

Parents' Newsletter



New School Platform -Tyro



To streamline school operations and enhance communication, the school will shortly be moving away from our old school management platform VSware to a new one called Tyro. Details of how parents / guardians can use Tyro can be found in the step-by-step guide on pages 12 to 16 of this newsletter.



School Instagram

Follow our school on Instagram for regular updates and a closer look at daily activities. We've shared over 160 posts so far and are hoping to reach 1,000 followers by September. Just search for **clorcain**.



Happy New Year and welcome back!

We hope you enjoyed a peaceful Christmas break and are returning to the new term feeling refreshed.

Everyone at Coláiste Lorcáin has settled back in quickly, with staff and students already busy despite the chilly weather. This issue of the Parents' Newsletter looks back at activities held before Christmas and shares details about what's coming up next.

Coláiste Lorcáin's Musical Legacy

We were delighted to welcome back some past pupils of Coláiste Lorcáin who have made it big in the music industry.

To celebrate the long tradition of music in Coláiste Lorcáin, the school created a wall of fame featuring framed photos of past pupils who have found success in the music world. Several of these former students returned for an unveiling held in November. We were delighted to welcome:

Alistair Fingleton – Singer-songwriter, country music performer, pianist, keyboards.

Michael English – Singer-songwriter, international country music performer, composer, pianist, piano accordionist, organist.

Brian Kehoe – Composer, pianist, organist, teacher.

Brian recently debuted a new composition in the Pro-Cathedral in Dublin, a mass written to mark the canonisation of St. Lawrence O'Toole.

Other past pupils featured on the wall, who could not attend due to commitments around the world, are also warmly celebrated.

Debbie Abbott – A skilled opera singer who has performed with Opéra National du Rhin, Opéra Théâtre de Metz, Oper Frankfurt and Scottish Opera.

Barry Whyte – Lead guitarist for *Mourning Beloveth*.

Clifford Deane – Bass guitarist for *Picture This*.

Clifford could not attend as he was in Los Angeles, but he recorded a thoughtful video message for the students, which was played on the day.

Event coordinator Ms. Dempsey said the Music Department organised the celebration to inspire students and strengthen their passion for music. Students met the artists during the unveiling and were encouraged to practise and chase their musical goals.

Photos from the event are shown below and on the following pages. Warm thanks to Ms. Dempsey and her team for hosting such a wonderful occasion.





Third Year Mock Examination Timetable

Date	Junior Certificate 2026
January 26th MONDAY	9.05 – 11.05 English 11.20 – 13.20 Business 1.55 – 3.55 German 1.55 – 3.55 Graphics
January 27th TUESDAY	9.05 – 11.05 Irish 11.20 – 13.20 Maths 1.55 - 3.55 Applied Technology 1.55 – 3.55 French
January 28th WEDNESDAY	9.05 – 11.05 Study 11.20 – 13.20 Religion 1.55 - 3.55 Science
January 29th THURSDAY	9.05 – 11.05 Study 11.20 – 13.20 History 1.55 – 3.55 Wood Technology
January 30th FRIDAY	9.05 – 11.05 Home Economics 11.20 – 13.20 Geography 11.20 – 13.20 Music

Sixth Year Mock Examination Timetable

Date	Leaving Certificate 2026
Feb. 05 THURSDAY	12.55 – 15.55 Biology (H. & O.)
Feb. 06 FRIDAY	9.05 – 10.30 Study 10.30 – 1.20 English (Paper 1 - H. & O.)
Feb. 09 MONDAY	8.55 – 9.20 Study 9.20 – 12.40 English (Paper 2 - H. & O.) 1.25 – 3.55 Maths (Paper 1 - H. & O.)
Feb. 10 TUESDAY	8.55 – 9.40/10.10 Study 9.40 – 12.00 Irish (Paper 1 – F/H) 10.10 – 12.00 Irish (Paper 1 - Ord) 1.25 – 3.55 Maths (Paper 2 - H. & O.)
Feb. 11 WEDNESDAY	8.55 – 9.40 Study 8.55 – 12.00 Irish (Paper 2 – Hons.) 9.40 – 12.00 Irish (Paper 2 - Ord) 12.55 – 15.55 Chemistry (H. & O.) 12.55 – 15.55 Engineering (H.) 13.25 – 15.55 Engineering (O.) 13.05 – 15.55 History (H. & O.)
Feb. 12 THURSDAY	8.55 – 12.10 French (Aural & Written -H. & O.) 8.55 – 12.10 German (Aural & Written -H. & O.) 9.00 – 12.00 Physics (H. & O.) 9.30 – 12.00 Con. Study (Ord.) 9.00 – 12.00 Con. Stud. (Hons) 12.55 – 15.55 Business (H.) 13.25 – 15.55 Business (O.) 12.55 – 15.55 Music 13.25 – 15.55 Art, Visual Studies (H. & O.)
Feb. 13 FRIDAY	9.30 – 12.00 Ag. Science (H. & O.) 9.00 – 12.00 D.C.G. (H. & O.) 9.30 – 12.00 Home Ec. (H. & O.) 9.10 – 12.00 Geography (H. & O.)

RECENT SCHOOL TRIPS

Religion Tour for Third Years

Our third years got to travel to Dublin on Monday 12th January to visit the Dublin Buddhist Centre. Religion is a core examination subject for all third years. Buddhism is one of the five major religions studied as part of the Junior Cycle Religion course. The students go to see a Buddhist shrine, the different types of statue associated with Buddhism and were treated to an informative talk about Buddhism, its rituals, signs and symbols. Thanks to Mr. Murray, Ms. Murphy and Mr. McCloskey for accompanying the students.



Sixth Year Agricultural Science Trip

Our Sixth Year Agricultural Science class visited O'Gorman's potato farm, where they explored the fields, learned about the work on the farm, and even saw a robotic milker in action. A big thank you to Mr. John O'Gorman for welcoming the students and to Ms. Gavigan for organising the visit.



Teacher traitors... plotting in the staffroom!

Ms. Baldwin and Ms. Hartnett Play Their Cards Right and Deal Themselves the Win in Traitors!

Things got very unusual in Coláiste Lorcáin in the lead-up to Christmas! Mr. Ruth decided the staff needed some fun and signed us up for Traitors. To put it mildly, some teachers took to it like ducks to water! James Bond would have been out of his depth! Twenty-four teachers took part, three secretly chosen as Traitors, and then the paranoia set in. Suddenly every glance, every nod, every 'good morning' felt suspicious. By the end, we were all jumpier than students who forgot their homework. Mr. Ruth gleefully kept the drama going, mixing things up like a master trouble-maker. We made it to nine players before the first Traitor was exposed (traitor identities classified forever). In the end, Ms. Baldwin and Ms. Hartnett outwitted the whole staff room to take the win. Well played—and thanks to Mr. Ruth for the most entertaining panic we've had in years!



Sustainability

Our TY Sustainability Group, supported by Ms. Nally, Ms. O'Rourke and Ms. Townsend, is hosting a Sustainability Awareness Day next Friday, 16th Jan.

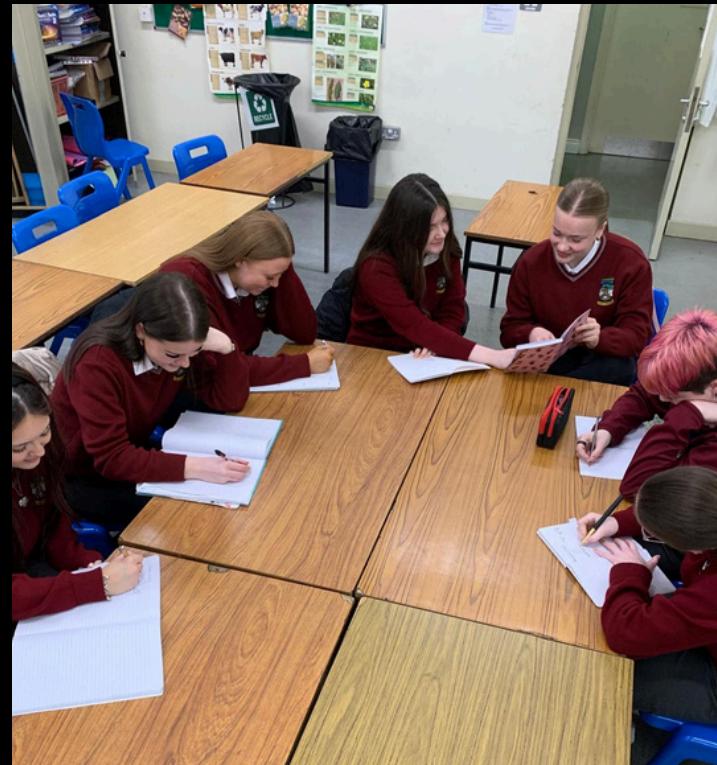
They are running two fun competitions:

1. A prize will be given for the student who brings in the most used batteries.
2. A "Bin It" challenge where TY students quiz Junior classes on what goes in each bin. All correct answers go into a draw for a top prize of €50 and more.

Another TY team will also deliver a short sustainability lesson to Junior classes on Thursday and Friday this week.

One clever idea they are sharing is warming used whiteboard markers on radiators to get more ink from them — sometimes a whole extra day of use!

A big thank-you to Ms. Gavigan for coordinating Green Schools.



Pope John Paul II Awards



On Wednesday December 10th, several students received their John Paul II Awards. Open to young people aged 16 to 18, this programme encourages deeper involvement in parish and community life, as well as stronger social awareness. Each participant completes a meaningful personal undertaking, often linked to leadership, pastoral work, or spiritual growth. After earning each level, students can continue taking on new challenges to progress further. We are very proud of all who take part and achieve these awards.

This year's recipients (mostly pictured below) are:

Bronze Medal Recipients - Lauren Curry, Sarah Doyle, Tara Keatley and Roxanne Robinson.

Silver Medal Recipients: Karla Freer, Grace Keeley, Kimora Kelly, Lucy Mangan, Maisy Murphy, Kemi Simpson, Hayley Sweeney and Katie Tease.

Gold Medal Recipient: Kayleigh Griffin (pictured bottom left receiving her award)

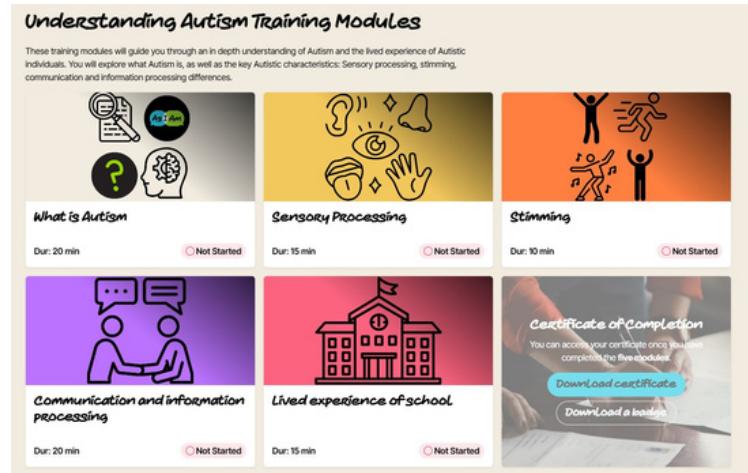
The Papal Cross, the highest accolade within the Pope John Paul II Award programme, was presented to Sarah Doyle (pictured bottom right receiving her award).

Congratulations to all the students and a special word of thanks to Ms. Murphy who coordinates the programme in the school



AsIAm - Autism Friendly School

As an official Autism Friendly School, Coláiste Lorcáin now has access to a brand new AsIAm learning portal. This portal allows teachers to work at their own pace to cover coursework and gain certification in courses designed to provide a better understanding of autism and to provide specialist knowledge on how to support Autistic students. AsIAm will, also, alert the project leaders in the school to specialist events throughout the year that can be attended either in person or online.



Christmas Shoebox Appeal and Hampers

TY students were busy in the weeks before Christmas collecting for our Team Hope Shoebox Appeal and making hampers for Alone which will go to the elderly in our community. Well done everybody. Special thanks to Ms. O'Rourke for all her fantastic efforts.



Movember for Mens Mental Health participants 2025



Teaching and Learning Survey

On Monday last Ms Sinnott-Doyle carried out a twenty five question survey among sixth year students to ascertain their opinions regarding teaching and learning in the school. The purpose of the survey is to acquire insights into how teachers can move forward with plans for teaching and learning in the future that will best accommodate students. We look forward to when the results of this survey are compiled and presented to staff at a staff meeting in the near future. Thanks to Ms. Sinnott Doyle for her work on the survey.

School Building

Work continues behind the scenes between the Principal, KWETB and the Department of Education and Youth (D.E.Y.) on the school's Extension. This will see a significant seven figure sum being spent on providing a new building, containing a bespoke ASD Unit, a new Music Room, a multi-media room and two new Science labs, as well as a common area in the coming years.

Movember is a global movement that takes place every November to raise awareness for men's health issues, particularly:

Prostate cancer
Testicular cancer
Mental health and suicide prevention

The name comes from combining "Moustache" and "November". Participants grow moustaches to spark conversations for these causes. Thanks to Mr. Hutton for organising this fine bunch pictured above last November.





Alannah's Icelandic Adventure



Transition Year student Alannah Sherry recently returned to Coláiste Lorcáin after an incredible few months living in Iceland. Her father's work in Reykjavík gave Alannah the unique opportunity to join him abroad, following in the footsteps of her sister Saoirse, who had a similar experience during her own TY year.

While in Iceland, Alannah worked in a factory preparing and packaging meat products for customer orders. Outside of work, she made the most of her weekends exploring the country's stunning landscapes and vibrant culture. Highlights included visiting Reykjavík's markets, admiring breathtaking waterfalls, quad biking, horseback riding on the beach, ski biking on a glacier, hiking into an ice cave, ziplining off a mountain, relaxing in Iceland's famous warm lagoons, and even attending The Nutcracker at the Harpa Concert Hall.



Although Alannah returned earlier than planned, she hopes to go back in the summer to continue her adventure. Fun fact: Iceland is actually larger than Ireland in size (103,000 km² vs. 70,273 km²) but has a much smaller population—just 386,506 compared to Ireland's 5.1 million!

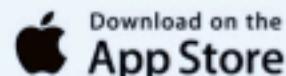
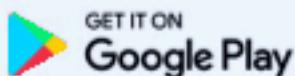
We're delighted to have Alannah back with us at Coláiste Lorcáin—at least for now! Welcome home, Alannah!

Parent User Guide

Steps to access the Tyro App

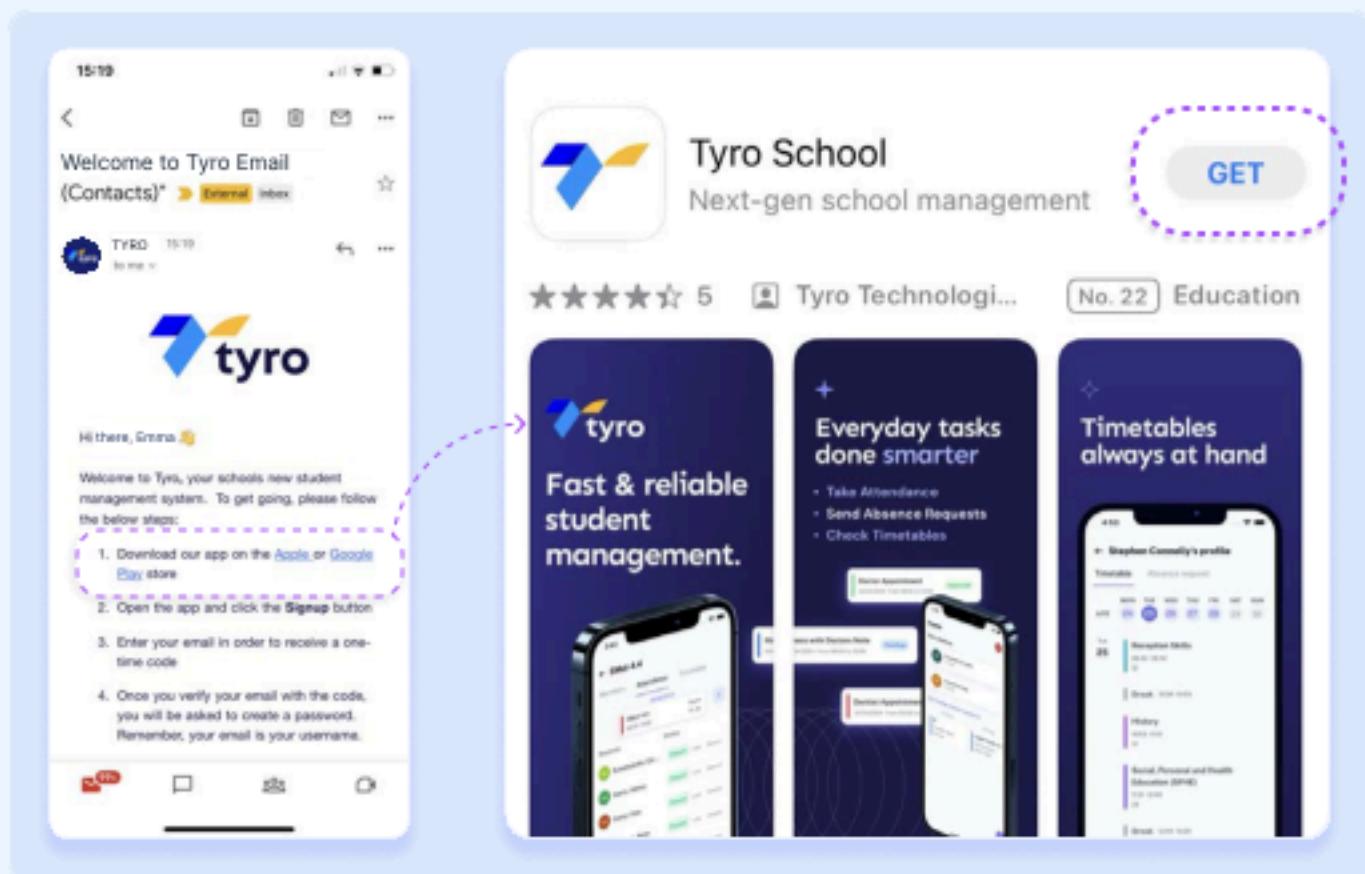
- 1 Access your Tyro email invitation and download App
- 2 Open the App and press 'Sign up' button
- 3 Enter your email and click 'Send verification code'
- 4 Paste in your code and press 'Verify Code'
- 5 Create your new password
- 6 Login to Tyro with your email and new password

Step-by-step



1 Access your Tyro email invitation and download App

If you have not received an email - Ensure that your school has the correct email address for you and check your Junk mail



2 Open the App and press 'Sign up' button

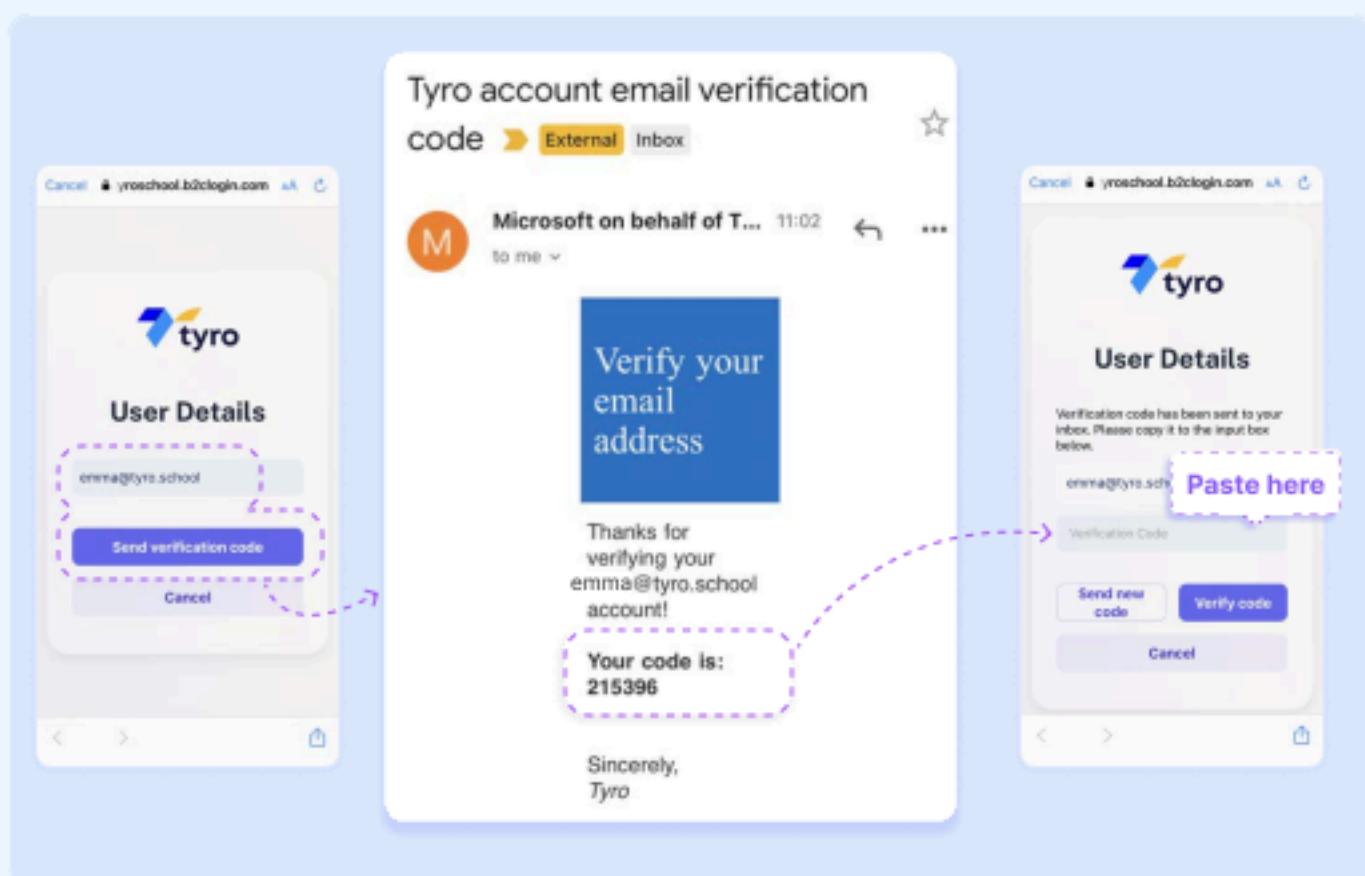
Once downloaded, open the Tyro App and press 'Signup'.



3 Enter your email and click 'Send verification code'

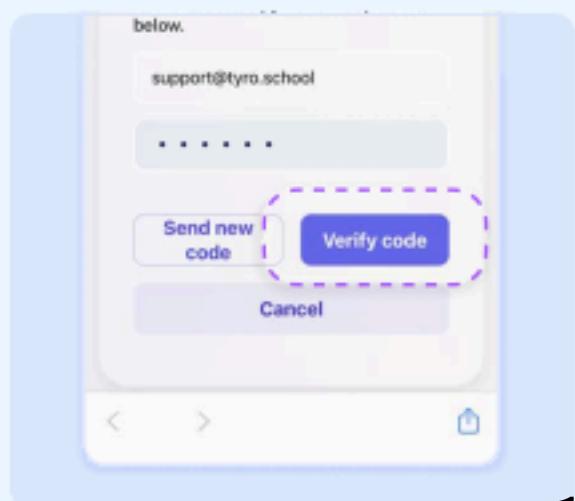
Use the same email address you received your invitation on.

If you have not received an Email - Check your Junk mail folder



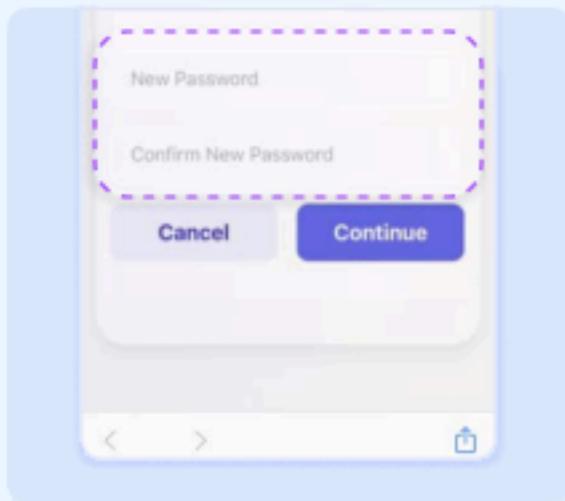
4 Paste in your code and press Verify Code

This verification pin is not your password, it is a one-time-code used to verify your email.



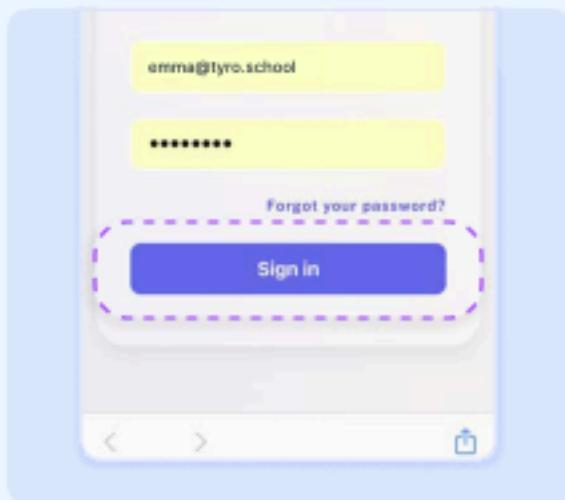
5 Create your new password

Now choose your own password by entering it twice and clicking 'Continue'.



6 Now you can login to Tyro with your email and new password

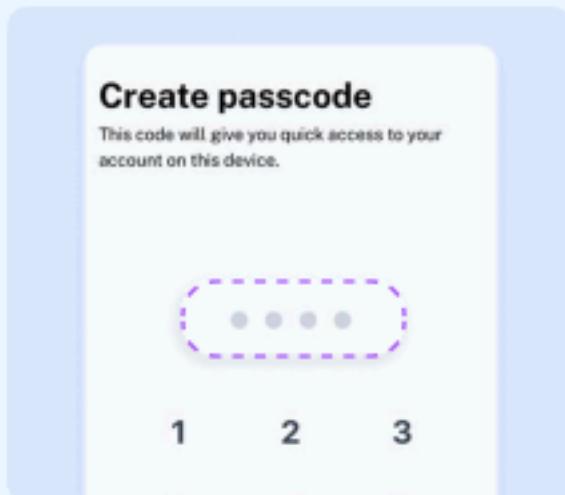
Press **Login**, then using the same Email and Password you just created, enter your details and press '**Sign in**'



7 Create your New Passcode

You will also be prompted to enable Face ID or thumbprint access for faster login next time. Also, we recommend you enable Notifications so you never miss any messages from your school.

All set!



Welcome!

Once you're in, you will see your personalised home screen:

For Parents this will be your student(s), their timetables, and absence requests

For Students this will be your Timetable

