

POINTS OF INFORMATION – MAY 2016

6TH YEAR STUDENTS

CAO

All 6th Year students should have received the following information from CAO directly:

STATEMENT OF APPLICATION RECORD

This contains a summary of all your applicant information, ID, Course Choices, Examinations/Qualifications. Please check this information carefully and follow the instructions given.

Do not assume course choices are correct – check the course codes against the CAO handbook and ensure they are in the desired order of preference. Ensure that you provide the details of any exams taken this year or if repeating last year also.

Is your examination number correct? Check it against the number you have been provided with by the school.

If you are seeking exemption from minimum entry requirements such as Irish or a Modern language you should contact the admissions office of the Higher Education Institutions you are applying to (in the case of NUI institutions see www.nui.ie for details.) If you have been granted exemption from NUI Irish and/or third language requirement and there is no reference to it on the Statement of Application record please notify CAO immediately.

If all of the information on the Statement of Application Record is correct you need take no action.

If there is any error or omission on the Statement, notify CAO immediately.

CHANGE OF MIND

The Change of Mind facility becomes available from 5th May at 12.00 to 1st July at 5.15pm. CAO request the students make any changes online at www.cao.ie in preference to the paper form.

Please consider all of your choices carefully.

You must list all of your course choices for the particular category (level 8 and level 7/6) in which you are making changes.

If you use the Change of Mind facility you will receive a revised Statement of Course Choices to enable you to verify your new list of course choices. If you do not receive this by 7th July please contact CAO immediately.

OFFERS

Round one offers will appear on the CAO website from 6am on Monday 17th August.

The reply date for acceptance of Round One offers will be Monday 24th August. Please note that some HEI's will contact you if they have offered you a place rather than waiting on the reply date. This is because registration and orientation will commence as early as September 1st in some HEI's. Further details regarding individual college opening arrangements will be available on their own websites in the summer. Please keep an eye on them.

Round two offers will be available online from 6am on Thursday 27th August. The reply date for acceptance of Round two offers will be Wednesday 2nd September.

CONTACTING CAO AT THE OFFER STAGE

At the offer stage it can be very difficult to contact CAO by telephone. Enquires should be made by email using the Contact Us facility on the CAO website. You will also be provided with an Enquiry Form which you can use if you want to submit your query by post. Normally, all email enquiries are responded to within one working day.

IMPORTANT CHANGES

You will also receive a list of important changes of courses, including Courses not in the 2015 CAO handbook but for which application can be made, courses in the 2015 CAO handbook which have been cancelled and other miscellaneous changes. Please check all details carefully. These changes are also available on www.cao.ie in the alert lists section as shown in class.

5TH YEAR STUDENTS

UCAS

All students in 5th Year have received a detailed presentation on the opportunities to study in the UK or Northern Ireland and the UCAS application process.

Any 5th Year student who is interested in applying to UCAS must begin the process now and begin working on their personal statement and organising relevant work experience for this summer (if not already completed.) Some courses require separate registration for aptitude tests which may be completed during the summer holidays, so careful research must be undertaken in order to avoid missing deadlines. For any further information please see Ms Foley or Ms Kelly.

UCAS 2017 ENTRY

Following a query from a Guidance Counsellor about the UCAS Tariff and the revised Leaving Certificate Points Scale, the following is a response from Professor Philip Nolan.

I raised the matter with the Department of Education and Skills, specifically the Assistant Principal responsible, Micheál Lenihan.

He has raised it with UCAS, and the update is as follows:

“ I spoke with UCAS yesterday afternoon in relation to the introduction of the revised LC Points Scale. UCAS confirmed that they have received a copy of the new Irish Points Scale and the agreed new Tariff applying to the Points for the Leaving Cert.

They have already sent a notification of this to all of their Universities. They are also publishing a UCAS Tariff Update next week which will highlight the revised Irish System in the Bulletin and highlight the main points about it.

UCAS also have country specific Qualification Information Profiles (QIPs) which are updated on an annual basis. We have completed the new QIP for Ireland detailing the revised system and arrangements in place and returned same to UCAS. The new QIP will be available on the UCAS website from July 2016 onwards (They believe it will be closer to the end of July). The QIPs are currently in a PDF format but they are moving this year to a Digital format which they believe will be more intuitive and interactive.

They will also be updating the Tariff Calculator on their website this Summer (end May / early June) which will then contain details of the Tariff points for people who will have received grades under both the old LC and the new LC system.”

HIGHER OPTIONS SEPTEMBER 2016

All 6th Year students will attend the Higher Options Conference in the RDS on Wednesday 14th September. Any remaining 5th Year students who have not yet brought in their €10 for their ticket to the event please do so as soon as possible and give to Ms Foley or Ms Kelly.

IT CARLOW COMPUTING SUMMER CAMP

The Institute of Technology Carlow is running its popular Computing Summer Camp, supported by the HEA, from the 7th to the 10th of June 2016.

The camp will introduce a number of computing areas to students in a fun and interactive way and provide them with a taste of studying computing in college. Students will learn how to:

- Program computers (write your own software)
- Develop an interactive web site
- Build a computer network
- Assemble computer hardware

The summer camp is open to anyone sitting the Leaving Certificate next year. There are, however, a limited number of places, so book early. The cost is €40 per student, which includes lunch each day.

Click here to book your place:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1CQEu0QI2VckXu57U0vKnVierGlaM6IWCyG4HFbVrL8/viewform?formkey=dHV2dzRyYVdsMmxTWE4ySlo5enRjREE6MQ#gid=0>

The closing date for applications is 5pm, Friday 27th May.

For answers to any questions you may have, please see frequently asked questions.

<http://games.itcarlow.ie/summer%20camp/faq.html>

4TH YEAR STUDENTS

TRINITY HEALTH TRANSITION YEAR PROGRAMME 2016/17

The School of Medicine runs a one week Transition Year Programme during the academic year. There are a limited number of places available and students are selected from different schools to maximise school participation and geographical spread. In order to provide an insight for TY students into the life of a medical student/clinical practitioner, he/she spends 1 day in teaching activities with 1st and 2nd Medical Year students on TCD campus, 1 day in clinical skills tutorials and the remainder of the week assigned to a clinical team in the Teaching Hospitals.

Any student who will be in Transition Year in September is eligible to apply. Students must apply online themselves on www.tcd.ie/medicine. Applications are open on June 1st to 31st July.

GENERAL CAREERS INFORMATION

NEW NCAD PORTFOLIO BRIEF FOR ENTRY 2017

New NCAD Portfolio Brief For Entry 2017 – NCAD’s portfolio brief is evolving to include two pathways. Undergraduate applicants for September 2017 can choose to follow all sections of the project brief set out by NCAD. Alternatively, aspiring Art and Design students can customise their portfolio by submitting a body of independent work along with other sections indicated in the brief guidelines.

The portfolio requirement applies to all September 2017 applicants for NCAD undergraduate studio-based programmes.

AD101 First Year Art & Design (Common Entry)

AD202 Design or Fine Art & Education (second-level teaching)

AD212 Product Design*

*Applicants who have completed the brief for AD101/AD202 and have also included AD212 as one or their CAO choices will also be assessed for Product Design. Applicants who have listed only AD212 have the option of completing the specific Product Design brief or alternatively, they can submit a body of work they have completed independently or as part of Leaving Cert Art, DCG, A-level Art, BTEC, FETAC or similar courses.

There is no portfolio requirement for AD215 Visual Culture.

Places are offered based on points calculated from final school leaving exams.

NEW APPLICATION SYSTEM FOR APPRENTICESHIP IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

Are you interested in an Apprenticeship in the Construction Industry?

The Construction Industry Federation has just launched a new website promoting opportunities in the construction industry for apprenticeships – www.apprentices.ie.

The website gives information about what an apprenticeship in the industry involves but also uniquely it allows young people who are interested in seeking an apprenticeship, to create a personal profile that can be viewed by employers seeking to employ an apprentice.

Also, for the first time, vacancies will be advertised on the site and there are presently a number of well established companies offering positions leading to successful careers in the sector.

AIMING HIGHER GUIDE

Guide for parents/guardians of prospective third level students.

The purpose of the guide is to give parents a practical understanding of the higher education system in Ireland and to help them to support their son or daughter in making informed decisions around third level courses and career choices. It looks at:

1. identifying strengths, interests, preferences and expectations
2. researching courses
3. navigating the entry process to higher education
4. third level jargon-busting
5. expectations of third level
6. financing third level education

Aiming Higher is available online

<http://www3.ul.ie/careers/aiminghigher/>

FIRST LEANINGS TOOLKIT

Guide for parents/guardians of prospective third level students

The purpose of the guide is to give parents a practical understanding of the higher education system in Ireland and to help them to support their son or daughter in making informed decisions around third level courses and career choices.

It looks at:

1. identifying strengths, interests, preferences and expectations
2. researching courses
3. navigating the entry process to higher education
4. third level jargon-busting
5. expectations of third level
6. financing third level education First Leanings Toolkit is available online

<http://www3.ul.ie/careers/firstleanings/>

NEW COURSE IN VISUAL EFFECTS & 3D TECHNOLOGY

BCFE (Ballyfermot College of Further Education) announces an exciting, new course; a two year Higher National Diploma in Visual Effects & 3D Technology.

You mightn't think Titanic, Forest Gump and Star Wars have much in common. But think about it. Fantastical imaginings are vividly brought to life in each film with spectacular visual effects, otherwise known as VFX. A few years ago Irishman Richie Baneham won an Oscar for VFX for his work on Avatar. His alma mater Ballyfermot College of Further Education has just announced that from September we'll be providing the first dedicated VFX & 3D Technology course in Ireland.

BCFE is delighted to announce a new Higher Nation Diploma course in Visual Effects and 3D Technology. Visual Effects (VFX) involves combining live action and digitally created images together to create everything from placing real actors on a surreal set interacting with Avatars on Pandora through to adding fire into a fireplace scene in a TV commercial. The VFX industry is a growing sector within post-production companies in Ireland. On successful completion of the course students may seek employment and a career in 3D/CGI/VFX either locally or internationally.

For further information, portfolio guidelines and to apply please follow this link ...

[http://applications.bcfе.ie/course-IFX-Higher National Diploma in Art and Design \(Visual Effects and 3D Technology\).html](http://applications.bcfе.ie/course-IFX-Higher National Diploma in Art and Design (Visual Effects and 3D Technology).html)

To read the recently published article in the Irish Independent please follow this link ...

<http://www.independent.ie/irish-news/education/movie-magic-course-teaches-students-how-to-bring-fantasy-to-life-34635724.html>

NEW COURSE IN BSC IN DATA SCIENCE, DCU

The new DCU BSc in Data Science, CAO Code DC123, is the first dedicated undergraduate university course in data science in Ireland. It combines the three key skill sets of computing, mathematics and communication to provide the core knowledge needed to succeed in the area of Big Data and Analytics, a rapidly growing area of employment in Ireland and abroad. The

course will introduce students to the major concepts in data analytics, data management, data processing, modelling, visualisation and communication. Partnering with industry provides opportunities to engage with real-world problems and data sets. You will learn to program, to study mathematics and learn to apply that learning to data from the real world, communicating the results to different audiences.

This is the course for you if you are a curious investigator, a story-teller, or a problem solver. Data drives the world we live in, and a Data Scientist's job is to use computers to organise everything we know about the world, and communicate the importance to other people. The DCU BSc in Data Science is for everyone who has a curiosity about the world around us, and wants a role that helps advise key decision makers in enterprise, government, and society. No prior computing experience is needed: we will take you from novice, or hobbyist to programming professional.

Sometimes described as part scientist and part artist, the modern data science professional is in high demand for a variety of careers. The core role is that of Data Scientist, but the skills are also applicable to analytical roles, and to programmer roles. Data Scientist is one of the fastest-growing occupations in the world. In Ireland alone an estimated 20,000+ will be created through 2020. Data Scientists work closely with other technical roles such as programmers, as well as with executives and leaders.

Data Analysis is applied in areas such as customer insight, financial analysis, health and well-being, media, sports and government. A key feature of the Data scientist is her or his flexibility: the core skills are in international demand, and highly transferable.

Data Science is also a key area of research interest, especially in the future of computer science and statistics. This includes areas such as Big Data analysis, high precision, personalisation, and the ethical future of Big Data.

Entry Requirements: B1 Higher Mathematics in the Leaving Certificate or Equivalent.

For more information please contact the coordinators – Dr. Alexander O'Connor (alexander.oconnor@dcu.ie, 01 700 5449) or Dr. Suzanne Little (suzanne.little@dcu.ie, 01 700 6052). www.datascience.dcu.ie

STUDY MEDICINE IN BULGARIA

Sofia University St Kliment Ohridski in Bulgaria – Study Medicine Europe is proud to announce that it has begun accepting applications for the renowned "Sofia University St Kliment Ohridski" for the academic year 2016-2017.

Due to the unprecedented number of applicants hoping to achieve a place in one of our top accredited partner Medical Universities, a search for the new academic destinations has been called for quite some time. We are now pleased to inform all aspiring medical students that we are offering you the unique opportunity to start an academic career at one of Bulgaria's most eminent educational institutions.

Sofia University St Kliment Ohridski is the oldest university in the country and until today continues to boast noteworthy scientific accomplishments and a safe and attractive campus

with exceptional facilities and above all, offering world-class higher education. The University offers taught programmes in Medicine in the English language.

To get your own application form and secure a place in the Medical programme of Sofia University St Kliment Ohridski, contact us and we will be happy to bring you one step closer to starting the career of your dreams. For more information, concerning the programmes, the University and the City as well as tuition fee, click here

https://www.studymedicineurope.com/medicine/sofia-university-st-kliment-ohridski?utm_source=Newsletter_study&utm_campaign=a595a944f0-SME_Sofia_University_Kliment_Collaboration&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_6fdc505487-a595a944f0-129753709

ACCOUNTING TECHNICIAN APPRENTICESHIP

School-leavers seeking a career in professional and financial services now have a viable alternative to the traditional full-time college route.

The Accounting Technician Apprenticeship puts them on the fast track to a career in accounting, where they can ‘earn while they learn’ and gain valuable experience in major accounting firms as well as small practice.

Employees who wish to change the direction of their career towards a rewarding role in accountancy can do so through this route.

Apprentices graduate as fully qualified Accounting Technicians with the skills to work in industry, commerce, practice and the public sector. They also have the opportunity to progress to Chartered Accountants Ireland’s qualification.

Interested applicants should contact Aoife Kennedy at akennedy@accountingtechniciansireland.ie or (01) 649 8126.

Click here for full information ...

<http://accountingtechnicianapprenticeship.ie/applicants/>

POINTS OF INFORMATION – APRIL 2016

Further Information on SUSI

What about students who wish to study outside the Republic of Ireland?

Eligible students attending approved courses in approved institutions outside of the Republic of Ireland, at undergraduate level only, receive a maintenance grant from SUSI. There is no funding available towards fees and it should be noted that there is no funding available at further education or postgraduate education (except for some courses in four institutions in

Northern Ireland) for students studying outside the State. SUSI has provided funding for more than 200 courses across the EU since it came into operation in 2012. For more information, visit www.susi.ie

SUSI and the CAO

SUSI operates a priority processing system, dealing with applications by the date that they are received. Therefore, it is extremely important that students apply to SUSI as early as possible after the opening date. Students do not have to wait to receive an offer of a college course before applying to SUSI. When students are filling in their CAO application forms, they are asked a question as to whether they are going to apply for student grant funding. Students who intend on applying to SUSI should make sure that they tick this box because it will enable SUSI to get information directly from the CAO later in the application process.

For those students who do not tick the SUSI option on their CAO application forms, they will be required to submit an online Final Course Acceptance (FCA) form. Students access these forms by logging into their online SUSI accounts. It is very important for students to do this as soon as they have been offered, and accepted, their college place.

Self-Employed / Farming / Rental Income

SUSI requires documentation from students where self-employed/ farming/ rental income forms part of the income of those persons who SUSI will assess as part of the application process. For the 2016/17 academic year, where such income exists, students will be required to submit a full set of trading accounts for 2015 as well as confirmation that the tax returns for 2015 income have been made to the Revenue Commissioners (known as an acknowledgement of self-assessment). It is therefore important for students that such tax returns are made as early as possible in 2016, to enable SUSI to fully assess such applications.

How to Apply

Students can make their applications through the SUSI website at www.susi.ie. Students can self-assess using the ‘Eligibility Reckoner’ on the Home page of SUSI’s website, where they will get an indication as to whether they may be eligible for student grant funding before making an application. This “self-assessment” can be done now even before the application system opens for 2016/17.

Students are required to set up their own online SUSI accounts, so they will need to create a username, password and PIN number. Students should ensure that these are easy to remember as these will be needed on an ongoing basis to allow them access to their accounts and information about their applications. Students will also be required to enter their own PPS numbers and those of their parents/spouses, etc.

Students are also encouraged to use their own SUSI ‘online application tracker’ in their SUSI account, where they can track the progress of their applications for student grant funding, and confirm that their documentation has been received, without having to contact SUSI directly.

For more information, please visit www.susi.ie

Aircraft Maintenance Engineer Apprenticeship Programme

Interested candidates can apply online at <http://www.atlanticaviation.ie/apprenticeship-programme/>. There is also information on the website from current apprentices. Applications can be made from Monday, April 18th and the closing date is Friday May 13th.

Defence Forces are now accepting applications

The Defence Forces is now accepting applications for General Service in both the Army and Naval Service.

We live in a world of diversity; the Defence Forces require men and women from all backgrounds that possess a strong sense of duty, enjoy working as part of a team, and are looking for a rewarding yet challenging career.

Army applicants must be at least 18 years old and under the age of 25 years of age on the closing date for applications.

Naval Service applicants must be at least 18 years old and under the age of 27 years of age on the closing date for applications.

The closing date for this competition is 23:59hrs on Sunday, 22 May 2016.

Read more about the **Army Recruits**

Read more about the **Naval Service Recruit**

Applications will be accepted only online only through our **Careers Page**

2016 Army/Navy Preparation Courses

Career Services – The Entrance Exam Experts are now running our renowned Army/Navy Recruitment Preparation courses. During the preparation course all stages of the recruitment are covered including the fitness test, psychometric tests and interview. All aspects are fully analysed, discussed and fully explained by tutors with the highest relevant qualifications in psychometric testing.

The courses are being held nationwide. For current preparation course dates and venues please click here: **Army/Navy Recruitment Preparation Courses**

Bookings can be made online at www.careerservices.ie or by phoning 1890 812 337 or 028-22977

5th Year Trips to UCD and WIT

5th Year students attended WIT on Thursday 7 April. This day was specifically designed to give an introductory talk on the courses and facilities offered by WIT, comprehensive campus tours and to get the opportunity to meet with current students. The students were very impressed by the range of facilities and courses offered by WIT.

These students will also attend UCD's Ambassador Day on Tuesday 26th April for a similar experience.

In line with our School Improvement Plan, we organise a trip for 5th Years to one IT and one University each year as outlined above. We strongly encourage each student to attend open days of institutions that they are interested in, in 5th and/or 6th year at weekends to further their career research. They are reminded also of the opportunity to participate in one of the many summer schools offered by the universities.

University Summer Schools 2016

A number of universities provide a summer school experience for 5th year students. Details of these are available from individual college websites. Please find below an example of this information received from UCD:

UCD Summer School 2016

The Summer School is aimed at students entering their final year in September 2016. During the day students will attend lectures and tutorials, given by some of UCD's top academic staff and UCD graduates. They will be provided with detailed information about their desired course, related further study and career opportunities.

Details of the participating courses and the application process may be found at www.ucd.ie/myucd/summerschool.

Interested students are encouraged to apply as soon as possible as some summer schools are already near capacity.

For any queries please contact: Kathy Murphy, Tel: 01 716 1512 or email: Kathy.L.Murphy@ucd.ie

SUSI

The national student grant awarding authority, SUSI (Student Universal Support Ireland), will open its online application system for the 2016/17 academic year on April 5th. The national awarding authority received 108,000 applications for 2015/16, awarding approximately 83,000 student grants. SUSI provides financial assistance to eligible students in the form of maintenance grants and/or fees (or student contribution, where applicable).

What types of studies does SUSI fund?

SUSI provides assistance for approved full time education in further education (Post Leaving Certificate courses), higher education, postgraduate studies and also in some cases to students who wish to study outside of the State.

Eligible students attending further education (Post Leaving Certificate courses) receive a maintenance grant, the value of which is determined by a couple of things, namely the level of reckonable income in the household for the previous year and the distance that the student travels from home to college (more or less than 45km). SUSI will be using Eircode in

2016/17 to assess the distance between a student's home address and the college that he/she is attending.

Eligible students attending higher education, as well as receiving the maintenance grant, also have their fees/student contribution covered, whichever applies to the student. The value of the student contribution for the 2016/17 academic year is €3,000. For mature students going back to study, it should be noted that where they are in receipt of a Back to Education allowance from the Department of Social Protection they are not eligible for a SUSI maintenance grant.

For more information, please visit www.susi.ie

Naughton Scholarships 2016

The Naughton Foundation is awarding thirty five scholarships in 2016 to promote the study of engineering, science and technology at third level by students in Ireland. Each Naughton Scholarship is valued at €20,000 i.e. €5,000 for each year of the students third-level course.

This year 35 Scholarships will be awarded to Leaving Certificate students in 26 counties. There will be one guaranteed scholarship for each of the participating counties and five additional ones.

Applications are invited from all second-level students who meet the eligibility criteria.

Please note that Applicants must:

- (a) Be attending a second level school in the Republic of Ireland;and
- (b) Be a 2016 Leaving Certificate student applying for admission to an engineering, science or technology related course in any publicly funded University or third level institution in Ireland, including Northern Ireland.

Full details on who is eligible to apply for a scholarship and the application form are available for completion on the foundation's website, www.thenaughtonfoundation.ie Closing date for receipt of applications is 8th May 2016.

WIT President's Scholarship Programme

From September, 2016, WIT will offer a new scholarship scheme which rewards young people who show a capacity to shape a better society. The programme will see five exceptional students being awarded scholarships across WIT's five academic schools. The programmes, along with full application details are available on www.wit.ie

BFA Degree in Musical Theatre

TheatreBox Studios Waterford in association with the Irish American University is offering the country's first BFA Degree in Musical Theatre starting in September 2016 in Waterford city.

This 4 year degree will take place in their brand new, state of the art studio facilities. It comprises of 3 years of taught classes followed by a one year internship programme.

Entry to the course is based purely on audition, and application is made directly to the college, rather than through CAO. There are 20 places on the course. Please see www.theatreboxstudios.com for further details.

DCU Access Entry Route

This route offers students from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds the opportunity to apply to the DCU Access Service for additional Access Supports. Two types of support are available:

- **Subsidised Accommodation** with access supports (50% or 100% subsidy)

or

- **Reduced point entry** with financial scholarship and access supports.

The eligibility criteria are the same as those for HEAR. If a student has made an application through the HEAR scheme and is not seeking subsidised accommodation there is no need for them to reapply through this scheme. Students who have not applied or cannot complete their application to HEAR or are seeking subsidised accommodation should apply to Access DCU with supporting information.

Applications may be made online at: <https://www4.dcu.ie/access/dcu-access-entry-route.shtml>. If you have any further queries about this scheme please contact Cathy McLoughlin at 01 7008814 or [This email address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it.](mailto:cathy.mcloughlin@dcu.ie)>cathy.mcloughlin@dcu.ie. The deadline for completed applications is **5.00pm Friday 29th April 2016**.

Points of Information – Friday, 12 February 2016

HEAR and DARE APPLICATION 2016

- DARE is a third level alternative admissions scheme for school-leavers whose disabilities have had a negative impact on their second level education. DARE offers reduced points places to school leavers who as a result of having a disability have experienced additional educational challenges in second level education. Please see www.accesscollege.ie for a list of the types of disabilities covered under the scheme, how to provide evidence of your disability, the application form and a list of the participating colleges.

Students must disclose their disability and/or specific learning difficulty in your CAO application and fully and correctly complete Section A of the Supplementary Information Form SIF) no later than 17.15 on **1st March 2016**.

Please note that there have been changes made to the application process this year and it requires a detailed Educational Impact Statement to be completed by the school. This must be submitted by the student to CAO by **1st April 2016** along with your Evidence of Disability. This date falls during the Easter holidays and so all forms must be **completed by the school before St Patrick's Day**.

Any 6th Year student wishing to apply to DARE 2016 must let Mrs Wilson, Mrs Kelly or Mrs Foley know by **Friday 26th February 2016**.

- HEAR is a college and university scheme which offers places on reduced points and extra college support to school leavers from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds. HEAR applicants must meet a range of financial, social and cultural indicators to be considered. Please see www.accesscollege.ie for a list of HEAR indicators and participating colleges.

Students must provide supporting documents as indicated on the application guide and submit your application to CAO by **1st April 2016**. Please note that some supporting documents may take up to 6 weeks to issue and so you must begin to gather the relevant information immediately.

- You should apply to both DARE and HEAR if they are relevant to you. Applicants who are deemed eligible for both DARE and HEAR will be prioritised by the participating colleges and universities when offering their reduced points places.

Students should use mid-term break to collect all necessary supporting documentation for both HEAR and DARE schemes if you have not already done so.

MOCK INTERVIEWS

Mock Interviews will be held for all 4th Year students on Monday 14th March beginning at 7pm in the school. A schedule of times for all students will be displayed on the 4th Year noticeboard after midterm break. We would like to thank the volunteers who give so generously of their time for this valuable experience to our students, and the Parents' Council for assisting in the organisation of the event.

PLC COURSES

Many PLC colleges continue to enrol for 2016/2017 academic year. Applications can be made on each individual college's website while some also provide paper application forms.

As you are aware, PLC courses are an excellent preparation for work as well as offering an alternative route to further study at third level through the Higher Education Links Scheme.

Interviews for PLC courses will usually be held in March, with some requiring students to bring samples of work with them. Please see individual course outline on the college website for specific details.

A number of PLC colleges continue to hold open days or information days over the coming weeks. Please see individual websites for specific dates and times.

5th YEAR UCD AND WIT VISITS

5th Year students will be attending WIT on Thursday 7th April and UCD Student Ambassador Day on Tuesday 26th April. These visits will allow students to get a closer look at the facilities and courses that each institution offers as well as meet students studying in each HEI.

CAREERS NEWS

All 4th, 5th and 6th Year students are advised to sign up to the Careers News website. You will receive daily emails with relevant links to up-to-date careers news. Simply log on to www.careersnews.ie, click on the sign up to newsletter tab at the top of the page and complete the necessary information. You can also follow 'Careers and Education news' on Facebook and on Twitter.

WATERFORD RCSI TRANSITION YEAR MINI MED SCHOOL PROGRAMME

Best wishes to Ciara Browne and Yvonne Buttle, 4th Year who are taking part in the RCSI Mini Med programme from 16th-19th February. The course covers a wide variety of topics and is designed to introduce students to both undergraduate and postgraduate aspects of a career in medicine. Presentations will be given by experts in areas such as Ophthalmology, Forensics, Emergency Medicine, Gastrointestinal Surgery, Cardiology Psychiatry, and General Practice during the course of the week. Students will participate in practical sessions in cardio pulmonary resuscitation, clinical skills, first aid and obstetrics and gynaecology.

ACCESS PROGRAMME WIT– REACH

WIT's REACH programme is designed to increase participation rates at third level education by students experiencing long term disadvantage and who have the ability to succeed academically but lack the necessary socio-economic and cultural supports and encouragement.

WIT will make 20 places available for REACH participants. Successful applicants will receive support in the form of an induction course, additional tutorials, mentoring and educational guidance. Financial assistance may be given towards books, travel, childcare and other expenses.

Interested 6th Year students should check www.wit.ie/reach for details of this programme eligibility, selection criteria and the application form. Only two applications can be submitted per school. Any interested party must speak to Mrs Foley or Mrs Kelly by Monday 7th March.

IRISH TAX INSTITUTE SCHOLARSHIP

The Irish Tax Institute runs a Third-Level Scholarship programme which offers students the opportunity to receive financial assistance through third-level education and a place on the prestigious AITI Chartered Tax Adviser (CTA) Programme to begin a career as a AITI Chartered Tax Adviser (CTA). Any 6th Year student who is interested in applying must speak to Mrs Foley or Mrs Kelly by Tuesday 1st March.

Points of Information - Friday, 5 February 2016

The following is a report on the events organised by the Guidance Department in the school year 2015/ 2016 to date:

September 2015

5th Year Study Skills Seminar

All 5th year students participated in a study skills seminar, provided by Student Enrichment Services Ltd. This is a mandatory exercise for all fifth year students to help prepare them for the transition to senior cycle.

Higher Options

100 6th year students attended the Higher Options Conference in the RDS with four teachers. They had the opportunity to meet with representatives from higher education institutions from the CAO, UCAS and EUNICAS systems. It was a very beneficial trip for all who planned their time properly and who used the opportunity to obtain specific information on particular courses in higher education institutions.

1st & 3rd Year Study Skills Seminars

The Guidance Department organised a group of Class Teachers to deliver an interactive and informative study skills talk to 1st and 3rd Year students in the first term. We would like to thank the teachers involved, as the dissemination of study skills is an important aspect of whole-school guidance.

October 2015

Aware Talk

Stephen from Aware came in early October to speak with 5th Year students about the importance of looking after their mental health. This talk is based on the idea of Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT). It therefore encourages students to become more aware of habitual negative ways of thinking and how to prevent them from becoming harmful. As always, our students learned a lot from this talk and we thank Stephen sincerely for all his help. He has moved to work in another area of Ireland now but we look forward to working with his replacement next year. Aware provides this service free- of- charge and we hope we can run a fundraiser for them in the near future. More information on Aware and their services can be accessed at www.aware.ie.

2nd Year Study Skills Seminar

Claire Commins and her colleague from Study Focus Ltd came to provide study skills seminars to all 2nd year students. This is also a mandatory exercise (as part of our school

improvement plan of April, 2013). Claire also delivered a presentation to parents on the evening of Thursday, 8 October so that they could be in a better position to help their daughters at home and reinforce the study skills learned in school.

Stress Management Day for 6th Year Students

The Student Care Co-ordination Team (SCCT) organised a Stress Management Day for all 6th Year students. The day kicked off with local psychologist, Peadar Maxwell, speaking about the importance of managing stress and how to stay mentally well. He taught the students a lot about how screen lights / tablets/ phones etc affect our sleeping patterns and energy levels. Furthermore, he gave the students some excellent advice on how to manage their time more effectively and how to look after their minds and bodies.

The day then proceeded with numerous workshops which all students had the opportunity to try. Four of our very own teachers facilitated three of these workshops:

→ Ms. J. Busher (Art teacher) gave the yoga workshop.

→ Ms. J. Byrne (Art teacher) provided the art therapy workshop and

→ Mr. T. Gunning and Ms. S. O' Donoghue (Religious Education teachers) facilitated the mindfulness workshops.

The SCCT thanks these teachers for their hard work.

We also had two other very exciting workshops by outside facilitators, namely dance fitness and Brazilian Samba Drumming. Both of these workshops proved to be a lot of fun.

Students were certainly exposed to a lot of tools that they are encouraged to use to prevent stress from building up. We advocate that students do not wait for stress to take over. We encourage them to use the above techniques from the workshops to prevent stress from becoming a major issue.

Mr. O' Shea finished off the day nicely by delivering a very inspirational speech.

Psychometric Testing & Life Coaching by Eugene Daly

Eugene Daly of Daly Associates delivered a very powerful life coaching programme to all Transition Year students over the months of October and November.

We wholeheartedly express our sincere gratitude to Eugene for all of his hard work with our TYs.

He met with all students to show them the power of positive thinking, the habits of highly successful teenagers and goal setting for the leaving cert and beyond. He also gave them the opportunity to engage in personality testing (by Myers Briggs) which allowed them to reflect on how their personality will apply to their future careers. The students learned a lot from Eugene which will certainly benefit them into the future.

Thank you Eugene!

CAO Talk for 6th Year Parents

Mr. Howard delivered a presentation to 6th year parents on CAO and other post leaving cert options on this night. We hope this talk empowered parents to assist their daughters in researching careers and courses. Additionally, we hope it gave them more confidence in helping their daughters with HEAR, DARE and SUSI applications.

November 2015

SOAR Workshop for TY

SOAR arrived on Tuesday, 10 November to deliver their workshop on friendships and resilience. As always, the TYs really enjoyed the day and remarked that it was a very unique and worthwhile experience.

December 2015

CAT4 Testing for TY

We carried out cognitive ability testing with all TY students in early December. The purpose of this testing is to allow students to identify their main strengths and aptitudes and to use this information to help inform their subject- choice decisions for senior cycle. We delivered presentations in guidance classes in December and January to show students the main things to remember when making their subject choice decisions. One of our main messages is that students must research the minimum entry requirements for higher education institutions so that they can see the importance of “closing doors” by not having certain subjects. The introduction of the IGC’s Minimum Entry Directory was an extremely useful resource for our TY students this year.

January 2016

Subject Choice for 1st Year and TY

The month of January was spent showing the 1st and 4th year students the most important things to remember when choosing their subjects and how these subjects may affect future career choices. Ms. Kelly delivered presentations to all 1st Year classes in early January. 1st and 4th year parents were invited to a talk on Monday, 18 January where they were informed of the same issues. We advocate that students make their own choices by remembering the information we give them. We endeavour to empower them to make informed choices by researching properly.

Extra!

Rotary Leadership Competition

We encouraged all 5th year students to apply to the Rotary Leadership competition. We would like to congratulate Katie Stone on reaching the national finals. Well done Katie!! You prepared yourself very well for all the interviews and certainly showed initiative, leadership and independence.

Mini-Med with RCSI & Work Experience with RTE

We were very fortunate to secure two places on this year's Mini- Med Programme in Waterford in conjunction with the Royal College of Surgeons and two places in RTE in Donnybrook. We wish the four lucky students all the best in their placements and hope that you gain a lot from these very unique opportunities.

On-Going Visits from Higher Education Institutions

As part of our 6th year guidance programme we have had visits from personnel from various higher education institutions including Maynooth University, UCD, DCU, DIT, WIT, UCC and Enniscorthy Vocational College. This is a fantastic opportunity for our students to meet with representatives from each college and receive a comprehensive overview of the faculties, courses, accommodation, scholarships, societies, extra- curricular activities, facilities and services on campus in each one of the colleges.