



**COLÁISTE BRÍDE**  
ENNISCORTHY, CO.WEXFORD



- ▶ Olive McGuinness,  
your daughter's  
Year Head
- ▶ Niall Moynihan,  
Deputy  
Principal



# Supporting your Child in their Transition to Post Primary

## **First Year Support Team:**

- ▶ Year Head: Olive McGuinness
- ▶ Learning Support Co-ordinator: Louise Murphy
- ▶ HSCL: Eleanor Harpur
- ▶ Guidance Counsellor: Aisling McDonald
- ▶ Class Tutor & Subject Teachers
- ▶ Principal: Kiera O'Sullivan
- ▶ Deputy Principals: Rose McConville & Niall Moynihan
- ▶ Fifth Year Cara Leaders

# Year Head

- ▶ As your daughter's Year Head I have responsibility for the pastoral care of First Years. I will notify relevant teachers when requested by a parent or guardian if an out of school or home situation impacts on the student's school life. Relevant teachers could include the Principal, the counsellor, the resource teacher and/or subject teachers. Assemblies and informal interaction with students creates a positive climate with each year group. I will also work closely with our Fifth Year Mentors who will provide peer support for First Year students.
- ▶ Should parents have concerns about how their daughter is settling in to First Year they should contact me.

# Special Educational Needs

- ▶ Our SEN support team is led by our SEN co-ordinator Louise Murphy and learning support teachers Niamh Duggan & Orla Foley
- ▶ The team is supported by class teachers and our SNAs Cora Cousins, Avril Lynch, Mary Wickham and Bride Kinsella.
- ▶ If your daughter/ward has any special educational needs, and if you have not done so already, please contact our SEN co-coordinator, Louise Murphy, as soon as possible.

# Subjects for First Year

In First Year your daughter studies each of the following subjects:

## Core:

- ▶ English
- ▶ Irish
- ▶ Maths
- ▶ History
- ▶ Geography
- ▶ Religion

## Options:

- ▶ Art
- ▶ Business
- ▶ French
- ▶ German
- ▶ Home Economics
- ▶ Music
- ▶ Science

# Pastoral Care/Class Tutor

The Tutor will provide a pastoral care support for the student and will help them with the transition from Primary to Secondary.

In the first few weeks students will follow a Transition to Secondary School programme in their Pastoral Care/Tutor class.

The Tutor will also monitor your daughter's school journal and provide guidance and support in relation to their journals.

# Cara Leaders Peer Mentor Programme

- ▶ Fifth Year students receive training to equip them with the skills to become mentors for incoming First Year students.
- ▶ Mentors are assigned to each First Year class and will support students from their first day in Coláiste Bríde.



# Cara Leaders Activities

The following is a sample of the activities that our Cara Leaders will do with First Years:

- ▶ Assist the Year Head with the induction of First Years on their first days.
- ▶ Organise an out of school tour for the year group in September
- ▶ Mentors spend time in the First Year base area during morning break, especially in the first weeks
- ▶ Organise lunch time activities
- ▶ Organise Friendship Week
- ▶ Organise in school activities such as quizzes
- ▶ Organise Tours

# First Year Induction

- ▶ The expected dates for our First Year Induction will be Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> and Friday 25<sup>th</sup> of August.
- ▶ Over the two days First Years will meet their Year Head, class tutors and Cara Leaders.
- ▶ Cara Leaders give students a tour of the school and help students to become familiar with their class group.
- ▶ Ice-breaker games are played within each class to help them to bond and to get to know each other.

# Summer Transition Programme

- ▶ In July the School Completion Programme will run a two day 2023 Transition Programme.
- ▶ This will follow on from the Transition Programmes in operation in both St. Aidan's and St. Sennan's.
- ▶ Completely optional, but it will be an opportunity to meet new classmates in a fun environment.
- ▶ First day is just two hours and will involve fun game, e.g. percussion drumming workshop.
- ▶ Second day is a bus trip to go bowling.

# Division of Classes

- ▶ Secondary school provides your daughter with an opportunity to make new friends in a new learning environment. It is a fresh start in a new class, with new girls from over twenty primary schools. All classes are mixed ability.
- ▶ First years adapt really quickly to their new classes and classmates.
- ▶ However, if you feel that it would be absolutely vital to your daughter's well-being and happiness, we can place her in a class with a friend.
- ▶ Alternatively, if you feel that it would be absolutely vital to your daughter's well-being that she **not** be placed in a class with someone we can address this also.

# Uniform

- ▶ Navy jumper with red stripe approx. €40
- ▶ Plaid school skirt cost approx. €75 or school trousers €35 - €40
- ▶ School Jacket €50, Initials €5
- ▶ Each of the above are available from Mat Mernagh's, Enniscorthy.
- ▶ White shirt
- ▶ Red Tie €6.95
- ▶ Navy socks or navy tights
- ▶ Plain navy or black shoes (runners or canvas shoes are not allowed)



# PE Uniform



Our PE uniform consists of:

- ▶ a plain navy/black tracksuit
- ▶ bottom or leggings.
- ▶ school crested half-zip, €35 and is only available online from Bodibro.
- ▶ An optional school training top is also available to purchase from BodiBro.

# Book Rental

- ▶ The cost of Book Rental for First Years is €165.
- ▶ This cost includes a €20 refund for returning the books in relatively good condition in June.
- ▶ If you are in receipt of a medical card it is €130.
- ▶ The total cost if you were to purchase all the books yourself is approximately €390.
- ▶ Book Rental application forms should be completed online with payment by Friday June 30<sup>th</sup>.

# Book Rental

- ▶ The book rental scheme is available to all incoming first years. It includes all of the text books and most of the materials that the student needs for her first year in Coláiste Bríde.
- ▶ The bundle includes a number of workbooks e.g. History, Science and Business. These books do not need to be returned.
- ▶ The art pack includes sketch pads, pencils etc. – everything the student needs packed in a convenient art box.
- ▶ The maths pack includes a calculator, mini-white boards and maths set which the students keeps as her own.

# Locker & Journal

- All students require a locker and a school journal.
- The combined cost of the locker and journal is €45 per student
- This cost also includes the locker's combination lock.
- The locker fee can be paid online through VSware and is due prior to the start of school in August.




# Communication

- ▶ VS Ware: main form of communication between home and school
- ▶ School Journal
- ▶ Texting system to parents in emergencies
- ▶ Phone calls and appointments
- ▶ Due to teaching commitments the Year Head or teachers may not be in a position to contact you back immediately.
- ▶ Digital Newsletter
- ▶ [www.colaistebride.ie](http://www.colaistebride.ie).....information on our school and all our school's policies are available on our website

# VS Ware

- ▶ VS Ware is the administration software programme the school uses.
- ▶ Details about your daughter such as her timetable, fees, behaviour, attendance and House Exam results & reports will be available on VS Ware.
- ▶ VSware is used to send you notifications if your daughter is absent.
- ▶ It is used for all school notifications and letters.

10:35



Welcome to VSware

School Name



Username

Password

[Create or reset your password](#)

[Login](#)

Don't have an account? [Learn more](#)

# VShare

- ▶ In the coming days we will send you a text message with your individual login username and instructions on how to use VShare.
- ▶ Parents should instal the VShare App on their phones.
- ▶ Your daughter should **not** have access to your VShare App or account, this is important as it can be used for submitting absence requests and for monitoring attendance and behaviour.



## Notifications

### School Mail



New Mail from Moyle Park College: "Absence Request denied"



New Mail from Moyle Park College: "Absence Request denied"

### Donna Adams



Your Absence Request has been approved by the school.



Your Absence Request has been approved by the school.



[View all notifications](#)

# School Journal

- ▶ As in primary school, students use their school journal to write in all their homework and as a calendar for upcoming events such as tests.
- ▶ The journal should be signed each week by a parent/guardian.
- ▶ You can support your daughter's transition to First Year by talking through her timetable and homework with her each evening and helping her plan for the next school day.
- ▶ Notes in relation to absences or lateness can be written in the appropriate sections of the school journal.

# Signing Out

- ▶ Students are not allowed leave the school grounds or absent themselves from class without permission.
- ▶ We have a duty of care to your daughter and it would be negligent of us to not enforce this.
- ▶ If your daughter needs to sign out due to feeling unwell, she will only be allowed to leave if collected by a parent or guardian.
- ▶ If a parent or guardian is unable to collect her and you make alternative arrangements you should inform the school of who will be collecting your daughter.
- ▶ This is important to ensure the health and safety of your daughter.

# Mobile Phones

- ▶ From September we will be introducing new mobile phone procedures.
- ▶ Students will **not** be permitted to use their phones at break or lunch.
- ▶ This will help First Years to socialise and to make friends.
- ▶ It will also support teaching & learning.

# What happens next?

- ▶ In the coming days you will receive a text with your VSware username. Instal the VSware App on your phone to receive all notifications.
- ▶ Complete the Online Book Rental Form with payment by Friday 30<sup>th</sup> of June.
- ▶ SCP Transition Programme July 10<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>.
- ▶ You will receive a reminder notification in August regarding the first day of school and lockers and journals.
- ▶ Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> of August: First Year Induction Day 1.
- ▶ Friday 26<sup>th</sup> of August: First Year Induction Day 2.
- ▶ First Years are not back in school until Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> of September, on that date all year groups are back in school.
- ▶ Mid-September: Information talk for parents on school procedures and how to support their daughter in First Year.

# Final thoughts

- ▶ If you feel your daughter would benefit from a visit to the school please get in touch by emailing our office.
- ▶ School information may be found on the school website.
- ▶ Be positive! Try not to worry about the transition.
- ▶ We really look forward to welcoming your daughter here and we will do everything we can to help your daughter enjoy her time in Coláiste Bríde and to achieve her potential.