



23 October 2020

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

We hope that this letter finds you and your families well at this time. We are writing to you to outline some important leaving certificate and career guidance information for sixth year students and parents.

This is an exciting year for all our 6th year students and it is important that each individual student is reflecting and researching possible post-leaving certificate pathways. With this in mind, we have compiled some key points for you, as follows.

November Assessment for 6th years

On our return to school after the mid-term break, all sixth year students will sit an assessment in each of their leaving certificate subjects. Please see exam timetable below which has some changes to timings of our normal school day. Students are permitted to go home at the end of their afternoon exam. If students do not have an afternoon exam and they wish to go home at lunchtime, they must have written permission from their parent/guardian.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8.30 – 8.45 8.45 – 10.45	Classes as normal for all 6th year students	Caomhnóir time & set up for exams			
		8.45 – 10.45 Gaeilge	8.45 – 10.45 English	8.45 – 10.45 French	8.45 – 10.45 Maths
10.45 – 11.15		Break			
11.15 – 12.00	10.45 – 12.45 LCVP Classes as normal for all other 6th year students	11.15 – 12.00 Study	11.15 – 13.15 Biology	11.15 – 12.00 Study	11.15 – 12.00 Study
12.00 – 14.00	Monday only 13.15 – 15.15 Art / DCG Classes as normal for all other 6th year students	12.00 – 14.00 Chemistry / Politics & Society / Technology	13.15 Free to go home and attend online 'Higher Options'	12.00 – 14.00 Accounting / Business / Construction Studies / Geography	12.00 – 14.00 History / Home Ec / Music / Physics

General Guidance Information for 6th year students and parents

- Each sixth year student will have ongoing individual meetings with Paul and Caoimhe (Guidance Counsellors), as well as Róisín (Treoraí) who will monitor academic progress and effort throughout the year and offer support with post-leaving certificate options.



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- Students should use their **REACH +** account on www.careersportal.ie (each student has had access to this since TY) to investigate career/college and course options and to build their own profile. This profile facilitates students learning more about their strengths and areas of interest that may compliment these strengths.
- The Guidance section of the **School Website** has been updated and will contain the latest information regarding courses and careers. It is important to look out for relevant college/course open days. These will take place as virtual events this year due to the ongoing situation regarding COVID 19. The website also contains useful links to other relevant websites.
- The **Higher Options Conference** which usually takes place in the RDS in September will be a virtual event this year due to COVID restrictions. It will take place on **Wednesday, 4th and Thursday, 5th of November**. Tickets will remain at the same price of 10 euro and students will be able to access the event with a unique log in during the two event days. They will also have access to all material at virtual Higher Options for a month afterwards. As always, Higher Options will aim to help senior cycle students gather all the information they need for making choices and focusing on future plans. The event will include a full programme of talks and live Q & A sessions, students will be able to engage directly with universities, colleges and institutions. Information for booking will be released shortly at [www.irishtimes.com/higher options](http://www.irishtimes.com/higher-options).
- If your son/daughter wishes to attend the online Higher Options conference this year, please facilitate them registering online at a cost of €10. We have amended our exam timetable to allow students to finish at 13.15 on Wednesday, 4th November, so that they can log on to the workshops if they wish.

CAO and third level information

- **CAO applications** may be made online from **5 November at noon** and it is best to register as early as possible to encourage familiarity with the system. Courses can be amended up to the **1 February** for no extra charge, and students who apply online before 20 January 2021 may avail of the discounted application fee of 30 euro. **With so much uncertainty at the moment, it is even more important than ever that students apply early and supply any supporting documentation (e.g. HEAR DARE documentation – please see below) as soon as possible.**
- Each student has been given a CAO handbook. If your son/daughter was absent, please remind them to collect their copy during Guidance class.
- Another extremely useful website is www.qualifax.ie, a link to which is also available on our school guidance website. The Qualifax website is the 'national learners' database' and provides comprehensive, annually updated information about further and higher education and training options in Ireland and further afield. This website is an essential source of information for all students and parents researching third level options and it lays out previous
- CAO points and required leaving certificate subjects for all third level and further education courses.



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- **Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSI)** – SUSI offers funding to eligible students, in approved full time third level courses. The online application system opens in April 2021 for 2021-22 academic year. Please go to www.susi.ie where you can find information on making a student grant application. Before applying for a grant, please review the eligibility criteria.
- **Disability Route to Education (DARE)** – Applicants with a disability or specific learning difficulty will be able to complete Section A (CAO) of the **Supplementary Information Form (SIF)** when they apply online. Applicants who wish to be considered for the DARE scheme must complete this form and indicate on the form that they wish to be considered for DARE by answering yes to the Question 1 by 5:15pm on 1st MARCH 2021. DARE applicants must submit the DARE Educational Impact Statement (EIS) and also Evidence of Disability to arrive in CAO no later than 5:15pm on 15 March.
- **Higher Education Access Route (HEAR)** – Applicants from socially-economically disadvantaged backgrounds may complete the HEAR online application form by 5:15pm on 1st March 2021 and submit supporting documentation to be considered for supplementary entry and post-entry supports to arrive in CAO no later than 5:15pm on 15 March.
- Further Information on **DARE** and **HEAR** can be found on www.accesscollege.ie

Leaving Certificate 2021

- All students will need to reflect on whether they will be sitting their leaving certificate subjects at Higher Level or Ordinary Level. Teachers are available to discuss this with students and parents. Students will be engaging in November exams, along with Mock exams in late January/early February 2021 which should give further information regarding appropriate levels for leaving certificate subject exams.
- **Reasonable Accommodation Schemes for Schools (RACE)** - This scheme assists candidates who have special educational needs to demonstrate what they know and can do in certificate examinations, without compromising the integrity of the assessment. The focus of the scheme is on removing barriers to access, while retaining the need to assess the same underlying skills and competencies as are assessed for all other candidates, and to apply the same standards of achievement as apply to all other candidates (*RACE Handbook for Teachers 2020*). Our SEN department in Celbridge Community School will complete and submit all applications for RACE 2021. If you have any queries, or wish to discuss your son/daughter's eligibility for RACE, please contact the school office.

If you have any queries regarding the information outlined here or any other guidance related matters, please contact us through the school office.

Míle buíochas,

Paul Huggard
Guidance Counsellor

Caoimhe Ní Chuinn
Deputy Principal



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