



Creagh
College

Coláiste na Craobhai Guaire

Creagh, Gorey, Co. Wexford,
Y2 4V 6Y9, Ireland.
Tel: 053 948 4035, Fax: 053 948 0544.
Email: creaghcollege@wwetb.ie

www.creaghcollege.com

Principal: Mr Paul Glynn
Deputy Principal: Mr Declan O'Toole
Deputy Principal: Ms Janet Wallace
Deputy Principal: Ms Linda Furlong

Roll No: 76127D



Learning for life

Information for parents of 1st Years; September 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian,

22nd February '23

We look forward to welcoming your child to Creagh College in September. This communication is to inform you about your VSware account and choosing your child's subject options for 1st Year.

Subject choice in first year is a very important decision for your child. It not only influences the subjects that they will study for the Junior Certificate/Cycle but may also influence the subjects that they will choose to study for the Leaving Certificate. It is therefore very important that **you** are part of this decision and that you discuss it with your son/daughter.

It is important that;

- they choose to study subjects that they like and enjoy doing.
- they choose to study subjects that will suit their ability and aptitude.
- they choose to study subjects that they want and that they are not influenced by their friends' choices

VSware

"VSware" is the school management software system that we use. We use it to organise our timetable, to maintain contact details, to record and monitor student behaviour, to record and monitor attendance, to distribute school reports to parents and to manage various other aspects of school life.

We have setup parent VSware accounts for our incoming 1st years. You should have received a text message with a link to set up your VSware account (if you have not received this text message or are experiencing issues, please email creaghcollege@wwetb.ie and we should be able to rectify the issue for you).

You will need this account to make the **4 choices** outlined below. Between **Wednesday, 22nd February and Friday, 13th March** we need to gather which optional subjects, which short course, which Modern Foreign Language and which wellbeing activity your child would prefer to study. Please note that you can review and edit your subject preferences as many times as you want up until the **13th March 2023**. There is a guide to entering your child's preferred options at <https://support.vsware.ie/parent-app-notes-options>

Choice 1: Modern Foreign Language
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It is the policy of Creagh College that **ALL FIRST-YEAR** students will study a Modern Foreign Language. We offer students the choice between **French and Spanish**.

Between the 22nd February and 13th March, log in to your VSware account and rank these languages in order of preference (1 = first preference and 2= second preference)

Choice 2:	Optional Subjects
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All first-year students will study the following **core** subjects as part of their first-year curriculum. As mandated by the Department of Education, all students must study the subjects denoted in *italics* from the list below. It is the policy of Creagh College that **all** Junior Cycle students study Science (up to end of 3rd year). It is also the policy of Creagh College that **all** first-year students must study a Modern Foreign Language, choosing from French or Spanish.

- *English*
- *Maths*
- *Irish* (excluding students with certified Irish exemptions)
- *History*
- *Wellbeing** (incorporating CSPE, PE and SPHE certified short courses)
- Science
- Modern Foreign Language (French or Spanish)

All first-year students will study **4 optional subjects** from the list below. Between the **22nd February and the 13th March**, log in to your **VSware account** and **rank 10 of these subjects**, listed below, in order of preference (1= first preference, 2 =second and so on until you reach your 10th preference). To help your son or daughter to make an informed choice please visit our website for more detailed information regarding each of these individual subjects;

<https://creaghcollege.ie/academic/junior-cycle-curriculum/>

Note: As stated above, all first-year students must study a Modern Foreign Language. If, however you wish for your child to study **BOTH** languages, French **AND** Spanish, you should choose their 2nd language, as part of their TOP 4 from the list of subjects offered here. **DO NOT CHOOSE FRENCH OR SPANISH HERE UNLESS YOU WANT YOUR CHILD TO STUDY BOTH LANGUAGES.**

1. Applied Technology
2. Business Studies
3. Classical Studies
4. Engineering
5. French*
6. Geography
7. Graphics
8. Home Economics
9. Music
10. Spanish*
11. Visual Art
12. Wood Technology (Materials Wood Technology)

Please note that no student is guaranteed a place in any subject and the availability of any subject is dependent on there being sufficient demand. In recent years there has been sufficient demand for all the above optional subjects to run in first year.

Places in subjects, especially practical subjects, are limited due to maximum class size and students cannot therefore be guaranteed their first preferences. In recent years however, there have been very high rates of access to students' top choices in 1st year.

At the end of first year, students will choose three subjects from five (Modern Foreign Language and four optional subjects) that they will continue with up to 3rd year.

Choice 3:	Short Course
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Students study one short course for the three years of Junior Cycle. More information about the short courses can be found on our website <https://creaghcollege.ie/short-courses/>. Between the 22nd February and 13th March, log in to your VShare account and rank ALL of the short courses listed in order of preference:

- Coding
- Digital Media Literacy
- GAA Going Well
- Performing Arts
- Philosophy

Please note that no student is guaranteed a place in any short course and the availability of any short course is dependent on there being sufficient demand.

Choice 4:	Activities
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As part of the college's Wellbeing Programme, students choose to participate in one activity from the list below. Activities run in **first year only**.

Between the 22nd February and 13th March, log in to your VShare account and rank ALL of the activities listed, in order of preference:

- Art Club
- Baking
- Basketball
- Drama
- GAA
- Science Club

Please note that no student is guaranteed a place in any activity and the availability of any activity is dependent on there being sufficient demand.

We would also like to invite you to attend our **Information evening for parents/guardians of incoming 1st years 23_24, on Wednesday 8th March 2023 from 6.30pm until 8pm**. On this evening we hope to provide you with further information in relation to subject choices, iPads, uniform, books, and general information about what first year will be like

for your child in September 2023. It is also an opportunity for you to meet some of the staff that will be part of the 1st year team in September.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Glynn
Principal