

First Year Students Frequently Asked Questions

Welcome to Loreto

- 1. How are class groups organised?** All of the classes are mixed ability and are generally organised according to subject choice. We have a *Friendship Form* which is available for students to fill out. We encourage students not to fill this out, if possible, but we will accept any requests for friends and do our best to accommodate your requests
- 2. How many students are in First Year?** Usually we take 150 students into First Year. These students are divided into five base classes of thirty students each.
- 3. My daughter has additional educational needs, what do I do?** You will be asked at enrolment stage to fill out a form regarding any additional needs, subject support, exemptions etc... It is very important we have all necessary information so that we can provide for your daughter appropriately in relation to the curriculum.
- 4. My daughter has an underlying illness /allergy. What do I do?** You will be asked at enrolment stage to fill out a form regarding any medical conditions. It is very important that we have all necessary information with regard to your daughter's health.
- 5. How long is the school day?** School starts at 8.55am and finishes at 4pm (Monday to Thursday). On Friday classes finish at 1.10pm. Please note with current restrictions our lunch time is shortened and we finish school at 3.40pm from Monday to Thursday.
- 6. How many breaks are there in the day?** Normally there is a break after every three classes at 10.55am -11.10am and at 1.10pm-2pm. Please note with current restrictions our lunch time is 30 minutes long.
- 7. How long are the classes?** Each class is 40 minutes long. Some classes are doubles e.g. P.E., Home Economics, Art etc...
- 8. Do I wear a school uniform?** Yes. The uniform is a royal blue crested jumper, light blue shirt, royal blue skirt or navy trousers and black shoes. There is also a blue crested fleece and coat. We hope you will wear your uniform proudly and well.
- 9. Is there a P.E. uniform?** Yes. The P.E. uniform is a navy crested T shirt, navy tracksuit, pink crested hoodie and runners. Due to Covid issues, students currently wear the P.E. uniform for the day they have P.E.
- 10. Will I have a locker?** Yes, every student has a locker throughout their time in Loreto College. First years also have access to an additional locker on the day they have P.E. class, so that they have somewhere to store their P.E. gear. First year students need a lock for their locker.

- 11. Are there canteen facilities in the school?** Yes we have a school canteen offering soup, hot meals, sandwiches, rolls, healthy pizza slices, fruit and tea. We have been awarded a *Happy Heart* by the Irish Heart Foundation in recognition of the healthy food choices offered. We do not have vending machines and we do not sell sweets, crisps, chocolate or fizzy drinks and we encourage you to continue the healthy lunch box habits you will have learned at primary school.
- 12. Can I study two languages?** We offer three modern foreign languages to first year students, they are French, German and Spanish. There may be an opportunity to study two languages, if there is sufficient interest from applicants.
- 13. Will I be using a device/tablet in school?** We are not an Ipad school, so you will be using textbooks, but we have a great deal of technology and you will have many opportunities to learn through a variety of media. You will also have an I.T. class once a week.
- 14. I am very nervous about starting secondary school. What can I do?** Every year, our Guidance team offer an induction week to students prior to the official start date. This gives students the opportunity to come into the school, get to know the building, meet some older students, practise working off a timetable and meet some other first year students.
- 15. I'm worried about breaking school rules and what will happen.** Please do not worry about rules at this point, everything will be explained to you on your first day in Loreto College.
- 16. If I have a problem in school what will I do?** You can speak to your form teacher and they will help you solve any problems. You will also have a Year Head and both of these people will get to know you very well.
- 17. I am worried about the school work and school exams in secondary school.** You will be able for the school work and if not you just need to let your class teacher or form teacher know. You may feel a little overwhelmed at the beginning but as you settle you will become more confident in your learning. Teachers will give you a study plan in advance of any class tests/exams
- 18. Will I be able for homework in secondary school? Will I get homework at the weekend?** Homework will be introduced on a phased basis and you will be able to do it. As you may not have all subjects each day you will have to plan your homework in order to make sure that it is completed on time. Your homework journal will help with your planning. Unlike primary school, you will get homework at the weekend.