



**Loreto Secondary School,
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Tuesday, 06 February 2018

Dear parents/guardians and students,

I write to update you on recent developments relating to the delay in moving to our new school building at Pembroke Hill.

Sr. Helen (Chairperson, Board of Management) and I attended a meeting in Dublin last Friday with senior officials from both the Department of Education and Skills (DES) and the National Development Finance Agency (NDFA). Representatives of the other schools in PPP Bundle 5 were also in attendance.

The following points arose from the meeting:

1. Details were given of the intensive negotiations that have been going on between remaining members of the Inspired Spaces Consortium, their funders and the NDFA. It was reported that the mood of negotiations was very positive with all participants heavily incentivised to resolve the situation as soon as possible.
2. Negotiations are centred on two main issues – the completion of remaining work at all sites and the replacement of Carillion as the Facilities Management Company for the next 25 years. Both issues have to be addressed so as to ensure full compliance with the terms of the original PPP contract.
3. The next fortnight will be very important for the overall direction and success of the negotiations. Further updates will be provided to the schools during this period and a follow-up briefing meeting has been set for Tuesday, 20 February in Tullamore.
4. DES and NDFA officials were made fully aware of the effects of the ongoing situation on students, staff and parents in all schools involved.

As it is not possible to give a definite date for the move to the new school at this time, Loreto will carry on as normal in Spawell Road until further notice. Any issues arising from this can be addressed at school level in the week ahead.

I realise that this delay is most frustrating for all members of our school community as our planning for the move was at a very advanced stage. As the resolution of this situation is outside of our control

we can only express the hope that the key players involved in negotiations will move to agreement on all matters over the coming weeks.

I shall keep you fully informed of future developments and I remain available to everyone to deal with any questions or issues that may arise.

Yours faithfully,

Billy O' Shea,
Principal.