



25th September 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As 5th Years settle into Senior Cycle in Loreto College Foxrock, we are committed to supporting our students to continually reflect on their learning as they work towards reaching their potential. I am therefore writing to you to share how we will assess and report your daughter's progress over the course of 5th Year (the first year of Senior Cycle).

5th Year Assessments and Reports

Reporting about your daughter's progress will be ongoing throughout the year and will help you and your daughter to understand and discuss learning.

Students are also supported to monitor their own progress, both in class with their subject teachers and independently.

How the school reports on 5th Year student progress:	How students monitor their learning:	School reporting gives you as parents:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • through teachers' comments on work (formative assessment) • through grading of work and class assessments (summative assessment) • Learning Advice Meeting in January attended by both student and parent(s)/guardian(s) when you can speak to your daughter's teachers • Easter Continuous Assessment Report • Winter and Summer Reports detailing house exam results 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By using the journal to note homework every day • By completing reflection statements at the end of class tests • By completing learning goal forms after their winter assessments • By recording their grades for each subject in the academic tracker in their school journals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information about your daughter's strengths and next steps in their learning • an opportunity for you to talk to your daughter about her progress • an opportunity for you to give your views on your daughter's learning • an opportunity for your daughter to give her views on her progress • an opportunity to discuss how you can support their next steps in learning.

To further support your daughter in managing her learning, all 5th Year parents are requested to sign all class tests.

Comment-only Marking

During September, and as part of a whole-school approach to assessment, teachers have been using a predominantly 'comment-only' approach to mark the work of all 5th Year students.



The rationale behind comment-only marking is that it helps students to focus on how they learn. Research shows that students respond better to constructive comments than to grades as it allows them to better understand how their work can be improved. It helps students to be more active, independent and responsible participants in their own learning – skills that help our students to not just to achieve their full potential in state examinations but also to become lifelong learners. Staff may continue to record grades for students (where relevant to the individual subject) but these grades will only be shared with students at the end of September. The Department of Education and Science (DES) considers this approach to assessment an exemplar of ‘highly effective practice’ and it will, in time, become the generic standard for all schools. From the start of October, teachers may use a combination of comment-only and graded feedback.

Accessing Support

Loreto College has an excellent system of support which can be accessed by all students and parents should they need to do so.

Students:

- For concerns regarding individual subjects, students should talk to that subject teacher.
- For broader learning and pastoral concerns, students should speak to their Year Head, Ms Giblin.

Parents/Guardians:

Should you be concerned about your daughter’s academic or pastoral needs in school, you can make contact directly with the Year Head by email (sgiblin@loretofoxrock.ie) or with the school office (contact details below).

With every good wish for the academic year ahead,

Suzanne Lea

Leader of Teaching and Learning