



01 July 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we close the academic year 2023-24, I take this opportunity to congratulate our students for their commitment to school life, reflected in their effort, participation, progression, and achievements, and for collectively living to the full our pastoral theme for this year of “keeping our FOCUS fixed”, in embracing their development and school life through Faith, Opportunity, Commitment, Understanding and Service.

I acknowledge each member of our staff for their key role in contributing to our vibrant and comprehensive provision of curricular, extracurricular, pastoral and personal development opportunities, and for encouraging and enabling our pupils to achieve excellence in their personal best.

Again, the support from parents and guardians this academic year has been welcome and appreciated and is central to our strong partnership.

The staff and I are looking forward to a new beginning in August/September 2024 and to welcoming our incoming Year 13 students to Post 16, as they prepare to embark on this final and most important Key Stage of their educational journey at Loreto.

Following the recent communication regarding interviews for entry to Post 16, see below Important Information for Year 12 Students entering Year 13 in September 2024 – also available on Year 12 Team for pupil reference.

If you have any further queries, please ring the school office or forward for the attention of Mrs M. Gavin, Vice-Principal for Curriculum, Learning and Teaching via email: info@loretogs.omagh.ni.sch.uk

See attached arrangements for school opening in September 2024, key dates for the academic year 2024-2025 and general information for your reference.

This year, we acknowledged longstanding members of staff - Mr S Hughes, Irish Department, Miss M Robinson, Mathematics Department and Mrs R Doody, Lunchtime Supervisor. We also bade farewell to Mrs J Patton- Pupil Welfare Officer and Mrs C Maguire, Science Technician. We thank them for their service to Loreto Grammar School, Omagh and wish them many blessings and much happiness for the future.

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 solace, strength and healing.

I wish you, the students and your families health, happiness and much joy over the summer. “Go gcoinní Dia i mbos a láimhe sibh” - May God hold you in the palm of His hand.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Susan Cullinan (Principal)



Important Details for Year 12 Students entering Year 13 September 2024

In advance of the GCSE results (22nd August 2024) your daughter is advised to give careful consideration to career aspirations, research the career requirements and pre-plan her A' Level subject choices as she will be making important decisions about the next stage of her education. She is advised to consider subject choices from the option pools below and may choose **one** subject from each pool. While every effort will be made to accommodate students in their subject choices this may not always be possible. Students may be guided to choose another subject area where a class size is presenting as very low and is not sustainable or where a subject is oversubscribed, and a limit must be placed on the class size.

The **Admission Policy to Post 16** is attached. Please read this document carefully and note:

1.3 Applicants have achieved at least 6 GCSE passes with a minimum value of 240 points using the following C2K examinations system:

A*/ 9=58 points, A / 8 /7=52 points, B / 6=46 points, C* / 5=43 points, C / 4=40 points

2.3 *Applicants who have achieved an additional GCSE or equivalent qualification must provide official confirmation of the result at the interview for entry to Post 16, so that the total point score can be amended.*

Qualifications obtained externally, not through provision at Loreto Grammar School (including Omagh Learning Community), can contribute to points for entry but cannot be included in Loreto Grammar School's Data Analysis, Publications or Awards.

2.4 Applicants will be asked to consider **3** subjects in the first instance for Advanced Level from the school's option pools with reserve areas in the event they are unable to be placed in a subject area.

2.6 Students who cannot be placed in their first choice subject/s will be given choices in the reserve subject/s.

2.7 Students who have secured admission to Post 16 with above 414 points may consider taking a 4th Advanced Level subject from the remaining option pool.

Details of course specifications are available in the Loreto Post 16 Information Booklet and on www.loretogs.com

Omagh Learning Community (OLC)

This is subject to change. Subjects may be withdrawn if there are insufficient numbers to run a class economically or alternatively, additional subjects may be available.

See below: Option Pools for Loreto Grammar School 2024-25



Year 13 Subject Offer 2024-25

Block A	Block B	Block C	Block D
Tuesday 8+9, Wednesday 1+2 Thursday 1+2, Friday 8+9	Monday 1+2, Tuesday 1+2 Wednesday 4+5, Thursday 8+9	Monday 4+5, Wednesday 8+9, Thursday 6 +7 Friday 4+5	Monday 8+9, Wednesday 6+7 Thursday 4+5, Friday 1+2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biology • BTEC Children’s Play Learning and Development • Geography • Health and Social Care • History • Life and Health Science • Sociology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art and Design • Digital Technology • Geography • Government and Politics • Irish • Psychology • Religious Studies • Spanish 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biology • Business Studies • Chemistry • Design and Technology • Health and Social Care • Nutrition and Food Science • Mathematics • Psychology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biology • Chemistry • English Literature • Health and Social Care • Mathematics • BTEC Sport
OMAGH LEARNING COMMUNITY OPTIONS (TBC)			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BTEC Business • BTEC Creative Media • BTEC Construction • BTEC Engineering • BTEC Performing Arts • Physics • Music 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BTEC Construction • French (<i>Times vary from above-see below</i>) (OA) • Software Systems Development 		
Year 13 French 2024-25 offered in OLC -Tuesday 11:50 am - 1:00 pm, Wednesday 10.40 am - 11.50 am, Thursday 2.15 pm - 3.25 pm, Friday 10.40 am - 11.50 am			

Collection of Results

Students can collect results on Thursday 22nd August 2024 in the school Assembly Hall.

8:30 – 9:30 am

Results not collected will be posted to arrive on Friday 23rd August 2024.

As communicated recently, pupils will be required to attend interview and finalise choices, following the Interview Schedule below.



Interview Schedule

Thursday 22nd August and Friday 23rd August 2024

Pupils will be assigned to classes following the close of interview sessions on Friday 23rd August 2024. Pupils must submit subject choices before the close of interviews in order to be considered in the class allocation process, following which subject offers will be forwarded to pupils.

There will be no opportunity to make changes to choices / classes before timetables are issued.

If a pupil cannot attend interview due to extenuating circumstances, she must inform a Vice-Principal in advance of 22nd August 2024 of choices. If a pupil does not attend interview or confirm choices in advance, she will be assigned to options submitted in March 2024.

It is the responsibility of the pupil to ensure choices are confirmed before 3.30p.m. 23rd August 2024.

The interview schedule is as follows:

Date	Session A	Session B	Session C
Thursday 22nd August 2024	09:45-11:00am	11:15am – 1:00pm	2:00pm – 3:30pm
Friday 23rd August 2024	09:45– 11:00am	11:15am – 1:00pm	2:00pm – 3:30pm*
Friday 23rd August 2024 *External Candidates	2:00pm-3:30pm		

Please telephone the School Office to pre-book your interview session on or before 5th July 2024 or from 5th August – 14th August 2024: 8:30am at 3:30pm. You are advised to arrive early. Interviews will be allocated on a first come, first serve basis.

If your daughter has obtained additional GCSE qualifications at an external centre, she must bring her certificates to the interview so that these qualifications can be validated.



POST 16 ADMISSIONS CRITERIA School Year 2024/2025

In striving for excellence and meeting the aims of Loreto Grammar School all Post 16 students will study a minimum of 3 Advanced Level subjects and engage in the Post 16 Religious Education programme and bespoke Key Skills provision.

CRITERIA for ADMISSION

- 1.1 The school does not exceed its enrolment numbers.
- 1.2 Places are available in the year and subject groups.
- 1.3 **Applicants have achieved at least 6 GCSE passes with a minimum value of 240 points using the following C2K examinations system:**
A* / 9=58 points, A / 8 / 7=52 points, B / 6=46 points, C* / 5=43 points, C / 4=40 points
- 1.4 It is the responsibility of the student to ensure she obtains a GCSE in the required subject areas e.g. English and Mathematics, for entry to third level education. The school will offer support to the student in this process where possible.
- 1.5 Applicants must have a positive record of Conduct, Attendance, Punctuality and Attitude during their previous years of secondary education.
- 1.6 A rank order, using the point system at (1.3) will be implemented to fill any remaining places.

Entry to Post 16 Subject Areas

- 2.1 All applicants in Post 16 must complete the school's Post 16 Application Form and those meeting the criteria for admission to the school will be interviewed by a member of staff.
- 2.2 Applicants must have confirmation of their DOB, Qualifications and Attendance record for Year 12 (Registration Certificate - printout from Attendance Module).
- 2.3 *Applicants who have achieved an additional GCSE or equivalent qualification must provide official confirmation of the result at the interview for entry to Post 16, so that the total point score can be amended. **Qualifications obtained externally, not through provision at Loreto Grammar School (including Omagh Learning Community), can contribute to points for entry but cannot be included in Loreto Grammar School's Data Analysis, Publications or Awards.***
- 2.4 Applicants will be asked to consider **3** subjects in the first instance for Advanced Level from the school's option pools with reserve areas in the event they are unable to be placed in a subject area.
- 2.5 Where there are more applicants to subject classes than there are places available, the following procedures will be applied:
(a Those who have chosen 4 subjects, and have the particular subject as their 4th preference, will be removed (and asked to choose a different 4th preference);
(b) The total number of GCSE points score will be applied;
(c) The individual subject entry requirements will be applied.
- 2.6 Students who cannot be placed in their first choice subject/s will be given choices in the reserve subject/s.
- 2.7 Students who have secured admission to Post 16 with above 414 points may consider taking a 4th Advanced Level subject from the remaining option pool.

The above criteria may change dependent on the availability of places.

Note: Subject Offer

- 3.1 Applicants must have forms and official confirmation of results submitted to the school immediately after receiving GCSE results.
- 3.2 Applicants will be given confirmation of acceptance into Post 16 and into subject classes only after all applicants are interviewed.
- 3.2 It is essential that applicants to this school and parents/guardians indicate an acceptance of the school ethos, all school regulations and a willingness to observe them.
- 3.3 Loreto Grammar School is a Voluntary Grammar School and all parents should be aware that: Voluntary Subscription of **£70** per student per annum is requested with concessions for families - **£70 for 1 child, £120 for 2 children and £150 for 3 for more children.**
- 3.4 It is compulsory to wear the school uniform.

AS and A LEVELS:

At Post 16 students choose from an extensive range of applied and general subjects offered by this school:

Art and Design(A), Biology(G), Business Studies(G), Chemistry(G), Design and Technology(A), Digital Technology (G), English Literature(G), Geography(G), Government and Politics(G), History(G), Health & Social Care(A), Irish(G), Life & Health Science(A), Mathematics(G), Nutrition and Food Science (G) Psychology(G) Religious Studies(G) Sociology(G) and Spanish (G)

BTEC Qualifications:

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Sport

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Children's Play, Learning and Development

Please note:

The above list of AS and A Levels is subject to change.

Additional subjects, including French, Music, and Physics, may be offered via the Omagh Learning Community. Please refer to the school's option pools in the relevant year.

Subjects may be transferred to the Omagh Learning Community or not offered where a low uptake occurs in any given year.

KEY SKILLS- ICT (A) – Microsoft Office Specialist

AS students are all encouraged to gain experience and qualifications in the Key Skill of Information Communications Technology. The Key Skill programme ensures students develop essential transferable skills that help to improve their learning and performance in education, training, work and life in general. The Key Skill offered to all Year 13 students is ICT.

Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) is a comprehensive, performance-based Certification Programme to validate desktop computer skills using Microsoft Office 2019 and Office 365.

MOS is recognised globally, as the number one credential to validate knowledge and skills, relating to the Microsoft Office systems. Different modules can be completed in Word, PowerPoint, Excel, etc.

Microsoft Certification will increase a pupil's productivity, improve their job readiness and increase their employability capacity.

Extra Places

Criteria for **Extra Places** made available by the Department of Education for admission into Year 13 (Sixth Form). The Department of Education may, in response from a school on request, increase the number of pupils that the school can admit to its Year 13. Places that become available in this way shall be allocated only to pupils who meet the basic eligibility criteria for sixth form study (as outlined above) and shall be allocated in the order determined by the criteria to be applied in the order set down:

1. Pupils who have most recently completed Year 12 in Loreto Grammar School, Omagh.

2. Pupils from other schools where admission to an **Extra Place** at Loreto Grammar School, Omagh has been agreed by the Department of Education*

*Parents should note how the Department of Education will, in response to a school's request, increase the school's enrolment number in order to allow an extra Post 16 pupil to enrol. DE will only increase the school's enrolment number if it is content that each external pupil for whom a place is requested would not be able to pursue their Post 16 course choices at a suitable school without undertaking an unreasonable journey (i.e. a journey that by public transport would be over an hour from where the young person lives.) If DE finds that that no other suitable school may provide all of the Post 16 courses that the pupil wishes to pursue – then DE will agree a school's request for an extra place.

What is a school of a type suitable for a pupil?

To determine this DE first considers all schools to be one of four types: denominational, non-denominational, Integrated, Irish-Medium. A school requesting an extra place for a Post 16 pupil will belong to one of these four types and DE will consider any other school or school from this type as suitable for the pupil. DE will also consider as suitable for the pupil any school from the same type as the type of school that the pupil attended in Year 1



Key Dates for 2024/25 (Dates are subject to change)

Induction Day – Years 9, 10 and 11	Monday 2 September
Induction Day – Years 8 and 12	Tuesday 3 September
Induction Day – Years 13 and 14	Wednesday 4 September
Thursday 5 September	All Students in school

Term 1 Autumn: 30 August - 31 December 2024	
School Open	Monday 2 September 2024
Mid-Term: School Closed for pupils	Friday 25 October – Friday 1 November (6 days)
School Open	Monday 4 November
School Closed for pupils (other than Y11/Y12)	Monday 2 December (only Y11/Y12 pupils are present for PTM)
Christmas: School closed for pupils	Monday 23 December – Friday 3 January 2025 (10 days)
Term 2: Winter: 6 January - 25 April 2025	
School Open	Monday 6 January 2025
School Closed for pupils (other than Y8)	Friday 17 January (only Y8 pupils are present for PTM)
Mid-Term: School Closed for pupils	Monday 10 – Friday 14 February (5 days)
School Open	Monday 17 February
St Patrick's Day: School closed for pupils	Monday 17 March (1 day)
School Open	Tuesday 18 March
Easter: School Closed for pupils	Thursday 17 – Friday 25 April (7 days)
Term 3 Spring: 28 April – 27 June 2025	
School Open	Monday 28 April
May Day: School Closed for pupils	Monday 5 May (1 day)
School Open	Tuesday 6 May
May Holiday: School closed for pupils	Monday 26 May (1 day)
School Open	Tuesday 27 May
Summer: School Closed for Pupils	Friday 27 June - last day for pupil

The school will be closed for pupils on the following days to facilitate Staff Training	
Staff Baker Days	School Development Days
Thursday 29 August	Tuesday 27 August 2024
Friday 3 January 2025	Wednesday 28 August
Monday 10 February	Friday 25 October
Tuesday 11 February	Thursday 17 April
Monday 30 June	Monday 26 May

Parent/Teacher Meetings	
Year 8	Friday 17 January 2025 – 9.15-11.15am
Year 9	Wednesday 26 February 2025 – After School
Year 10	Wednesday 15 January 2025 – After School
Year 11	Monday 2 December 2024 – 9.15-11.15am
Year 12	Monday 2 December 2024 – 1.15-3.15pm
Year 13	Wednesday 27 November 2024 – After School
Year 14	Wednesday 20 November 2024 – After School

Year 10 Subject Choices Event / Post 16 Subject Choices Events	Tuesday 18 March 2025
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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.

We kindly ask students not to travel through or park in Gallows Hill residential area. This is to remain respectful of our neighbours and to ensure good relations.

Administration Procedures on the First Day of Return

- Issue of: Timetable, Stationery, Bus Passes, and the Student Planners. (Lost Student Planners can be replaced by purchasing a new planner.
- Biometric registration for use of Canteen. Registration for parents of new pupils **to** facilitate online payment via **IPAY IMPACT** will be completed at the beginning of new term.
- 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** 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. Monitoring of Uniform will continue throughout the year. **Parents / Guardians are asked for full support, ensuring their daughter adheres to the uniform regulations.**

Blazers are compulsory.

Skirts must be knee length.

Dark brown tights are compulsory throughout the year (unless medical exemption applies)

A short sleeve summer blouse is optional for May/June.

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.

PE Uniform 2024-25 - Please see below prices for Loreto uniform in the O' Neill's store.

Only 2 compulsory items: Shorts / Jersey*

Loreto Grammar Cordoba Skinny Pant: Kids £24.50 & Ladies £30

Loreto Grammar Berne OH Hood: Kids £29 & Ladies £37

Loreto Grammar Squad HZ Top: Kids £27.50 & Ladies £35

Loreto Grammar Short: Kids £15 & Ladies £17

Loreto Grammar Ruby Jersey: £28

Loreto Grammar Denver Bag 22": £26

Riley Tight: Kids £20 & Ladies £26

If any parent has difficulty re: purchase of compulsory items*, please email the school office via info@loretogs.omagh.ni.sch.uk

Mobile Phones. Our Positive Behavior Management Policy has been updated to reflect strict monitoring and increased sanctions for the misuse of personal devices.

In line with the updated Bring Your Own Device to School Policy*:

Pupils' mobile phones are to be switched off before entering the school grounds and remain off until pupils exit from the school grounds.

Mobile phones can **only be switched on when directed by a member of staff.**

The purpose of the use of personal devices at school is **strictly educational.**

Mobile phones in use (other than under supervised class conditions and directed by staff) will be **confiscated.** Follow-up as per revised **Positive Behaviour Management Policy*** will be implemented as outlined below:

- **First occasion:** Confiscation, referral from staff member who reports to VP office with device and collection by parent.
- **Second occasion:** As above and **student must hand in device to VP office for 1 week / 5 school days.**
- **Third occasion:** As above and **student must hand in device to VP office for 2 weeks / 10 school days** and 2 Lunch-Time Detentions (2 Hour) issued by VP.
- **Further breach will result in parent meeting, 4 Lunch-Time Detentions (2 Hours) issued by VP and removal of privilege to bring personal device to school for 4 week / 20 days.**
- **Further breach will result in parent meeting and loss of privilege for the remainder of the academic year.**

There will be no facility to charge pupils' mobile phones in school.

We seek students and parents' full support in the implementation of revised policies.*

Healthy Lifestyle

Pupils should not bring high-sugar, fizzy drinks or 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.caffeininformer.com/top-10-energy-drink-dangers>.