



Board of Management meeting
Thursday, 4 March 2021
Report to the School Community

1. Opening Prayer - read by Tony
2. Ethos Reflection from Continuing the Journey. *“Gradually, the student of a Loreto school learns to assimilate a sense of personal value and the sense of the innate dignity of every human being, created in God’s image”.*
 - Promotion of leadership
 - Pastoral support for those in trouble
 - With regard to the note from the Loreto archive (below) about the work of the Loreto Sisters in the late 19th century to help girls to obtain degrees, despite being barred from attending Universities, the fact that more than 70% of the Loreto class of 2020 were now attending was deemed to be a great success and a realisation of the dream of those that went before us.
 - Overall it was agreed that the school through its words and actions values the innate dignity of each student.

International Women’s Day

Loreto Archives Newsletter

*As well as improving the standard of education in their schools, Mother Michael Corcoran and her fellow Loreto educators hoped to facilitate the Third Level Education of their pupils. By 1895, Trinity College Dublin, Queen’s in Belfast and the newly established Royal University in Dublin were admitting women to degrees. **However, they were not allowed to attend the lectures or tutorials in the University as the male students did.** Similarly, they could sit university exams but they couldn’t do so in the lecture theatres. M. Michael Corcoran believed that Loreto students could benefit from higher education so university classes were established in 1893. These classes were eventually centralised at 53 St Stephen’s Green. Subjects included English, French, German, Modern Literature, History, Jurisprudence, Mental and Moral Science.....*

3. Principal’s Report
 - a. Return to School
 - i. The four students of the Special Class returned on the week of the 22 Feb
 - ii. Sixth Years returned 1st March. Teachers were on the premises for their lessons with these classes and where possible teaching the rest of the classes remotely

from home. A Sixth Year assembly took place on the first Monday to remind them of the Covid procedures and to outline the Accredited Grades system.

- iii. Teachers and students completed the return to school/work questionnaire.
- iv. 5th Years due to return on the 15th March and all other years after the Easter holidays.
- v. Aiming to re-commence evening study next week

b. Accredited Grades

- i. The principal made a presentation to outline the details of the Accredited Grades system to the Board. A similar presentation had also been made as follows:
 - Staff presentation last Friday.
 - Parent Webinar on Monday evening - very well attended
- ii. Practice Exams to begin Monday and to be run off in 13 sessions, using two Saturdays and three sessions after school (including Friday) for two and a half weeks up to 24th March. The practice exams are voluntary for students who wish to experience a written examination before June. The results will not be shared with teachers and therefore, in accordance with procedures, will not influence the estimation of grades.

c. Junior Certificate 2021

- i. Junior Certificate State Examinations in June cancelled. School has put in place a policy for each subject for school certification of results. This will include a continual assessment element and final house examination in May (generally accounting for 60%). All students should be encouraged to engage and take it very seriously. We will be conscious that they must develop the skills required for the transition into senior cycle.
- ii. School certification as per last year. We will be publishing our assessment plan tomorrow. In most cases subjects will be assessed on the basis of a house exam in May (60%) with the remainder of the grade coming from online learning/assignments/CBAs

d. Teaching allocation for 2021/2022 - not received yet

e. Subject choice:

- i. 2nd Year: 1st Years have submitted their preferences on the basis of the new curriculum which includes 5 options subjects. It was reported that there was very strong interest in Technical Graphics with two full classes.
- ii. 5th Year: 4th (and some 3rd) Years are asked to input their preferences into the portal. We are delighted to offer Computer Science for the first time. 22 students attended an information session delivered by the Computer Science teacher in Loreto Swords and two of his students. This was very well received.

4. Parents' Association report.

- Need to plan around having officers to take up the positions next year
- Google form to be prepared to see what the parents would like from the PA
- Sharing the history of PA
- Ossory Youth speaking at the next meeting about what services they provide

- Much better attendance at meetings this year - possibly looking at alternating remote and 'in person' meetings next year
5. School Self-Evaluation
 - a. Assessment Review - Set of house exams November 2021 for 3rd, 5th and 6th Year. (No 2nd year exams due to CBA timetable)
 - b. Running week of November 15th - 19th (3rd week after mid term) Week 11 of school year.
 - c. Particularly important in the context of formal written exams missed by students over the past 12 months.
 6. Child Protection Report presented in accordance with national guidelines.
 7. Financial Report
 - The finance committee reported general satisfaction with the accounts which are running in line with the budget.
 - Based on a report presented, it was agreed that significant additional return could be achieved if more parents submitted the CHY form. The amounts received over the past three years were a significant addition to the school's finances. All parents urged to return the form which is valid for five years.
 8. The following dates were agreed for the last three meetings of the school year.
 - a. 22 April
 - b. 18 May
 - c. 21 June
 9. There being no further business, the report was agreed and the meeting was concluded.



Colm Keher,
Secretary.