



## Scoil Náisiúnta Bhantiarna Lourdes

*“Mol an óige ‘is tiocfaidh sí”*

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Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2017

To: Parents/Guardians of Pupils in Chess Club

Dear Parents & Guardians,

We have 80 pupils wishing to play chess in our Chess Club. We are anxious to include as many pupils as possible and tried to accommodate everyone last Friday. However, this did not work out as we had hoped. Too many of last year's players did not play over the summer and have forgotten many of the rules and we have too many new members who have never played the game before. With nearly 80 in the assembly hall last Friday it was of little value to those new to the game as we could not get around to helping them. It was also very frustrating for those who play regularly as they were unable to concentrate properly with so many others so close to them. There was just too much background noise for our better players to play to their potential.

To enable us to get our club back on track I have decided to limit the Chess Club to those in Fifth & Sixth Classes only for the next few weeks. When these pupils are again playing to last year's standard we will then include the remaining pupils adding some to the club each week and ensuring that they are competent before adding more children. Chess clubs in most other schools have a membership of about 12 pupils so we are exceptional in our club! If this gradual adding of members to the club is too slow I will consider holding chess on an additional afternoon but I am slow to do that as there are so many other activities after school already.

I ask you to bear with us over the coming weeks and months as we try our best to facilitate as many members as possible. Chess has become very popular in our school and we are delighted about that but we do not want to become a victim of our own success.

I would also like to thank our adult volunteers and TY students without whose help the Chess Club would be unable to take so many members.

I regret to say that we are unable to take our visiting Spanish students as I think it would be unfair to take them in front of the students who have played with us all of last year.

With sincere thanks for your continued support,

Principal