

LORETO COLLEGE, MULLINGAR

GENERAL INFORMATION SHEET FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2017-2018

Changes to Daily Timetable

We have been directed by the Department of Education & Skills to increase all classes to 40 minutes, which means reducing our weekly number of classes from 45 periods to 42 periods. As a result, the school day will increase by 15 minutes. The following changes will be made commencing in August:

- **Classes will start at 8.55am each day.**
- **Monday to Thursday classes will finish at 4pm (9 classes per day)**
- **Morning break :10.55am to 11.10am; Lunch break: 1.10pm to 2pm.**
- **Class will end on Friday at 1.10pm (6 classes)**

Depending on demand, there may be an opportunity for students to partake in supervised study on Friday afternoons.

Locks for Lockers

Over the past year, we have been monitoring locker areas and reviewing security of lockers. It has come to our attention that many students are using poor quality locks and are not purchasing locks from dedicated locksmith specialists. Stenson's locksmiths recommend **Tri-Circle 264**.

Social Media

Increasingly we are concerned about the level of engagement with social media among our students and we worry about the poor development of social skills and the growing levels of dependence on social networking apps. We are hoping to encourage the girls to 'survive' without their phones during the day by creating PHONE FREE ZONES during break times. Long-term we hope to discourage the use of mobile phones completely on the school campus. We are aware that many parents share our concerns and we hope that we will be supported in our efforts to encourage more conversation and communication among the girls without the constant distraction of phones.

Uniform Shoes

There is a strong feeling among parents and students that Loreto College insists on Dubarry shoes as part of our uniform. This is absolutely not the case. Any plain black leather shoe is acceptable and we would encourage our girls and their parents to purchase good quality sturdy shoes that give good support and protection from the elements. The school extends over four floors with long corridors and many flights of stairs and a good quality supportive shoe is essential from a health and safety perspective. Several shops in town stock a range of suitable reasonably-priced shoes that comply with our uniform code. Some samples of suitable shoes are being posted on our school website www.loretocollegemullingar.com

Lateness

If a student is late for school it is the responsibility of her parent to do one of the following:

- (a) Complete a note in the School Journal;
- (b) Phone the school office in advance with an explanation;
- (c) Accompany the student to the school office.