



**Loreto Secondary School,  
Spawell Road,  
Wexford.**

**Telephone:** (053) 9142783  
**Fax:** (053) 9147773  
**E-mail:** [loretowexford@eircom.net](mailto:loretowexford@eircom.net)  
**Website:** [www.loretowexford.com](http://www.loretowexford.com)

**Office hours: 8.15 a.m. to 4.15 p.m., Monday to Friday**

Thursday, 15 March 2018

Dear parents/guardians and students,

I hope this letter finds you all keeping well.

I wish to update you in relation to the following matters:

### **New School**

Sr. Helen (Chairperson, Board of Management) and I attended a meeting in Tullamore yesterday with Department of Education and Skills (DES), National Development Finance Agency (NDFA) and the Dutch Infrastructure Fund (DIF) officials in relation to our new school.

The following are the main points arising from the meeting:

1. DIF gave a detailed account of the current situation regarding Schools Bundle 5. Additional information was provided by DES and NDFA officials.
2. DIF has issued tender documentation in respect of both works completion and facilities management at all four sites – Wexford, Carlow, Bray and Kells. The closing date for the receipt of tenders will be 5 April 2018.
3. Following evaluation of the tenders, a preferred bidder will then be appointed subject to the approval of all parties – DIF, their lenders, DES and the NDFA.
4. In the case of Wexford, it is expected that service commencement in the new school will be June 2018.
5. As a consequence, it can now be confirmed that the school year will be completed in full in Spawell Road.
6. Following completion of the State examinations on 22 June 2018 it is expected that arrangements will then commence for the opening of the new school at Pembroke Hill from the end of August 2018.

The complexities involved in this entire process are considerable and involve parties in Ireland, Holland, Japan and Germany. Sr. Helen and I are both satisfied that a clear pathway and timeline are now in place that will enable us to gain possession of our new school in June. Whilst we would all

prefer to be in situ well before the summer, the complexities of the situation must be respected and due process has to be allowed to take its course.

DES and the NDFA will continue to provide weekly updates and a further meeting in Tullamore will be scheduled after Easter.

### **Child Protection**

New DES procedures governing child protection came into effect last December.

In compliance with these procedures, the school's Board of Management has formally ratified a new Student Safeguarding Statement incorporating a Risk Assessment. This statement may now be viewed on the school website – [www.loreto-wexford.com](http://www.loreto-wexford.com) – under the Child Protection tab on the home page. A hard copy is available upon request at Reception.

Put simply, child protection in this school is all about safeguarding students against any form of neglect or physical/emotional/sexual abuse.

Any child protection concerns in Loreto, Wexford should be brought to the attention of the Designated Liaison Person (DLP) – Mr. Billy O' Shea. In his absence, the Deputy DLP is Ms. Chris O' Reilly. Any staff member may also be approached should any child protection concerns arise.

### **Time lost due to severe weather**

The Board of Management and staff are committed to ensuring that students will not be adversely affected by recent enforced school closures due to the severe weather.

To this end, the following measures have been put in place:

- All teachers will work closely with their students to ensure that coursework is completed in the remaining ten weeks of the current school year.
- Tuition time will be prioritised as much as possible over co- and extra-curricular activities, especially in relation to 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> year students.
- Supervised study will be provided for 6<sup>th</sup> year students on six mornings over the Easter holidays.
- Two half day closures in respect of child protection training for staff, sanctioned by the DES, will not be taken. Instead, staff will complete this training in either their own time or in the course of Croke Park hours that do not impact upon school opening times. As a consequence, school will operate for the full day on Friday, 16 March 2018.

As ever, please feel free to contact me should you have any question or comment in relation to the information contained in this letter.

Yours faithfully,

Billy O' Shea,  
Principal.