



A.M.D.G.

CRESCENT COLLEGE COMPREHENSIVE S.J.

DOORADOYLE, LIMERICK V94 W6W8

27 August 2021

Dear Parents

Firstly, I hope that you and your family are keeping well as we embark on the new academic year in Crescent. This time last year we were in the midst of huge uncertainty on whether students returning to school was even feasible due to the global pandemic. We enjoyed a very good year in Crescent last year and the only real break in face to face learning was due to the national lockdown last January. I hope that we can have a smooth return to our classrooms but I am conscious that there is still so many twists and turns in our response to Covid 19. Similar to last year, it will require staff, students and parents to work closely and in support of each other for a successful year. Here are some updates for our return to school.

Return to School Assemblies:

All procedures for students regarding Covid 19 will be brought to all students' attention at next Monday's assemblies. Students from 2nd to 6th Year should bring their school books and class materials on Monday. They will be allocated their lockers and can organise their books on Monday. This is a useful video for parents to view regarding their son/daughters return to school <https://youtu.be/f0sFwQmK9sM>

Lockers:

Last year we asked students to use boxes in their classrooms to store their books and class materials. Over the summer we have moved lockers into the base classes for second and third year students. First Year lockers are the only lockers in the Junior Corridor and have been placed outside each base class. Fifth and Sixth Year student lockers have been placed around the school. The removal of the lockers has reduced any congestion points around the school and allows students to have access to their class materials in their classroom. Students can use their own lock to secure their locker if they wish.

School Canteen:

The school canteen will open on Thursday September 2nd. We are moving to a new system through our school app. New cards will be issued free of charge to all students. Parents or students can through the school app now:

- Top up your account
- Pre - order food for collection

Some students may have existing monies on last year's card so if you wish us to transfer this balance to your new card, please bring your old card to your assembly next Monday. Please have your card in an envelope with your name, class, year, customer account number and balance owed on the outside of the envelope. This will be collected and processed in the next week.



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School Drop-Off /Collection:

As I outlined last year school for all students begins at 8.55am. The collection times for students to avoid congestion will continue as last year:

- 3.45 pm (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday) – First Year & Transition Year
- 3.50pm – Second Year & Fifth Year
- 3.55pm – Third Year & Sixth Year

On Wednesday the collection times are as follows:

- 1.05pm – First & Transition Year
- 1.10pm – Second Year & Fifth Year
- 1.15pm – Third Year & Sixth Year

I would encourage students where possible to cycle or walk to school. We have a secure bike shelter for forty bikes and we are adding a new 30 bike shelter in early September. As we will be moving to building work later in this academic year and access to the school will be limited please look at dropping your son/daughter near the school but not entering the campus. If you do need to enter the school campus please park at the back of the school and do not park in front of the school canteen or sportshall. Also please adhere to the left only turn on leaving the school to avoid unnecessary delays.

First Year Students:

I am looking forward to meeting all our incoming first year students on Monday. It is completely natural to be anxious about your first day. However, the first year induction day will be a great day to allay any fears. Crescent is a welcoming school and I am confident that all our first year students will settle in well. The following are some ways to support your child in their transition to Crescent:

- Routine, Routine, Routine!! – Bedtimes, wake up times, punctuality, homework time
- Healthy food & exercise
- Discuss screen-time
- Discuss hopes and what they are looking forward to
- Discuss fears, don't dismiss them
- Be calm
- Be positive

Useful websites: <https://stepup.ie/> This is an informative website with tips for students and parents.



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Sixth Year Students:

Obviously, it is an important year for our sixth year students. The D.E.S. recently outlined changes for next year's written exam which takes into account the loss of 'face to face'. Teachers will outline these changes on our return next week. There is no expectation that we will have an accredited grades process this year. My hope for all our sixth years is that they work to the best of their ability. A Jesuit education is one in which we want our graduates leaving our school as 'men and women for others' so I hope our students are generous with their time and respectful of all their fellow students in sixth year and throughout the school.

Supervised Study:

Supervised study will begin on Monday September 6th. There are a small number of places which are available and if you are interested please contact Barbara in our Finance office.

Extra-Curricular:

A schedule for extra-curricular activities will be confirmed early next week and sent via the school app by our sports officer Fiachra. We are awaiting the information from the respective sporting organisations regarding how or if school competitions are to proceed. Well done to all of our students who represented various inter county gaa teams, provincial hockey/rugby teams and individual success in various sports throughout the summer months.

Enhanced Student Facilities:

Last year due to the need for large classrooms for physical distancing we had to turn one of our computer rooms into a base classroom. During the summer months we worked on finding a new space to restore a second computer room. This work was completed and we now have a second high spec. computer room with 25 student spaces. I would like to thank a number of parents who supported this development by providing computers for the school to use.





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Ignatius 500:

This year is a celebration of the 500th anniversary of when the founder of the Society of Jesus, Ignatius Loyola was seriously injured when a cannonball shattered his legs. This cannonball moment marks the start of Ignatius' spiritual journey of conversion and a more closely following of Christ. We will be celebrating this year in a number of ways. This cannonball moment is not confined to the 16th century but rather an experience everyone can have.

I look forward to a very positive year and I will be in regular contact throughout the year to update parents on all aspects of life in Crescent College Comprehensive SJ.

Yours sincerely

Diarmuid

St. Ignatius Prayer Lord Jesus, teach me to be generous. Teach me to serve as you deserve, To give and not to count the cost, To fight and not to heed the wounds, To labor and not to seek to rest, To give of myself and not ask for a reward, Except the reward of knowing that I am doing your will. St.

Ignatius of Loyola, Pray for us. Amen

