

CAREER INFORMATION FOR 6TH YEAR STUDENTS AND PARENTS 2020-2021

Oct 2020

Dear Parent / Guardian,

As your daughter progresses through her final year in Holy Family Secondary School she will be making choices about the pathways she intends following when she leaves school in June 2021.

It is important that each student is aware of a number of resources which will help her to make informed choices whether she intends to continue her education or training at 3rd level or enter the world of work directly.

All 6th year students were advised in 4th year to buy the **Reach +Workbook** which allows them online access to a variety of exercises, tests and activities and CAO / PLC information to enable them to make informed career choices based on their interests and talents.

Higher Options Conference will this year be a virtual event and will be held on November 4th and 5th from 1-6. The ticket costing 10 Euro will allow access on both days so students can access it with their parents at home. Students will be allowed to go home on Thursday 5th November at 1 to facilitate this. Further details on the Irish Times website-www.irishtimes.com . Tickets may be purchased on this website.

Each 6th Year will have a one to one interview with a Guidance Counsellor in October/November to discuss their options after the Leaving Cert. These are happening at the moment- follow on meetings are available for all students if needed or wanted.

CAO Meeting

An information night for parents and 6th year students will be held virtually on Tuesday **20th October** at 8pm. An invite to this meeting will be issued through your daughter's Teams group. The purpose of this meeting is to provide information about the different educational opportunities available to the students with particular emphasis on CAO and PLC applications. We will outline the process involved in applying for CAO college courses and attempt to answer any queries you may have.

Applying for Medicine in Ireland

Any student who is considering applying for Medicine in Ireland through CAO in 2021 must take the HPAT (Medical admissions aptitude test). It is the student's responsibility to register for this test online and the charge for the exam is €140. Further details from <https://hpat-ireland.acer.org/>.

Restricted Entry Courses

There are some college courses including those in the areas of **Art, Architecture, Media and Performing Arts**, which require students to submit a portfolio as part of the selection procedure. The standard of work required for these portfolios may be very high so students must plan well in advance to be able to cope with the academic demands of 6th year simultaneously. Students intending to pursue courses in these areas should familiarise themselves with all portfolio requirements and closing dates.

Open Days

Students are encouraged to attend the virtual Open Days held by Colleges which they are seriously considering attending next year. A selection of Virtual Open Days held by colleges throughout the country is included.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION WHEN APPLYING TO UK COLLEGES

Applications to colleges in England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland are done **on-line** through UCAS.

Parents should be aware of the implications and cost of studying in the U.K, with fees in England up to £9,250 and in Wales could be up to £9,250. There are different fees for different courses – even in the same university. It is therefore important to research the college website where the fees for each course are listed. In Northern Ireland, the fees for students from the Republic of Ireland are approx. £4160. *These figures apply entrants in the 2020-2021 academic year and are subject to change, particularly as Brexit implications unfold.*

E.U. students may apply to the Student Finance Services European Team for a loan of up to £9,250 to cover the tuition fee. More information is available on www.gov.uk/student-finance/eu-students

In most cases, however, students do not have to pay fees up front. U.K. Government loans are available, and these will only have to be re-paid when students have graduated and are earning over £21,000 approx.

Please note that the Scottish Government have changed the payment of fees from July 2020. It is unclear at this point what exactly the fees will be for students from Ireland..It is important to be clear about this before accepting a place. Students must apply to the Students Awards Agency for Scotland (SAAS), to have fees paid.

<http://www.saas.gov.uk/>.

Important Dates:

- ✦ Application to Cambridge and Oxford colleges must be completed by **October 15th 2020**.
- ✦ Application to U.K. medical, dental and veterinary medicine courses must be completed by **October 15th 2020**
- ✦ Student applying for courses other than the above must apply as early as possible, but the early closing date is **January 15th 2021**

Most medicine, dentistry, biomedical and healthcare courses require applicants to complete an admissions aptitude test. The test required varies in each university.

It is important that all interested students research UCAS courses and the application system, particularly the Personal Statement, before meeting your Guidance Counsellor.

Useful Web Addresses

www.qualifax.ie ,

www.careersportal.ie

www.ucas.co.uk

<https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/>

www.studyinscotland.org

Studying Abroad.

Universities in Europe are actively seeking Irish students. Places are available on degree programmes, in a wide range of disciplines: including Health Sciences, Arts & Humanities, Life Sciences, Social Sciences and IT and Business. A wide range of courses may be studied through the English Language. The lectures are in English, books are in English and projects are in English.

Entry requirements are invariably lower, often significantly, than those set by Irish and UK universities. This is not a reflection of quality, though note that nine Dutch universities are higher ranked than Trinity College.

The cost of attending many Universities is often much lower than registering for an equivalent programme in Ireland or UK. There are no fees for Irish students studying in the four Scandinavian countries or Germany. Fees are also low in Italy and Netherlands.

. Further information may be obtained from the EUNICAS website. www.eunicas.ie

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DATES FOR SOME VIRTUAL UNIVERSITY/IT OPEN DAYS

2020-2021

It is necessary to register on line for some of these Open Days

October 24 th 12-4	N.U.I Galway
October 16 th 1-3	St. Angela's College Sligo
	Galway/Mayo IT
TBC	Limerick IT/ University of Limerick/Mary Immaculate College, IT Sligo
November 14 th 10-2	Athlone IT
November 14 th 10-4	U.C.D.
November 7 th	Trinity College. Dublin
TBC	TUD
November 12 th	IT Carlow/Carlow College
November 20 th 21 st	D.C.U.
November 19 th	NUIG Science/Engineering
November 26 th 7-9	Arts in St. Angela's Sligo
TBC	N.C.A.D. National College of Ireland
Not yet available.	Royal College of Surgeons

Check websites of the various PLC colleges for the dates of the virtual open days- not currently available.

A complete list of Open Days will be available on the Careers Noticeboard and on Careersportal.ie