



Specialist in Humanities

OCTOBER 2018

LORETO NEWSLETTER

"Love verity, seek knowledge, not for knowledge, but for the end it bringeth you unto, which is God; then you will be happy and able to profit yourself and others." Mary Ward

It has been lovely to see so many families in school this term at Information Evenings, Year 7 Barbecue, Year 7 Mass and the Sixth Form "What Next" event. We do appreciate that you give your time to support the students. As students head off for a well-deserved rest, I have included for you some updates about online safety and also reminders about their safety and behaviour when travelling to and from school. I would also like to remind parents that they should not drive onto the site in order to turn around, either in the morning or afternoon; thank you for your support in this matter.

Finally the provisional Progress 8 scores 2108 have been released and you will be pleased to hear that our score of 0.9 puts us at number 93 we are in the top 2.5%. Congratulations and well done to everyone. Mrs M Lynch

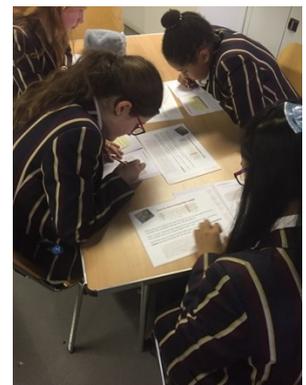
COMPUTER SCIENCE VISIT TO BLETCHLEY PARK, MILTON KEYNES

On Thursday 18th October a group of Year 10 and Year 9 students visited Bletchley Park in Milton Keynes as part of the Computer Science curriculum. The students were able to explore the original huts where Alan Turing and his team of code breakers decrypted messages from the German army and participated in a workshop that developed their knowledge and understanding of cipher codes and encryption. Some of the students describe their experience below:

The visit to Bletchley Park was a very educational and historic experience as I was able to learn about the Park's involvement in the Second World War. I especially enjoyed learning about the Enigma machine used by the German army to encrypt messages and was amazed that it can produce nearly 159 quintillion possible encryptions for one letter. What's even more amazing is that a group of British code breakers at Bletchley Park were able to crack the code! Somersby Holmes 10F

I enjoyed the visit to Bletchley Park and found some of the facts I learnt very surprising. The most surprising was that although Alan Turing is probably the most famous code breaker and the name most people know, there was in fact another code breaker whose work had a big impact on the war. She was a female code breaker called Mavis Batey who deciphered a message which led to the British Navy knowing that the Italian Naval Fleet – at the time German allies - knew of their location and were planning an attack. The British Navy surprised the Italian Navy by attacking first which led to their surrender. Many believe that this shortened the war effort by two years and saved many lives across Europe.

I learnt that code breakers at Bletchley Park built the world's first computer known as the Bombe machine. This machine was designed to reveal the Enigma machine settings used by German soldiers to encode messages they wanted to send. This was important as knowing the settings would allow the code breakers at Bletchley Park to quickly decrypt messages that could be used by British Intelligence. What is also interesting is no one was allowed to know the existence of Bletchley Park and everyone who worked there had to sign the secrets act. It wasn't until the information was no longer part of the secrets act in the mid-1970s that some of the former employees shared their stories with their friends and families.



Kaci Morrissey 10J

Mia Mason 9S

LITURGY IN LORETO

We started the school year in the customary way with a whole school Mass at St Alban and St Stephen celebrated by Fr. Alan. As usual, the liturgy was planned by the staff and students and many pupils contributed as singers, altar servers, readers and Eucharistic Ministers. It was lovely to see the new Year 7 participate in their first whole school Mass and especially pleasing to see two of the new girls bringing up the offertory. There is something very special about our whole school community coming together to worship; placing our hopes and aspirations for the new school year before the Lord.

One of the most important events in the school calendar is the Year 7 Welcome Mass which took place on 10th October. The girls started learning the hymns in assembly weeks before the big day and eagerly rehearsed so that they could proudly show their parents how well they had settled into their new school and how smart they looked in their new school uniform. Fr Alan Neville celebrated this Mass and everyone agreed it was a very pleasant evening. The parents were particularly impressed by how well the students participated and the lovely atmosphere created by all involved. The evening ended with drinks and nibbles provided by the PTA for students, parents and staff.

We have held a number of Friday lunchtime Masses this term, each one being prepared by a KS3 form. This will continue throughout the school year. Each class chooses their own theme based on the liturgical calendar but in addition to this we are responding to Bishop's Adoremus conference and focusing on the Blessed Sacrament and how the Mass is the 'source and summit' of Christian life.

We have had five retreat days this term, delivered by a Christian charity based in St Albans called Step. Each of the year groups, from Year 7 to Year 11, had a retreat day which was a day off timetable and a chance to reflect on their faith and to think about the spiritual dimension of their lives. The team delivered interesting and engaging activities, all pitched appropriately. The students really enjoyed these retreats and gained a lot from them, with many stating on their evaluation forms that they wished the retreat could have been longer!

Please make a note in your diaries of two important dates which are rapidly approaching. On Wednesday 8th November at 7 pm, we have our annual Taize service in which we remember those who have gone before us, and on December 17th at 7.30 we have our ever popular Carol service. All are welcome to attend.

LIBRARY NEWS

We are enjoying a very busy first term back in the Library. This is the time of year when we purchase lots of new stock for our school library, and we have been thrilled to find new writers and new books of all genres making their way to our shelves. This time of year is also when we prepare for READING WEEK and Readathon.

Readathon is a very worthy charity which our school has been involved with for several years. Our students in Years 7-9 read about 6 books over this term, with the idea of sponsorship from their families and friends. The money raised is then sent off to Readathon who purchase books for critically ill children. Last year our school raised over £2,000 for this wonderful charity.

Reading Week is starting this week - we are very privileged to have three award winning authors visit our school - more detail will be provided in next term's newsletter!

This term we also celebrated National Day Of Poetry. We invited Ingrid Dover-Vidal for our Year 7's to enjoy. Ingrid has just had her first book published 'Make it Shine' and the children enjoyed a very lively performance from this outstanding poet. Poetry is a wonderful way to enjoy our language and Ingrid had poems to suit everyone.

In other news we have just recruited twelve new library monitors to help out in the library. The girls are a wonderful asset; helping to keep the library clean and tidy, and issuing books during our very busy lunch periods.

Thank you for reading this and I hope you enjoy this lovely time of year (my favourite) with a really good book. I recommend for everyone 'The Girl at the Window' by Penny Joelson, who is visiting our school for the first time this week.

Happy Reading!

Mrs Parkin, Librarian, Currently Reading: The Skylarks War by Hilary McKay

BURSAR'S OFFICE

Trips and Activities

As trips and activities are planned many months in advance, this requires prepayment for tickets, coaches, accommodation etc. Prompt payment, preferably by ParentPay, is appreciated for all school visits and activities.

Payment deadlines for the residential visits are as follows:-

PGL Liddington:	£65 deposit due by 31 st October
Biology field trip to Snowdonia:	£75 deposit due immediately
Rome Pilgrimage:	£90 instalment due by 5 th November
Cantores Choir Tour to Germany:	£65 instalment due by 5 th November



Music Lessons

We are very happy that so many pupils learn an instrument or have singing lessons in school. Here are a few reminders for all musicians:-

- Remember to tell the subject teacher at the start of the lesson that a music lesson is scheduled for that period and ask to leave 5 minutes beforehand to be at the practice room on time.
- As well as your instrument, bring the correct music and a pencil.
- Check your next lesson time on the noticeboard.
- Practise at home!
- Enjoy making music with others!
- Invoices for this current autumn term were sent out in July for pupils continuing with lessons from last year, and early in September for new pupils. These fees are overdue for payment. Please pay via ParentPay.
- If you are in arrears with fees, your daughter may not be allowed to take part in trips as the payment of music fees will take priority.
- Should you decide with your daughter that she no longer wishes to have lessons in school, a notice period is required as follows:
 - ⇒ For individual lessons, a **full half term's** notice to finish is required **in writing to Mrs Caddy, prior to the start of the term/half term**
 - ⇒ For group or paired lessons, **one full term's** notice to finish is required **in writing to Mrs Caddy, prior to the start of the term/half term**



Thank you for your co-operation.

ParentPay

As you are aware, school uses the **ParentPay** system for online payments for trips, music fees and dinner money, with a separate **ParentPay shop**, where you are able to pay for books, equipment etc. We also send out the majority of our letters to you via **ParentPay** and these can then be accessed in your Parent Account for later reference.



Your contact details can be amended on **ParentPay** by going to the "I want to" menu and then to "edit profile". Please help us by keeping them up-to-date. If you have more than one pupil at Loreto, you may wish to merge their accounts. 94% of our parents are registered for **ParentPay**; if you haven't done so already please contact the Bursar's office for your activation letter.

CONSULTATION - SEPTEMBER 2020 - PROPOSED ADMISSIONS CRITERIA:

The Governors have decided to hold a consultation process on the proposed admissions criteria for September 2020. Full details of the proposed criteria will be available from the school or on the website: www.loreto.herts.sch.uk/admissions/secondary-transfers after the October half term holiday. Any comments from parents should be sent via the school office, or to swilliams@loreto.herts.sch.uk. The consultation will close on 31st January 2019.

REMINDER - SEPTEMBER 2019 ADMISSIONS:

The closing date for receipt of admission forms in respect of September 2019 Year 7 Entry is Wednesday 31st October 2018.

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

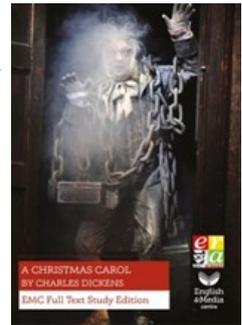
Readathon

During the period of Reading Week (Monday the 22nd to Friday the 26th of October) and during the half-term break, we hope that all members of years 7, 8 and 9 will take part in 'Readathon' organised by Mrs Parkin in the Library. It is a sponsored event to raise money for charities, which support seriously ill children. Each girl has been asked to read from 1 to 6 books in that fortnight and to collect sponsorship for her efforts. We usually raise over £2,000 for this cause. Your daughter was given all the details in her English lessons. Any money raised can be paid to the school via ParentPay or the money can be sent in an envelope clearly marked READATHON and with name, form and amount collected to the school bursar's office by November 3rd. Any cheques should be made payable to Loreto College (St Albans).



Year 10 Examination Texts

Students in Year 10 will begin their study of *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens immediately after the half-term holiday. It is a requirement that all students purchase their own copies of English Literature texts so that they can be annotated in preparation for the GCSE examinations. The best edition of the text for GCSE study is produced by the English and Media Centre at a cost of £15. Fortunately, the English Department has secured a significant discount meaning the text is available at the school shop for £6.90.



If you have not already done so, the most convenient method of purchase is via Parent Pay. If you would prefer to pay by cash or cheque, please pay via the Bursar's Office in a clearly marked envelope detailing your child's name, form group and the book title.

Year 11 Mock Revision

Students have been given a yellow sheet summarising the content of the GCSE courses in English Language and English Literature. It also includes some useful websites that can support revision for these important examinations.



Clubs

Year 12 is running the following clubs this year:

- Book Club - 1:40 in the library on a Friday (every 3 weeks)
- Homework Club - 1:40 in E4 on Thursdays
- Debate Club - 1:40 in the studio on Fridays

For more information please see Melinda Ratkoceri, Mia Cranny, Eve Cremins, Bethany O'Neil or Mrs Kelly

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Many thanks to the year 7 students for singing so beautifully in their welcome Mass on October 10th.

We are currently busy preparing for all our events leading up to Christmas. If your daughter is in one of the groups then please make a note of when she will be required:

- SASSMA (Cantores and Chamber Choir) – 19th November
- Autumn term Concert (all music groups, choirs and orchestra) – 22nd November
- Carol Service (All choirs) – 17th December

Trinity/Guildhall Grade exams will be on Monday 10th December – times and details for those students taking these exams will be out shortly.

Can I please remind everyone to take their instruments home over half-term and to do lots of practise! We look forward to seeing you at one of our events soon!

YEAR 7

Year 7 pupils have made an encouraging start in their new school. They have settled in very well and look very smart in their new school uniforms. They have coped really well with the transition from primary school to secondary school; in the space of eight weeks they have had to get used to new teachers, more subjects with challenging work, changing classrooms for different lessons and a new journey to and from school. Despite this many pupils have taken advantage of the Year 7 Homework Club and participated in a number of extra-curricular activities.

In September, Mrs Parkin was overwhelmed by the number of entries for the Year 7 book review competition. A large number of pupils also helped on our Open Evening answering questions from visitors in a mature and friendly manner and were a credit to the school. Last Friday many pupils stayed for the Young Enterprise sleepover and after all the fun and games we all managed to get some sleep!

Year 7 pupils also prepared and participated in a Welcome Mass for their parents and families. Our Mass was very special and the girls sang and read beautifully. Everyone agreed that it was a lovely occasion. Thank you to all those who took part, parents and girls alike and a special thank you to Fr. Alan for celebrating Mass with us. Thank you to the Parents Association for organising refreshments and staff and sixth formers who gave up their time to organise the crèche.

We are delighted with the way Year 7 have quickly become an important part of the community here at Loreto and we look forward to the year ahead.

EXAM NEWS

Next half-term our first internal exams of the year will take place. Every pupil in the school can expect to sit at least one set of internal exams over the course of this year. There are many reasons why they will be asked to do this, but they can be summed up as follows:

- To help pupils become increasingly familiar with the process of taking exams so that this is much less daunting when they come to sit their GCSEs and A-levels.
- To help pupils understand how to prepare for and review exams effectively so that they know how to get the best out of themselves.
- To give pupils, parents and teachers a realistic understanding of current progress, and to help them identify ways to improve this in the future.
- To help pupils and parents identify appropriate avenues to pursue once the current phase of learning comes to an end.

Our teachers understand that pupils appreciate guidance in how to prepare for and complete their exams, and they always provide a lot of support with this. Parents who would like to know more about what is being assessed will find outlines of all our courses in the various departmental pages under the "Curriculum" tab on our website. These also contain links to external websites which pupils might find useful.

We are very mindful that exams can be stressful for our pupils, and our PSHE programme contains sessions on how to revise and on how to cope with exam stress. Parents who would like to know more about how to support their children during exam periods may find the following video helpful:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A_CIIHwpuYE&feature=youtu.be

Please see below a list of all the dates for exams taking place during this academic year. Full attendance should always be an absolute priority for pupils, but particularly during these exam sessions, so please do all you can to ensure your daughter is not absent at these times.

Y13 - Nov 5th - 6th. Feb 25th - Mar 1st. A-levels run May 20th - June 26th.

Y12 - Nov 5th-6th. Feb 27th-28th. July 1st-5th.

Y11 - Dec 6th-19th. GCSEs run May 13th - June 26th.

Y10 - Apr 23rd-May 3rd.

Y9 - May 20th-24th.

Y8 - June 3rd-7th.

Y7 - April 1st-5th.

The exam contingency day is
26th June 2019
for both GCSE and A Level exams.



WOMEN OF THE WORLD (WoW)

We now have a fantastic team of WoW Representatives with a main Representative and a Deputy Representative in each Form in Years 7-10, following a vote taken at the start of the term. Sixth Form student Leaders will be in place after half term.

As part of an 'ice-breaker' activity at our first meeting, the Reps were asked to write down the name of a woman or girl who most inspires them. It may gladden your hearts to know that the woman who most inspires our WoW Reps is their Mum!

- ◆ **Mum**
- ◆ **Emma Watson**
- ◆ **Joint Third: Rosa Parks, Emmeline Pankhurst, Malala Yousafzai, Mary Ward**

This first half term we updated the WoW noticeboard and brainstormed ideas as to what activities we would like to do this year. In addition, the Reps marked International Day of the Girl on October 11th with a short presentation to their Form about why this day was created by the United Nations and some facts and statistics about the barriers some girls face in accessing education and employment in some parts of the world. They also profiled some inspirational girls who are already making a positive impact on the world showing that change is always possible. We are very impressed with the enthusiasm of the WoW Reps and their ideas for the year ahead, more of which in the next newsletter!

Ms Daniells Conroy and Ms McLauchlan

Our Role as Form WoW Representatives

We are the WoW Form Reps for 7J. The role really inspired us to try to make a difference to improving girls' and women's rights. In the past few weeks the WoW Reps have discussed which women and girls inspire us and it was interesting to see the ones we had in common with each other. We put together a presentation to our Forms about inspirational girls to celebrate International Day of the Girl. All of us have written down our ideas for the year ahead and many of the suggestions were around helping girls in poorer countries and encouraging others in the school to help too.

Gabriella Pinto and Isabella Goldsmith 7J

Taizé Remembrance Evening November 8th 2018 at 7pm

To remember all those who have returned home to God, Loreto will be holding a Remembrance Service in the Loreto College Chapel.



All are welcome; students, staff, parents, carers, friends...to remember loved ones in an evening of prayer, scripture, and music.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom. Luke 23:42

MFL DEPARTMENT

Yr 12 Theatre Trip (A Level French): On a busy Saturday evening we travelled into London's Notting Hill Gate to watch a play called "L'étranger", which translates to "the outsider". The play took place in a small but quaint and highly decorated theatre which was deceiving from the outside; with endless flights of stairs and twisting corridors lit with red lights adding to the mystery of the theatre! The set was simple yet effective. Although the play was a lengthy three hours, it was worth every second as every minute detail had clearly been refined to perfection. There were shocking moments as well as heart stopping scenes, where you really felt as though the characters had been brought to life! All in all it was a wonderful evening and we would highly recommend the play and have no doubt that the novel will be equally as exciting to study in the near future!

Kiara, Laura and Kemi

MFL Fun Day: On Friday 28th September, Year 8 had an MFL Fun Day that was held by the MFL Department. It was a brilliant day full of learning, culture and languages and all of us enjoyed ourselves. We had food prepared for us at break, lunch and at the end of the day. During break, we treated ourselves to pain au chocolat. At lunch, the canteen prepared an Italian feast: a choice of pizza or pasta with salad and garlic bread and a dessert of either pancakes or apple strudel. We were also given a pretzel at the end of the day: Year 8 were not hungry when they left school! At the beginning of the day we had an Assembly in the Studio, to welcome us whilst Elsa was singing 'Let It Go' in a variety of different languages. The main purpose of the assembly was to welcome and introduce us all to any teachers that we didn't know. Our teachers were Mrs Fitzsimons, Miss Boyt, Mrs Godfrey, Miss Baptisto and Mrs McLaughlan. All groups were given a different timetable, but we all had a longer break and earlier lunch to allow us to get the best possible experience out of the day.

A lesson that we enjoyed was all about flags. It was full of mini games and was very educational. We learnt some countries flags, how to say hello in a variety of different languages and we made a flag to represent ourselves. To conclude we had a 'Who Wants To Be A Millionaire' quiz on countries and their flags. It was a very informative and fun lesson as we were working in groups. Another class we had was a poster lesson. In this lesson we created two posters, one on the computers and another one by hand. On the computer, we researched one country then typed facts and phrases from that country's language. On the handwritten poster, Year 8 wrote reasons 'Why should you learn a foreign language'. For example, it is useful when you travel because you can understand people.

One lesson we had was a Japanese lesson. During this lesson, we learnt a lot about Japanese culture, including; traditional clothing, its location, how to count to 10 in the language and used actions to aid our memory. This lesson was very interesting and fun. A further session was a song lesson. During this lesson a series of songs from a variety of countries were played. We had to guess which language was being sung. This was challenging but exciting as there were familiar singers such as Shakira but there were songs from other countries such as Denmark.

Finally, there was a session on a quiz, in which we were put into groups with the people who were in our form. We were each assigned a country that we had to learn a lot of facts about within a short time period. Then, we did a quiz made up of 25 questions. At the end of the day, the winning team were awarded in front of the year group. At the end of the day we had an Assembly to celebrate in terms of effort, and also to those who won the quiz. It was very tense because there was a tie-breaker question! We also filled out an evaluation form for the day. On behalf of Year 8, we would like to thank the MFL Department for making it such an amazing day and especially to Mrs Fitzsimons for organising it for Year 8.

In conclusion, all of us thoroughly enjoyed MFL Fun Day because it was entertaining and interesting. It was an incredible school day with delicious food, new friends and new facts.

By Lottie and Jewel 8T and 8F

CAREERS FAIR

A date for your diary:-

What?	<u>Loreto's Careers Fair</u>
When?	Tuesday 27 th November 2018
Who?	Year 9 - lesson 4
	All year groups - lunchtime
Where?	The Studio (TBC)
Why?	To find out about different careers and speak to people working in their chosen field.



For more information see Mrs Wicks (Classics office) and Mrs Eridani-Ball (LSD)

P.S. We would love to hear from any parent/guardian who would be able to attend the fair to talk about their career. Please do get in contact to arrange: 01727 856206 / admin@loreto.herts.sch.uk

PE DEPARTMENT

Year 7 Mob Race:

Twenty-two of our Year 7 students took part in the district cross country event which involved having to navigate themselves through a course full of hills, different terrains and lots of other students from the schools across the district. The girls did exceptionally well, and Loreto finishing 3rd overall!!!

Cross Country/Couch to 5k:

Congratulations to all cross country runners this season. We had some excellent results with the junior girl's team coming 2nd overall and the Inter girl's team finishing 3rd. Special mention to Oksana Wojcik-Jardzioch, Saoirse Toohey-Hicks, Giuseppina Carnevale and Gabriella Di Gregorio for top 4 finishes in the junior girls. Also to Josephine Kelway, Niamh Kelly, Milly Hayes and Phillipa Green for the inter girls.

Netball Matches and Tournaments:

Year 7 played their first fixture against STAGS in October. The A team drew 11-11 and the B team won 18-8. Players of the Match were Matilda Cremins and Katie Ennion. The A team then went on to face St. Alban's High School for Girls in the first round of the District Cup, narrowly missing out on a place. However, they now go on to face SJL or Beaumont in the first round of the District Plate. Player of the Match was awarded to Ava Marlow.

Year 8 Netball - Well done to all players who are coming to Year 8 training. Despite only playing one match the commitment to practices has been excellent. More games/tournaments are scheduled for after half term.

Year 9 & 10 girls faced Sir John Lawes School in their netball match of the season. Year 10 lost 19-11 and Year 9 lost 19-10, despite the defeat both teams played well. Players of the match were Nicole Foley and Jessica Burke.

Year 10 played Beaumont on the first round of the U15 District Cup. The girls' played well but unfortunately lost and therefore will play Samuel Ryder Academy or STAHS to complete for the Plate.

Year 11 Netball - Well done to those students who participated in the Year 11 netball tournament on Monday 8th October. It was a round robin tournament involving 8 teams which meant over 80 minutes of game time. The girls played extremely well despite having to go down to 6 players halfway through and demonstrated great skills which will be great evidence for their GCSE. Congratulations to the following players: Lauren Stott, Layla Brunt, Hannah Mullins, Dani Monastero, Aoife Murphy, Alana Minns and Sadie Burt.

More league games scheduled after half term – all players welcome to training on Monday/Tuesday lunch for Years 9-11 and Wednesday/Thursday lunch for Year 7&8. Wednesday after school is welcome to all years.

County Football Star:

Huge congratulations to Mia Jimenez who was selected for the Under 16 Hertfordshire Schools Football squad. The team won their first match against Essex. Well Done, Mia!

Swimming Success:

Well done to all the students who represented Loreto College at the English Schools Swimming Association East/South East Division this month. The juniors finished 22nd out of 35 schools in the 4x50m Medley Relay and the 4x50M Freestyle Relay.

The inter girls finished 17th in the 4x50m Freestyle Relay and 13th in the 4x50m Medley Relay. The next swimming fixture is on Thursday 8th November at Berkhamsted School.

Dance & Gymnastics:

A brilliant turn out from all years at Beatz Street Dance clubs and Gym Club so far this half term. In preparation for our annual Gym & Dance Display in February 2019 we are holding auditions on Tuesday 13th November and Thursday 15th November.

Sports Leaders Awards:

Congratulations to Molly Lawrence in Year 10 who has been successfully nominated in the Hertfordshire Service to Sports Award for Unsung Hero. After winning the award in the St Albans and Harpenden awards, this event celebrates the marvelous contribution that volunteers in community sport and physical activity make supporting clubs in Herts. Molly showed that she was a true contender for this award when she helped as a sports leader above and beyond to ensure that all pupils were able to access the activities she led. Good Lucky Molly!

SAFETY UPDATES

Snapchat:

You are probably aware of the social media site Snapchat. It is incredibly popular with young people and when managed well it can be a great way to communicate and keep in touch with friends. However, increasingly we find that the younger girls in school do not fully understand how to manage their social media and online activity in a positive manner. One feature of Snapchat is that it is possible to set up a group chat with a maximum size of 32 users which co-incidentally is the size of the typical form group at Loreto College. It is not uncommon to find that every form has its own group chat and unfortunately these large group chats are causing many problems in school.

Pupils tell us that these group chats are set up so they can share details of homework, but from reading the groups chats of many classes in the course of trying to sort out friendship problems caused by inappropriate behaviour, we can see little evidence of this and often the content is highly inappropriate with sexual references and very bad language. Pupils are reminded that they have a diary in which to record homework so they do not need a group chat for this reason.

A further worrying feature is the time some of these messages are being sent. It is not unusual for pupils to send messages in the small hours of the morning which is obviously not conducive to a good night's sleep ready for a full school day ahead. We remind parents of the advice to not allow electronic devices in your child's room after they have been sent to bed.

We deliver internet safety as a key part of our PSHE programme but please can we ask you to take the opportunity to talk to your daughter about using the internet responsibly and the repercussions of poor behaviour online.

Pupils travelling to and from school by coach:

As you know, it is very hard for us to monitor and manage the behaviour on the coaches as they are not organised by the school, and no members of our staff are on board at any time. We therefore ask that you do all you can to reinforce our shared expectations with regard to the use of these coaches. Naturally you cannot be expected to change the behaviour of the other people's children, instead, we would be grateful if you would occasionally take the precaution of going over the following points with your own daughter:

- Does she make sure she is at her pick-up point on time?
- Does she simply sit in an empty seat rather than expecting other students to move when she gets on?
- Does she do up her seatbelt immediately, and keep it done up until the journey ends?
- Is she respectful of the coach driver, the other passengers, and the coach itself?

Please ensure that you do not drive at anytime on to the school premises unless you have an appointment. The safety of our students is being undermined.

Travelling by train or public bus:

Please remember to show courtesy and respect to other passengers. Please offer your seat to parents travelling with young children or to an elderly or disabled person if necessary. Please do not disturb other people by being too loud or boisterous with your friends.

SAFEGUARDING ESSENTIALS FROM: e-safety-support.com

"A common message given to young people is: don't speak to strangers online. This is primarily a safeguarding message; we recognise that strangers might pose risks and we want to protect our children from these. But, what is a stranger to someone online? The way that we interact with people online has changed, and for young people, a lot of this is due to online social gaming.

What is social gaming?

Nowadays due to the speed of the Internet, we can play with others online and see what they're doing in real-time; we call this social gaming. We can also chat to them via text or voice, adding to the experience and the immersion. We can choose to play games with our friends, but more and more games are encouraging players to play against people they don't know... people we would refer to as 'strangers'.

Why we need to change our terminology

Imagine the scenario: a child is playing an online game with a friend, and that friend invites one of his friends to play. Within a minute or two, the child may not perceive the new person as a stranger; they've become a new friend or acquaintance. It happened quickly, and as they were introduced by their friend, they're more likely to be immediately trusted. We know that when people are online their behaviour changes and, in this scenario, due to the physical distance between players, the child would be more likely to engage in riskier behaviour (engaging with the 'stranger') than they would do in real life as their defences are lower.

We, therefore, may be better talking to children about 'new people' or 'new players' they meet online, rather than 'strangers'.

The risks

It's important that young people are made aware of the risks that meeting new people online can bring:

- They may not be who they say they are and may be good at hiding their true identity;
- They may be attempting to groom or harm by using emotional and/or persuasive strategies – this could involve trying to make video-chat arrangements;
- They may be trying to arrange to meet in real-life;
- They may be trying to find people online to bully.

Supporting young people

It's crucial to have open, honest chats with young people about the people they meet online. Our key messages to them should include:

- The importance of thinking before acting, and approaching new people with a level of scepticism, even if they're friends of friends;
- The knowledge that it's easy to pretend to be someone else online;
- The importance of blocking and/or reporting anyone online who's pretending to be someone else;
- The importance of speaking to trusted adults about people online who are frightening them or asking them to do things which make them feel uncomfortable."