

Careers Newsletter Spring 2018

Dates to note:

- **Thursday 18th January:** HEAR & DARE Information Clinic, Ferrycarrig Hotel Wexford, 2-7 pm
- **Thursday 1st February:** C.A.O. application deadline.
- **Friday 2nd February:** TY Trip to UCD (all students will attend)
- **Thursday 8th March:** 5th Year College Awareness Day
- **Tuesday 1st May:** DCU Open Day for TY students (all students will attend)
- **Saturday 5th May:** C.A.O. change of mind facility opens.
- **Sunday 1st July:** Close of C.A.O. change of mind facility.
- **Wednesday 15th August:** Leaving Cert results will be issued.
- **Monday 20th August:** Round one offers will be issued by the C.A.O.

Summer Schools:

June 11th-15th: Maynooth Summer School for 5th Year Students- book online from now - www.maynoothuniversity.ie/summerschool

June 5th - 8th: UCD Summer School for 5th Year students- booking open from late February.

Open Days: Please see below a list of the main upcoming open days. We would strongly encourage 5th and 6th years to attend at least 2-3 open days as it will be of great benefit to them when it comes to finalising their CAO applications. In order to make the most of their open day experience students should check the college websites in advance for timetables, maps etc. It is vital that they plan their day. Also please note some colleges are taking bookings for campus accommodation so please check college websites for information.

Study: Mock Exams take place from Feb 1st - 9th. 6th year students should be spending *at least* 3.5 hours doing homework and studying and they should be doing this 6 times per week.

Attendance: Full school attendance is absolutely essential as teachers will be working until the day of the Summer holidays both to complete and revise courses.

Part time work: We would strongly advise against students working part-time. Studies have shown that part-time work has a significant negative impact on Leaving Certificate grades. Preparing for the Leaving Certificate is a full time job!

Lifestyle: Sleep, Eat, Exercise: The Leaving Cert can be a stressful time for students. Please keep an eye on sleep patterns, diet, lifestyle. We suggest keeping the bedroom a technology free zone at night as it has been proven that sleep patterns are effected by over use of screens, especially in the 2 hours prior to bedtime. If you have any concerns about your son or daughter don't hesitate to contact the school.

Research: There are several websites which students can use to conduct career research. The most useful are cao.ie, qualifax.ie and careersportal.ie.

CAO Applications: We have been assisting 6th years with their CAO Applications since December. Please note the early application fee is 30 euro (apply by 20th January). The fee can be paid by debit/credit card or in a bank using the Bank Giro form (available from CAO) Please note that students do not need to finalise their CAO choices until July 1st 2018 except if they are applying for restricted application courses (eg medicine, drama, music). *These courses must be added by February 1st.* They can be removed at a later date.

HEAR & DARE: Please see www.accesscollege.ie for details of the Higher Education Access Route and the Disability Access Route to Education. Students may be able to gain entry to third level courses on *reduced points* if they qualify for either of these programmes. HEAR is based on economic need and DARE is for students with any type of disability. It is the responsibility of students and parents to ensure all relevant documentation reaches the CAO on time. If you have any queries please see the website for contact details of the relevant University or Institute of technology. NOT ALL COLLEGES ARE PART OF THE HEAR & DARE SCHEME. Carlow I.T. have a separate access programme (similar criteria to HEAR)- closing date February 1st. *Strict deadlines apply for the submission of relevant paperwork to accompany the application.*

Language Exemptions: If your son or daughter is exempt from Irish or a 3rd language and is applying to college they may need to obtain an exemption from the college. It is the students responsibility to inform their Guidance Counsellor of their exemption so that we can assist them in applying to either the NUI or relevant university for the exemption to be recognised.

Grants: SUSI (Student Universal Support Ireland) administer grants for all third level and FETAC level 5 courses. Applications to SUSI may be made online at www.susi.ie after Easter (we will notify students and parents when the system opens). Early application is advised.

Eunicas: Students who are interested in studying in another EU country (through English) should register with Eunicas.com. Entry requirements can be lower and grants may be available, depending on where the college is located.

Open Days:

19 th January:	Bray IFE
20 th January:	Waterford I.T. Open Day
14 th April:	DCU Spring Open Day
28 th April:	Maynooth University Spring Open Day
26 th June:	DCU Summer Open Day
23 rd June:	Maynooth University Summer Open Day

NB: This is not a complete list- check Qualifax and College websites for more information. If an open day is being held on a Friday and Saturday (eg Maynooth, DCU, DIT) students are expected to attend on the Saturday.

If you have any concerns about your son or daughter please do not hesitate to contact the school.