



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.” They have embraced 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 the return of our students as they progress to the next stage of their educational journey.

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)



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

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|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 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 | |
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| 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 |

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>.