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Dear Politician

Loreto College Swords has been on the Department of Education's list for an extension and refurbishment for the last ten years. At present the school has a student body of 630 although the school was only built to cater for 500. In 2006 a Commission from the Department of Education & Skills recommended that the school should be extended. In April 2011 when the minister announced the schools which would receive funding for extensions and developments, Loreto College Swords was not listed.

The school is in critical need of upgrade works.

- The school is unable to offer Science to all First Year students as there are only two Science Labs in the school.
- It is a similar case in relation to Home Economics as there are only 2 kitchens.
- There is no Technology Room available to the students even though there is great interest in Technical Graphics and Design & Communication Graphics.
- There is only 1 Art room and similar constraints apply.
- On a daily basis, classes take place in the Balcony of the PE Hall and sometimes in the 6th Year Common area.
- Many of the Resource and Learning Support Classes are conducted in the hallways of the school as we have just 19 mainstream classrooms which are occupied for every class period.
- Many of these hallways and the balcony of PE hall have poor heat insulation so the school has applied for upgrading under the Summer Works Scheme.
- The demand for accommodation in Loreto is growing year on year. We already have a waiting list of 83 students for 2016 with 120 places granted using a transparent lottery system.

The school has a good reputation in the town of Swords and in the surrounding hinterland. It is vital that Loreto's application for refurbishment and development is expedited in order to retain the quality education service that it provides and to bring its facilities in line with modern standards. We need more practical classrooms to enable us to meet the challenges of the new Junior Cycle Programme.

We the parents are asking you to help us to give the girls their school of choice with up to date facilities suited to their needs. We want our daughters to have the best possible education in a modern school so that they can face the challenges of the new Junior Cycle and the Leaving Certificate which lie ahead.

Yours sincerely

