



23<sup>rd</sup> August 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Welcome to the August edition of our e-newsletter. I hope you all had a very safe and enjoyable Summer and that your child/ren is looking forward to returning/starting with us in the next few days. As the start date is drawing closer this newsletter is an important source of information.

This newsletter highlights some important notices and deadlines for the upcoming academic year. (Please click on the hyperlinks to be brought directly to that section of the newsletter). Some of this information is new and some is a repeat from our June newsletter.

1. [VSware App – accessing your account](#)
2. [School Calendar 2022-2023](#) (with return to school dates)
3. [Homework Guidelines](#)
4. [Year Heads](#) and Co-ordinators 2022/2023
5. [School Uniform;](#)
6. [Supervised study](#)
7. [Transition Year Work Experience;](#)
8. [LCA updates](#)
9. [Way2Pay;](#)
10. [Information for incoming First Year students & parents](#)
11. [Breaktimes for students](#)

We look forward to sharing another successful academic year with you. Thank you again for your ongoing commitment to and co-operation with Creagh College.

Kindest regards,

*Paul Glynn (Principal), Declan O'Toole, Janet Wallace, Linda Furlong (Deputy Principals)*

## 1. VShare App- accessing your account

Please ensure that your VShare account is up and running for the new academic year. Timetables for the upcoming academic year will be published on your child's VShare account on your child's return to school. This is where you can access information on your child's attendance, behaviour and academic progress/reports. For any help regarding your VShare account, please see the VShare guides here: <https://support.vshare.ie/en/parent-app-overview>

**To learn more about the Parent App, click into the links below.**

- [Downloading and logging into the Parent App](#)
- [Navigating the dashboard](#)
- [Behaviour](#)
- [Timetable](#)
- [Personal info](#)

It is essential that you update our administration team of any changes to your personal details such as address, phone number. Please also make us aware of any updated medical information for your child/ren. Please copy the Year Head and the relevant Deputy Principal on any email with updated Medical Information for your child/ren (see 4 below for details).

## 2. Creagh College Calendar 2022-2023

Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup> August	College re-opens for 6 <sup>th</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> years only (2pm -3.20pm) Please note that Bus Eireann buses won't operate on this day.
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> September	Full induction day for 1 <sup>st</sup> Years (along with class as normal for 5 <sup>th</sup> and 6 <sup>th</sup> years)
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September	1 <sup>st</sup> , 5 <sup>th</sup> , and 6 <sup>th</sup> years only
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> September	3 <sup>rd</sup> years (along with 1 <sup>st</sup> , 5 <sup>th</sup> and 6 <sup>th</sup> years)
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> September	2 <sup>nd</sup> years (along with 1 <sup>st</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 5 <sup>th</sup> and 6 <sup>th</sup> years)
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> September	TY students (along with all other years)
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> September	All students
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> September	Open Night for incoming 1 <sup>st</sup> Years (2023-2024)
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> October	6 <sup>th</sup> Year/LCA 2 Parent Teacher Meeting
Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> October to Friday November 4 <sup>th</sup> (inclusive)	October mid-term break.
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> November	3 <sup>rd</sup> year Parent Teacher Meeting
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> November to Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December (likely dates)	Christmas Exams
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December to Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> January (inclusive)	Christmas Holidays
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January	2 <sup>nd</sup> Year Parent Teacher Meeting
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> January	School Closure Day (Whole Staff Training Day -JCT)
1 <sup>st</sup> - 9 <sup>th</sup> February (likely dates)	3 <sup>rd</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup> year Mock Exams
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	Bank Holiday
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> February to Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> February (inclusive)	February Mid-Term
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> February	1 <sup>st</sup> Year Parent Teacher Meeting
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	5 <sup>th</sup> Year/LCA 1 Parent Teacher Meeting
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	St. Patrick's Day Bank Holiday
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	TY Parent Teacher Meeting
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April to Friday April 14 <sup>th</sup> (inclusive)	Easter Holidays
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> May	May Day Bank Holiday
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> May to Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> (likely dates)	Summer Exams
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	Last day of school year
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> June	State Exams Begin

### 3. Homework Guidelines

We would strongly encourage students and parents to read our [Homework Guidelines](#) below in preparation for the new academic year. Here you will find information on recommended study/homework time for each year group and suggested parent and student roles are in relation to homework. Please see further information in the newsletter regarding Afterschool Supervised Study.

#### **Guidelines for homework**

Homework is a fundamental element in a student's learning. Any learning activity that students do outside of normal lesson time is homework. Homework activities are related to work that students are doing in school, often as preparation for the next lesson, consolidation, or follow-up. Teachers assess students' understanding through homework. Students and teachers can identify where further learning needs to take place, and how best to address this.

All homework activities are important and can consist of written work, reading, learning, research, revision, practice and study. Homework, revision, and study go hand-in-hand and are essential for students to reach their full potential. There is always schoolwork to be completed or enhanced at home!

#### **My role as a student in relation to my homework**

- I will record my homework in my journal daily for each subject.
- I will ask the teacher to explain the homework activities in class if I do not understand them.
- I will record classwork in my journal, if no homework has been given, and revise it.
- I will be responsible for having the necessary materials at home to complete my homework.
- I will include homework and classwork as part of my daily/weekly revision plan.
- I will do my own homework and do it to the best of my ability.
- I will spend the recommended time completing my homework.
- I will complete and submit homework on time.
- I will catch up on any homework/classwork missed if absent from class for extracurricular activities or medical/dental appointments.
- I will get my homework journal signed on a weekly basis by my parent/guardian.
- I will keep my journal neat and tidy and place it on my desk at the start of every class.
- I will try to spread my homework out evenly throughout the week to minimise the risk of overload on any given night.

- I will mention to my subject teachers if I have several tests or homework activities all falling on a particular day so that the teacher may change the dates if possible.

### **My role as a parent/guardian in relation to homework**

- I will, where possible, provide a quiet space/room suitable for my child to complete their homework/study in.
- I will monitor my child’s homework daily.
- I will ensure my child is spending the recommended time completing their homework and revision.
- I will express any concerns I have about my child’s homework to the individual subject teachers via a note in the student’s journal or at the next Parent Teacher meeting.
- I will write a note in my child’s journal, if my child was unable to complete his/her homework on a specific occasion, explaining the reason why.
- I will monitor VSware (Behaviour tab), on a weekly basis, to ensure my child is completing homework and following the Code of Positive Behaviour. I will sign my child’s journal on a weekly basis to indicate that I have monitored both VSware (Behaviour tab) and the student’s journal.

### **Recommended time for homework activities**

<b>Hours per day spent on homework and revision</b>	<b>Amount of homework per subject, every day</b>
1st Year: 1.5 to 2 hours	1st Year: 10 to 15 mins
2nd Year: 2 hours	2nd Year: 15 mins
3rd Year: 2 to 3 hours	3rd Year: 15 to 25 mins
TY: time will vary depending on project work	TY: time will vary depending on project work
5th Year: 3 hours approx.	5th Year: 25 mins approx.
6th Year: 3 hours +	6th Year: 25 mins to 30 mins +

For further and more detailed information in relation to homework please see our website [www.creaghcollege.ie](http://www.creaghcollege.ie) for our Homework Policy.

#### 4. Year Heads and Co-ordinators for 2022/2023 are as follows:

##### Year Heads

1 <sup>st</sup> Year:	Ms. Anna Nolan (Mr. Declan O'Toole - link DP)
2 <sup>nd</sup> Year:	Mr. Brendan Cullen (Acting) (Ms. Linda Furlong – link DP)
3 <sup>rd</sup> Year:	Mr. Neil O'Loughlin (Ms. Janet Wallace – link DP)
TY:	Ms. Megan Tomkins (Mr. Declan O'Toole - link DP)
5 <sup>th</sup> Year:	Mr. John Redmond (Ms. Janet Wallace – link DP)
6 <sup>th</sup> Year:	Ms. Mary Brown (Ms. Linda Furlong – link DP)

##### Co-ordinators

TY Co-ordinator;	Ms. Bridget O'Connor
LCA Co-ordinator:	Mr. Paraic O'Keeffe
LCVP Co-ordinator/Home School Supports:	Ms. Edel Peters
SENCOs:	Ms. Mairead O'Hara and Mr. Cathal Ó Súilleabháin
Special Class Co-ordinator:	Ms. Muireann Foley
EAL co-ordinator:	Ms. Fidelma Rossiter
Guidance counsellors:	Ms. Orla Travers and Ms. Jude D'Arcy

#### 5. School/PE Uniform

Our uniform policy can be found [here](#). Please re-read the policy as we do not want parents to go to added expense when uniform items are not acceptable. Please be reminded that **black shoes** must be worn by all students and that **facial piercings are not permitted**. School uniform and PE uniform are required by all students.

PE uniform: In consultation with student and teachers, students can continue to wear their PE uniform **ONLY** on days where they have PE (and for junior cycle students; where they have GAA short courses). Where the student has training activities after school, they must wear their school uniform into school and change in the changing rooms after school.

The PE uniform consists of:

- Quarter zip top or crew neck jumper
- Training jersey
- Skinny pants (or leggings for girls).

The black padded Bodibro jacket is acceptable as a school jacket.

## 6. Supervised Study

The aim of Supervised Study is to encourage regular study patterns and provide students with an environment conducive to study. After-school Supervised Study is offered to all our students. Priority is given to 6th, 5th & 3rd Year students, in that order, with any remaining places being open to other students. There are only 60 places available. A waiting list will be formed once supervised study is over-subscribed. Students who signed-up for, fully paid & attended Block 1 are given priority for Block 2, etc.

Times; Mondays 4.10pm - 6.15pm; Tuesdays – Fridays 3.30pm - 5.35pm

Payment; €10 per week and payments are to be made through Way2Pay. To secure a place the first week's fee must be made upfront. The payment blocks are as follows:

- Monday 12/09/22 to Friday 25/11/22 €100
- Monday 28/11/22 to Friday 03/03/23 €110
- Monday 06/03/22 to Thursday 01/06/23 €110

All school rules and expectations of students remain the same as during the school day. Please find the link to the application form [here](#). If you have any queries, please contact Mr Mac Raghnaill through [ciaranmacraghnaill@wwetb.ie](mailto:ciaranmacraghnaill@wwetb.ie)

## 7. Transition Year Work Experience

A letter was sent to TY students informing them of what dates they will be going on Tuesday Work experience next year. Each class group has two work experience modules. Please try to arrange work experience before you return to school in September. The following class groups will be on work experience at the following times:

- 4 A,B,D,E – 13<sup>th</sup> September – 22<sup>nd</sup> November
- 4 A,C,D,F – 29<sup>th</sup> November – 21<sup>st</sup> February
- 4 B,C,E,F – 28<sup>th</sup> February – 16<sup>th</sup> May

## 8. LCA Information 2022-2023

There are a couple of things to note for the LCA programme in 2022/2023 below:

### **Work experience**

Work experience will take place every Wednesday for the school year. It consists of one work experience from September - December and a different work experience from January - May. Please secure work experience before students return to school in September.

Parents/students are requested to confirm work experience placement before **Friday 19th August** for September - December 2022: [Work Experience Form 2022.2023 September - December](#)

Useful websites:

1. [List of Businesses in Gorey, Wexford \(localbusinesspages.ie\).](#)
2. [North Wexford Business Directory | Gorey Business | Love Gorey](#)
3. [Gorey Business Directory. Business Listings in Gorey, Wexford - MyTown.ie](#)
4. [Gorey Links - Local Business, Community Directory :: Gorey, Co Wexford, Ireland](#)

### **Bonding trips/events**

There will be a bonding trip during the first couple of weeks when we return and other various different trips/events during the school terms. We will keep you updated with these as we progress and look forward to a positive year ahead.

Please contact Paraic O'Keeffe, LCA Coordinator for further information if necessary.

## 9. Way2Pay;

School services fees will issue in September.

Fees will be:

- 1<sup>st</sup> year students €75
- 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> years €50 and
- TY students €400
- LCA I and II is €100 (which will include books).

Further details will follow on our website [here](#)

## 10. Information for incoming First Year students & parents:

The school will re-open for 1st Years on Thursday 1st September. Two full induction days have been scheduled to take place for all 1st years on 1st and 2nd of September. Students must be in school for 8.45am (start time) and their school day will end at 3.20pm on both days.

Students will require the following on these days:

### **Thursday 1st September:**

- Full school uniform must be worn
- School Bag
- iPad
- Pencil Case
- Healthy packed lunch and drink

### **Friday 2nd September:**

• Students will have P.E. as part of their induction and therefore they have permission to wear their P.E. uniform (school sports tracksuit) to school on this day. However, ONLY the school P.E. uniform is permitted to be worn. Students must come to school in their school uniform if they do not yet have the P.E. Uniform.

- School Bag
- iPad
- Pencil Case
- Healthy packed lunch and drink

### **Other Information to note**

- Ms. Anna Nolan will be the Year Head to all First Years.
- Students start their school day at 8.45am every day. On Monday school finishes at 4pm while every other day it finishes at 3.20pm.
- Should you have any difficulty with downloading the eBooks onto your son/daughter's iPad

before they start with us, please be reassured that your child's teacher(s) will assist with this in the first few days. Student lockers will be allocated in the first few weeks of term. It is really important that all jackets and uniform items have your child's name/initials on them. Items get mislaid from time to time, and it is much easier to locate if the child's name is on the item.

We will do everything we can to ensure a smooth transition occurs for your child, as they embark on their secondary school education here with us in Creagh College. We look forward to seeing you all on Thursday September 1<sup>st</sup>, and if you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Anna Nolan or Mr. Declan O'Toole. Please click on the link below to access other important information in relation to First Year 2022/2023 <https://creaghcollege.ie/first-year-information-2022/>

## 11. Break times for students

For the upcoming academic year, we will continue to have a split break time for our students. This alleviates pressure on students who may wish to queue up for the canteen etc.

Break Times are as follows:

### **Small break**

10.20am - 10.40am: 2<sup>nd</sup>, TY & 5<sup>th</sup> years on morning break.

11.00am - 11.20am: 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> years on morning break.

### **Lunch break**

12.40pm - 1.20pm: 2<sup>nd</sup>, TY & 5<sup>th</sup> years on lunch break.

1.20pm - 2.00pm: 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> years on lunch break.

**PLEASE NOTE: All of our senior students (TYs, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> year students) have permission to leave the college campus at Lunch Break. (This is a change from last year whereby only 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> year students were permitted to leave).**