do, until we have more information from the SEC.

In taking student wellbeing into account, **please be assured that students will have a minimum of one week of tuition upon return to physical school,** before they would have any kind of formal assessment. This will give them time to settle back into physical school, and its routine, and to see their teachers and peers in a normal classroom setting.

Ms Tobin and Third Year Form teachers have been in contact with students today, and I would like to reiterate to you the value of taking a break next week during mid-term. We urge the students to take the opportunity to recharge batteries, to rest and relax, and to spend some time on self-care, as Ms Tobin recommends, and exercise a balanced approach to schoolwork and study.

I would like to thank all Parents/Guardians for your support of your daughters and of the school, which is invaluable as current circumstances can be very stressful for the students at times.

I have also written to your daughters to inform them of this update.

I hope that you and your families stay safe and well,

Yours sincerely,

Emma Raughter
Principal