



Coláiste Chraobh Abhann

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Creowen,
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Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna
Chill Dara agus Chill Mhantáin
Kildare and Wicklow
Education and Training Board

Wednesday 31st October 2018

Dear Parents

You may view and print your child's school term report for Halloween by accessing VShare through the link on the school website homepage using your logon details. Please note that your Username and Password are printed on your child's previous school reports and/or were sent to you by text message.

The grades recorded on your child's report are **assessments** based on a minimum of three pieces of assessed work (as opposed to a single test or exam result) and are a reflection of your child's work since the start of the new academic year in September.

We request that you take some time with your child to examine the report carefully. Particular attention should be paid to comments given by teachers and the attendance/punctuality details.

We would be grateful if you could ensure that your child completes an adequate amount of daily homework and study in the coming months. Please consult the Student Journal for recommended guidelines. You may also find the following publications of interest:

1. [Information and Advice Booklet to Parents on Homework and Study](#)
2. [Study Guidelines for Parents \(including information on 'Learning to Learn'\)](#)

These resources are available to view by clicking via the hyperlinks above which will bring you to the relevant section of the school website.

Please note the following:

1. If you have not received text messages this year we may have an incorrect mobile contact number for you. Please advise the office by phone or email us at reception@colaisteca.ie with the name and number of the main family contact.
2. Details of noteworthy dates for the remainder of the term are on the calendar in the Student Journal and on the school website www.colaisteca.ie.
3. Additional information may be found on the next page which is relevant to students in 3rd, TY and 6th Year.
4. As we move towards being a 'Cashless' school, I can confirm that over 85% of this year's Student Services payments were paid online using Way2Pay. All parents are asked to ensure that future payments are made using this software. Full details are provided on the reverse side of this letter and the company, Way2Pay, will assist you if you have a difficulty.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to wish all students and their families a happy holiday period. We hope that students will return refreshed after the mid-term break and ready to work for the half term leading up to the Christmas examinations.

Yours sincerely
Shane Eivers
Principal

Carol Buckley
Deputy Principal

Additional Information for parents of 3rd and 6th Year students

This is a very important exam year for your child and we look forward to the continued support of all parents in ensuring that students achieve their potential in the State Examinations next June.

The school has a number of strategies to support your child in this potentially difficult and stressful year. Some of these strategies are outlined below:

1. A programme of supervised study after school has been offered to all students.
2. 6th Year students have **FREE** supervised study offered in the evening time (7-9pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and 5-7pm on Wednesday).
3. Friday Study (3:30 to 5:30pm) will be offered after school to all 3rd and 6th Years.
4. Saturday Study (10am to 1pm) will be offered to 3rd and 6th Year students in January.
5. A programme of supervised study during holiday breaks (Christmas, February mid-term and Easter) has been offered to all students.
6. A Parent/Teacher/Student meeting for 3rd and 6th years.
7. A study skills programme is provided for 3rd year students in class groupings by the Guidance Counsellor.
8. A study skills programme is provided for 6th year students in small groups with an external body specialising in the delivery of study skills.
9. 6th year students are provided with an individual teacher mentor. The mentor will meet with the student on a number of occasions during the year. At these meetings the teacher and student will look at personal planning and goal setting in relation to the Leaving Certificate exams, college entry and career paths.
10. All 6th year students have scheduled meetings with the Career Guidance Counsellor.
11. All 3rd year students have the opportunity, where requested, of individual meetings (parents may attend also) with the Guidance Counsellor.

Additional Information for parents of TY students

1. Please note that the report on TY students in terms of their social and personal development on the TY Programme will follow after Halloween. This decision allows the report from the Work Experience placement to form part of the Tutor and Year Head assessment of the student.
2. The Christmas report will contain an additional profile report which will be a reflection of your child's personal development since starting the Transition Year Programme in September.
3. It is our hope that all Transition Year students had a successful and interesting work experience before the Halloween break. **Please ensure that your child's 'Employer's Report on Work Experience' is returned to the Co-ordinator as soon as possible.**

Additional Information for parents of all students

As part of the school's commitment to improving efficiencies and security in the school, while making life easier for parents, we ask you to use the school payments system, 'Way2Pay' for all bills you receive by SMS notification.

The software enables parents to:

1. Pay for student services payments, school events and activities online and on their smartphone.
2. Login and view all activities and bills for their son/daughter on the dashboard - view payment history, upcoming bills, last three payments, quickly contact school and Way2Pay.
3. Store card details, **pay by instalments**, upload credit and make financial plans.

Instructions for using Way2Pay

1. Click on the link which was sent to you by SMS notification requesting payment. **Please note that using the text message is more user-friendly.**
2. Alternatively, click on the 'Way2Pay' logo on the school website homepage and follow instructions. If you haven't used the software previously, use your mobile number in 3538xxxxxxx format for both your username AND password. You will be asked to set your own password at this point.
3. You may pay the fees **by instalments or in full.**