



June 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians

As we close the academic year 2022-23, I take this opportunity to congratulate our students for their effort, enthusiasm, participation, progression, and achievements across curricular, extracurricular and pastoral activities. I acknowledge all staff who play their own very important key role in contributing to the provision we make, and for enabling and encouraging our pupils to engage and benefit fully from opportunities for enrichment and personal development.

The support from parents and guardians throughout the past year has been greatly appreciated and we look forward to continued partnership.

The staff and I are looking forward to a new beginning in August/September 2023 and to welcoming the return of our students for the next year of their educational journey at Loreto.

See attached arrangements for school opening in September 2023, key dates for the academic year 2023-2024 and general information for your reference.

This year, we acknowledged longstanding members of staff who retired: Mrs C Turbitt – Vice-Principal, Mr G Donaghy-Groundsman/Caretaker, Mrs M Martin-Cleaning Staff, Ms P Armstrong – Geography Department and Mrs S Casey – Pupil Welfare Officer. We also bade farewell to permanent teaching staff members: Mr S O'Hagan, Mrs D Marlow, and Mrs N McNally. We thank each, and everyone for their outstanding service to Loreto Grammar School, Omagh and wish them much happiness for the future.

Once again, thank you for your support during the past year. We will continue to pray for, and hold dear in our thoughts, those who have experienced bereavement or have concerns about illness or vulnerability within their family or friendship circles. May God grant them the strength and healing they need.

I wish you, the students and your families health, happiness and joy over the holidays and until we meet again, "Go gcoinní Dia i mbos a láimhe sibh" - *May God hold you in the palm of His hand.*

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Susan Cullinan (Principal)



KEY DATES 2023/24

Dates highlight days on which pupils / year groups are in attendance
The list below includes Parent Teacher Meeting, Information Events and School Closures

The school day is 9.05am – 3.25pm

Term 1	
Arrangements for School Opening September 2023	
<i>Senior Leadership Training</i>	<i>Tuesday 29th August 2023</i>
Induction for Year 9,10,11 only	Friday 1st September 2023
Induction for Year 8,12 only	Monday 4th September 2023
Induction for Year 13,14 only	Tuesday 5th September 2023
School Open: All pupils	Wednesday 6th September 2023
Mid-Term: School Closed for pupils	Monday 30 Oct – Friday 3 Nov 2023
School Open: All pupils	Monday 6 November 2023
Christmas: School closed for pupils	Friday 22 December 2023
Term 2	
Parent Teacher Meeting* Year 12 9:30am-11:30am Year 11 1:15pm-3:15pm	Wednesday 3 rd January 2024 Year 12 only Year 11 only
School Open: All pupils	Thursday 4 January 2024
Parent Teacher Meeting* Year 10 9:30am-11:30am	Friday 19 th January 2024 Year 10 only
PM - School Closed for pupils	Friday 19 th January 2024
Parent Teacher Meeting* Year 13 9:30am-11:30am Year 8 1:15pm-3:15pm	Thursday 8 th February 2024 Year 13 only Year 8 only
<u>Subject Choices / Information Events*</u> Year 10 (GCSE Options) 10:00am-12noon Year 12 (Post 16 Options) 1:15pm-3:15pm	Friday 9 th February 2024 Year 10 only Year 12 only
Parent Teacher Meeting* Year 14 9:30am-11:30am Year 9 1:15pm-3:15pm	Monday 12 February 2024 Year 14 only Year 9 only
Mid-Term: School Closed for pupils	Tuesday 13 – Friday 16 February 2024
School Open: All pupils	Monday 19 February 2024
St Patrick's Day: School Closed for pupils	Monday 18 March 2024
Easter: School Closed for pupils	Thursday 28 March – Friday 5 April 2024
Term 3	
School Open: All pupils	Monday 8 April 2024
May Day: School Closed for pupils	Monday 6 May 2024
May Holiday: School closed for pupils	Monday 27 May 2024
Staff Training: School Closed for pupils	Tuesday 28 May 2024
Summer: School Closed for Pupils	Friday 28 June 2024

*The above dates for Parent Teacher Meetings / Information Events are fluid and subject to change

GENERAL INFORMATION

Entry, Registration, Parent Communication and Visits

- The school gates open at 8:15am.
- Pupils must use the pedestrian crossing controlled by the traffic lights at the James Street entrance.
- Parents are asked to drop the pupils off at the school gates unless the pupil requires disability access.
- Pupils enter and exit school via James Street entrance (at office) or via Main Foyer (at canteen)
- The school day begins with Registration every morning at 9:05am.
- Once in school, students should remain in school. Emergency appointments only. Parents should contact the school office in advance re: appointments or to collect their daughter in an emergency.
- All necessary communications between home and school should be made through the school office.
- Visitors to the school will be by appointment only.

Administration Procedures on the First Day of Return

- Issue of: Timetable, Stationery, Bus Passes, and the Student Planners. (Lost Student Planners can be replaced at a cost of £5.50).
- Biometric registration for use of Canteen. Registration for **IPAY IMPACT which replaces PAY 360** will take place in August and parents will be able to register to pay online.
- The **Sims Parent App** will be our main communication tool.

Voluntary Contributions

We appeal to you for your support in making the voluntary contribution towards the range and quality of education and extra-curricular services provided by Loreto Grammar School from which all pupils can benefit. For your convenience, direct debit or online payment via **IPAY IMPACT (from September 2023, replacing current PAY 360)** options available.

1 pupil - £70.00 / 2 pupils - £120.00 / 3 or more pupils - £150.00

If you have already made the contribution, we thank you sincerely for your support.

School Uniform - Pupils are expected to wear their full school uniform neatly, with dignity and pride.

Blazers are compulsory.

Skirts must be knee length.

Dark brown tights are compulsory (unless medical exemption applies)

Following the high temperatures during the last term, a new, short sleeve summer blouse is being sourced, which can be worn with knee length socks in May / June. Tie / jumper will not be required with the new summer uniform.

If pupils choose to wear the standard long sleeve blouse in May / June, a tie will be required.

Shoes must be plain **dark** brown and must **not be canvas**.

Rainbow coloured hair, nail varnish and make-up are not permitted.

Facial piercings are not to be worn.

School scarf only.

The clip-on tie is available for all year groups.

Monitoring of Uniform will continue throughout the year.

Parents / Guardians are asked for full support, ensuring their daughter adheres to the uniform regulations.

Mobile Phones

Pupils' mobile phones are to remain switched off during the school day unless directed by a teacher for use in a curriculum subject area under the Bring Your Own Device to School Policy.

Mobile phones in use, other than under supervised class conditions and directed by staff, will be **confiscated**. Follow-up as per Positive Behaviour Management Policy will be implemented. There will be no facility to charge pupils' mobile phones in school.

Healthy Lifestyle

Pupils should not bring energy drinks such as Boost, BPM, Red Bull etc. to school because of the high caffeine content.

Parents may find the following information useful: <http://www.caffeineinformer.com/top-10-energy-drink-dangers>.