



6th Year Information Evening

Maximising the chances of
success in the

Leaving Cert 2020

Tuesday 27 August
7.30pm

Why the Leaving Cert is important

- Opens up opportunities
- CV – longstanding effects
- Facing life's challenges

Raising your chances of success

1. Make a commitment to the year

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- How much do you want to make your target?
- Pact with friends to stay on track
- Keep up your performance during the year
- Give up part-time work
- It's only nine months

Raising your chances of success

1. Make a commitment to the year
2. Maximise Attendance in School

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“She just came to school every single day”

2. Maximise attendance in school

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Statistically, the better the attendance rate of a student, the better he/she will do in final exam performance.

2. Maximise attendance in school

- “She just came to school every single day”
- It's not *your* Debs
- Open Days
 - School *will* be open
 - You *need* to get into the course
- Mid-September - Higher Options
- Tough it out if you're not feeling great

Raising your chances of success

1. Make a commitment to the year
2. Maximum Attendance in School
3. Homework & Study

Raising your chances of success

Homework: set by teachers in class

Study: extra background work

3. Homework and Study

- You must get on top of the work or it gets on top of you
- Keep fully up to date with all homework
- Try to get a little extra study done
- 15-20 hours a week
- It's not about having a social life!

Raising your chances of success

1. Make a commitment to the year
2. Maximum Attendance in School
3. Homework & Study
4. Think smart

4. Think Smart

- Look for little extras that can help
- Make a study pact
- Evening Study

You may already be aware that the results of the Class of 2019 were very good; they were, indeed the strongest set of results our School has ever produced. What marked the Class of 2019 as different, however, was the level of commitment observed by the staff to their studies and their work throughout their time in the School, and particularly in their final year. From the outset of 6th Year, the year group settled down to hard work; many participated in after-school study in the evenings. Many of our students banded together in study groups, both formal and informal. Most of all, what was impressive was that the students who wished to work hard set the tone for their peers.

4. Think Smart

- Look for little extras that can help
- Make a study pact
- Evening Study
- Learn good study techniques
- Make sure you have a good environment
- Have you an extra subject?
- Make your own notes
- More extra-curricular = higher points!

How Parents can help

- Be kind, but firm
- High expectations
- Good study environment
- Watch out for stress
- Stay in touch with the school
- Little treats show you care!!

The Environment...

Does your son/daughter have the best possible conditions in which to study?

- ✓Regular Time
- ✓Regular Place

NO PHONE

No TV, No disturbances,
No work outside the home

Regular Sleep

Support Structures

- Form Teachers (Ms Byrne, Ms Coonan)
- Head of Senior School (Ms Coonan)
- Guidance Counsellor (Mrs O'Callaghan)
- Chaplain (Ms Evans)
- Principal or Deputy Principal
- Parents and family

Study is...

- Ensuring notes are up-to-date
- Learning Notes → This will be the key to success

Study is ...

1. Ensuring notes are up-to-date
- Writing up notes in a particular subject
 - Re-writing notes which are untidy or incomplete
 - Writing up work missed though absence

Study is ...

2. Learning Notes
- Reading and revising sections of work, condensing notes to bite sizes
 - Self-testing – seeing how much of the material covered can be recalled

Study Skills Day - Thursday

6th Year Term by term

What we will be doing

Term One:

- Homework of some sort each night
 - Monthly reports
 - C is for Cruising
 - 7 November: Parent-Teacher Meeting – students too
 - No Christmas Exams – working right through til the end of term: mocks are looming
 - Christmas Holidays – rest **and** study
 - The bulk of the work will be put in this term
- Also:* Many practical exams begin

What we will be doing

Term Two:

- Mock Exams: 3-14 February
- Half term: 14-24 February
- Easter break: 3-19 April

What we will be doing

Term Two:

- Focus on Practical and Oral exams
- Past papers and extra study needs to go in at this stage – you need to get a “helicopter view” of each subject
- A decent, long term, and a crucial period
- Oral and Practical exams

What we will be doing

Term Three:

- 20 school days remain: **use the Easter holidays wisely**
- Extra Evening Study class
- Tiredness and nerves can lead to distraction
- Stay in school: opportunity for private study when term is over
- 3-23 June: Leaving Certificate exams

Art and DCG

- Project work with specific time requirements
 - DCG – January deadline
 - Art – January starts 10-week project

Applying to College

Mary E. O’Callaghan
Guidance Counsellor

Agenda

- Applicants’ Responsibilities
- General points regarding the CAO
- Entry Requirements and the Points System
- Making an application
- How places are allocated by CAO
- After submitting the application
- Other Options
- Questions

It is the applicants responsibility to:

- Research thoroughly all the courses for which you are making an application.
- Be au fait with all aspects of the application system used (CAO) for these courses, i.e., procedures, dates, fees, rules, etc.

Useful Resources

Publications

- CAO Handbook 2020 Entry
- College Prospectuses - 2020 Entry
- Newspapers

Internet

- CAO - www.cao.ie Central Applications Office Ireland
- UCAS - www.ucas.com Courses in UK
- Eunicas - www.eunicas.com Courses in Europe
- Careers websites - www.qualifax.ie, www.careersportal.ie, www.careersnews.ie
- Grants - www.susi.ie
- Scholarships - www.careersportal.ie/scholarships

College Open Days

- Listed under Career Events on www.qualifax.ie

Career Interest Tests

- www.qualifax.ie
 - www.careersportal.ie
 - www.myunichoices.com
- Follow on from Eirquest to help with choosing courses in Ireland/UK & Europe

People who can help

- Guidance Counsellor
- Admissions/Academic staff of colleges
- Teachers
- Past pupils
- Family/friends

CAO – General Info.

- Centralised application system for 43 Irish 3rd level institutions, including 14 **fee-paying** colleges.
- Every 6th year will soon have a CAO Application Pack

Application Dates and Fees

- Early online application by 20/1/2020 €30
- Normal online apply by 1/2/2020 €45
- Late online (restrictions apply) by 1/5/2020 €60
- Change of mind by 1/7/2020 No fee

CAO – General Info.

- There are 3 types of courses students can apply for under the **National Qualifications Framework**.
- These are applied for on 2 separate lists on a single form:

Level 6 & 7 Courses

Ordinary Degrees (7) Higher Certificates (6)
Up to 10 Course Choices

Level 8 Courses

Honours Degrees (8)
Up to 10 Course Choices

- The courses are clearly labelled in the CAO Handbook
- N.B. – Care must be taken with courses marked '**Restricted**'.
- These courses cannot be applied for after February 1st due to extra assessments required.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

These must be satisfied before "points" are considered.

Minimum Entry Requirements

E.g. UCD

- Pass 6 subjects
- At least 2 H6
- Pass in:
 - Irish
 - English
 - Another Language*
 - Mathematics*
 - Science Subject*

Specific Subject Requirements

E.g.

- Engineering(UCD)
- H4 Maths
- Veterinary Medicine(UCD)
- H5 Chemistry
- Law & French(TCD)
- H3 French

If all Entry Requirements are met → applicant is deemed 'Qualified' to apply.

POINTS SYSTEM

Generally in the CAO system

No. of qualified applicants > No. of course places
--> selection system is needed.

Selection system used in Irish 3rd Level Colleges is

POINTS SYSTEM

- Points are calculated from **ONE** sitting of the Leaving Certificate only.
- Points total is calculated from **SIX** best subjects
- 25 Bonus points are awarded for Honours Mathematics Grade H6 (40-49%) or higher if among the student's six best subjects
- Entry Requirements can be satisfied over more than one sitting of the Leaving Certificate

LC Grades

New Grades	% Marks
H1 / O1	90-100
H2 / O2	80<90
H3 / O3	70<80
H4 / O4	60<70
H5 / O5	50<60
H6 / O6	40<50
H7 / O7	30<40
H8 / O8	0<30

POINTS ALLOCATION

Higher		Ordinary	
Grade	Points	Grade	Points
H1	100		
H2	88		
H3	77		
H4	66		
H5	56	O1	56
H6	46	O2	46
H7	37	O3	37
H8	0	O4	28
		O5	20
		O6	12
		O7	0
		O8	0

LCVP Points	
Distinction	66
Merit	46
Pass	28

MAXIMUM POINTS

- The maximum points a student can achieve is 625 when bonus points for Honours Maths are taken in account

Making an application

- Applications can be made online at www.cao.ie
- Always keep proof of sending application: online – print screen receipt. If sending any documentation obtain certificate of posting.
- Form is very straight forward to fill out.
- ****VERY IMPORTANT****
- Students must fill out both course lists in:
 - Genuine Order of Preference**
- They should not put down courses on the basis of their predictions of next years cut off points or their own points scores.
- Why? – Look at how places are allocated.

How CAO places are allocated

- Students are offered the highest of their course preferences for which they are eligible
- If the points requirements drop, they may be offered a course higher up their preference list but never lower down

A Students Course Preferences - Example

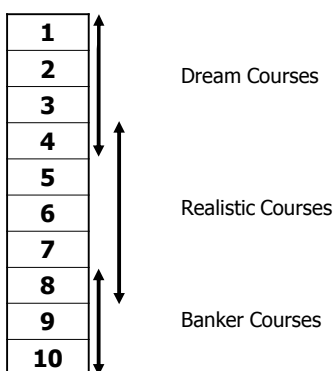
1	2	3
AL020	GY004	CH105
550	550	555
556	536	556
550	555	550
550	520	560
**	**	**
**	**	**
**	**	**
**	**	**
**	**	**
**	**	**
455	455	475
460	480	475
470	475	470
465	465	465
460	460	460
460	455	460
460	445	460
455	440	455
455	435	455
450	420	450
450	410	445
450	405	440
450	405	440
445	425	450
445	400	430
435	400	430
**	**	**
**	**	**
**	**	**
**	**	**
280	325	280
275	315	275
275	310	275
270	305	270

Students
Points
Total
= 445

Cut Off
Points for
Course

All Lower Preference Courses Disappear From Students CAO application

So – what is the best way to fill in the courses?



Places Allocation

Note:

- The position of a course in a student's preference order does not in any way affect their chance of getting a place on that course.
- The exact same procedure takes place for both lists on the form, hence students may get 2 offers in August – one from L6/7 list and one from L8 list - may accept only one.
- Students should think carefully about not accepting one of these offers, as they may not receive any further offers.
- Regardless of whether or not they accept a course in round 1, they will still be offered a higher preference course in subsequent rounds if they become entitled one.

After Making Application

- Receive CAO number and Statement of Course Choices – check this carefully.
- Some students may be called for extra assessments.
- Receive Statement of Application Record – check details carefully.
- Change of Mind facility becomes available – use sparingly and carefully.
- Leaving Cert. Results are sent to CAO.
- Places are allocated and offered by post and online.
- Students accept, reject or defer offered places.
- Further rounds of offers are made until all course places are filled.

CAO TIMETABLE OF EVENTS 2020 ENTRY

- 4th NOVEMBER 2019 CAO ONLINE APPLICATIONS OPEN
- 1st February, 2020
 - Closing date for receipt of normal applications
- Before/By 21st February, 2020
 - Receive Statement of Course Choices
- 1st May, 2020
 - Closing date for receipt of late applications
- Before/By 31st May, 2020
 - Receive Statement of Application Record
- 5th May 2020
 - Online change of mind (free) facility becomes available
- 1st July, 2020
 - Latest date for receipt of change of mind form in CAO.
- Mid August, 2020
 - Leaving Certificate Results followed by first round of CAO offers

ACCESS ROUTES TO COLLEGE

- HEAR : Higher Education Access Route
 - Students from socio-economically disadvantaged background
- DARE: Disability Access Route to Education
 - Students who have been educationally impacted as a result of a disability
- Must meet Evidence of Disability and Educational Impact criteria for DARE
- Apply via your CAO Application
- Information at www.accesscollege.ie

EXEMPTIONS FROM IRISH & A THIRD LANGUAGE

- If you are exempt from Irish for any reason or a third language on account of a specific learning difficulty and you plan to study at an NUI university you must apply for an exemption at www.nui.ie who will then notify the CAO
- Notify any other non NUI colleges directly of any exemptions

CAO points for courses 2019

- Demand highest for computer science, engineering & technological courses
- Arts biggest programme & little change
- Surprise drop in nursing & teaching points despite high demand
- Psychology hugely popular & sharp rise
- Brexit uncertainty drop in points for Agricultural & Food sectors
- Full list of 2019 points available at www.cao.ie

Important Dates for students interested in studying Medicine

- All applicants must score over 480 points in L.C. and take HPAT test
- HPAT Ireland test held Feb 2020
- Online registration opens November 2019
- HPAT results added to Leaving Cert
- Check **NOW** for aptitude test/entry requirements for Medicine in the U.K.
- www.hpat-ireland.acer.edu.au

It's not all about points

- Choose a course that genuinely interests you irrespective of whether jobs are available now
- Work hard and do your best
- Remember there are many ways to get to where you want to go

Other Options

- Further Education Courses
 - QQI/FETAC links scheme
- Apprenticeships – www.apprenticeship.ie
- Defence Forces – www.military.ie
- Gardaí – www.garda.ie
- Employment/Gap year
- Study overseas

QQI/FETAC Links Scheme

Another route to get a degree

Apply direct to FETAC colleges

FETAC course information on

www.qualifax.ie

Check what 3rd level courses your
FETAC qualification links into

Further Education Courses (QQI/FETAC)

- Full time courses - Bray, Dun Laoghaire, Sallynoggin
- Very practical – include work experience
- They have no points requirements and are mainly based on interview
- Wide range of courses
- They can be:
 - A qualification in their own right e.g. Accounting Technician
 - Can be used as a stepping stone to Higher Education
 - For interests sake

UCAS

Universities & Colleges
Admissions Service

Why apply to the U.K.?

Pros & Cons

Pros

- Wider selection of courses
- More specialised courses
- Another chance to get into high points courses
- Keeps your options open with UCAS offers
- Independence
- Experience another culture
- Know what grades you need in advance of Leaving Certificate

Cons

- Motivation to research courses & apply
- Commitment to fully research courses
- Course Fees
- Cost of living overseas/travel home
- Homesick
- Coping without immediate family/friends

Differences between UCAS/CAO

- UCAS – 5 choices – 4 if medicine
- CAO – 10 Level 8, 10 Level 6/7 in order of preference
- UCAS – Up to 5 conditional offers before exams – can hold 2 places
- CAO – Offers once results known
- UCAS – Tariff points – see chart
- UCAS – No change of mind facility

Applying through UCAS

- Apply to UCAS at www.ucas.com
- Pay £25 fee online
- Educational qualifications
- Work Experience
- Select up to 5 course choices
- Personal statement – very important
- Reference & predicted grades from school
- Track your application

Personal Statement

- 500 words
- Insight into your application
- Why you have chosen these courses
- Work experience, books, research, achievements, hobbies, future plans
- Demonstrate independent thought, understanding of course & why you are a suitable candidate

Tuition Fees

Fees

Republic of Ireland

€3,000 student registration charge per annum

Northern Ireland, Wales & England

c. £3,500 - £9,000 per annum

(Tuition fee grants avail from Welsh Assembly)

Scotland

EU student fees of £1,820 Year 1

Other costs

Accommodation
Daily travel
Food
Books
Airtfares
Medical
Social life.....

Important Dates

- Apply by 15th October 2019 for medicine, veterinary medicine/science, dentistry and Oxford or Cambridge
- From 1st September 2019 for 2020
- Deadline 15th January 2020

More Information?

- www.ucas.com
- Check if aptitude tests required e.g. UKCAT
- Search by subject/location/university
- Independent reviews/Sunday Times guide
- UCAS Student Hub
- Excellent parents section on UCAS website
- University prospectuses
- Past pupils

Study in Europe

- Many universities offer degrees taught entirely in English
- Tuition is frequently free or less than you pay in Ireland
- Several institutions are rated above Irish universities in global rankings

Study in Europe

- Apply direct to European Universities or through www.eunicas.ie which has details of 689 programmes at 226 universities.
- Irish students can apply for up to eight degree programmes, taught through English, in universities in Europe. Eunicas will guide and support you through the application process in the very different and occasionally confusing national systems.

Interested?

- Discuss with your parents/guardian
- Start researching courses now
- Visit universities of interest
- Investigate entry requirements
- Apply online in Sept via UCAS apply for UK universities
- Act now to ensure more chance of offers

Past Pupils

- Sarah Laird – Geoscience -St. Andrews
- Erica Smyth – Genetics - St. Andrews
- Charlotte Bishop – International Relations, Aberdeen
- Robert Hill – Agricultural Engineering - Harper Adams, England
- Colin Nixon – Arboriculture –Myerscough, England
- Leah Clegg – Finance & Actuarial Management – Edinburgh
- Keith Robinson- Civil Engineering - Edinburgh
- Jason Barrington – Structural Engineering- Edinburgh
- Sam Bishop – Architecture – Glasgow
- Tara Jackson – Architecture – Aberdeen
- Sophie Mullen – Psychology – Queens University, Belfast
- Stephen Jordan – Architecture – Queens University, Belfast
- Merlin Becker – Agric & Environmental Eng, Harper Adams, England
- Clodagh Mangan – Medicine – Glasgow
- Grace O'Regan – Neuroscience – Edinburgh
- Katherine Van Story – Science - USA
- Sarah Armstrong – Pharmacy- University of Coleraine
- Tina Geoghegan – Fine Art – University of Groningen, Netherlands
- Alastair Hill – Veterinary Science – Budapest, Hungary
- Aoise Binnions Radiography, Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen

Parents/Guardians can help by encouraging students to.....

- Keep all their options open
- Be pro-active in their career research
- Plan for and attend college open days

Higher Options Careers Conference

- 6th year trip to RDS, Dublin Wednesday 18th September
- Over 170 universities & colleges
- Wide range of careers talks
- Opportunity to speak to admissions officers

And Finally

- Don't panic – there are many different routes to achieve your goal
- But do take RESPONSIBILITY and RESEARCH your choices fully
- Ask if you need help
- Act NOW to ensure you make informed choices

Promoting Positive Mental Health

- School commitment
- Resilience
- This **will** be hard – and it will pass

Promoting Positive Mental Health

Resilience

- Speak to a friend and tell them you are nervous if a test, for example, is coming up.
- A pet is always there – no matter how much work you have to do, spend some time with a pet, at the end of the day. It is nice to look after someone/ something. A job other than school.
- Sport is a stress reliever and a distraction
- Focus on 1 objective at a time e.g. a particular test – small steps

Promoting Positive Mental Health

Resilience

- One day at a time – today I will do my homework and study X Y. This is easier to process. By the end of the day, mentally tick off what you have done. Take some relaxing time after this – I did the work, now I can relax.
- Escape by reading a book – empathy for the characters takes you away from your own issues.
- If you are panicking, take a break for 10 minutes and start again. Start with a fresh mind. It is the LC that counts not tomorrow's homework.
- A meditation App

Promoting Positive Mental Health

Resilience

- If you are studying properly, parents trust that you are studying, they will encourage and not put extra pressure on.
- Look forward to something at the weekend/ have a reward for yourself eg buying a book and reading some of it , watching a movie, meeting a
- Walk away if things are getting too much – go to a friend, have a nap, visit a grandparent. You got enough done.
- Keep something on outside school eg a Music group. Something you enjoy. Go once a week.

Promoting Positive Mental Health

Resilience

- Have an outlet when you are annoyed – someone that you can vent at or bounce ideas off. Parents can be good to bounce ideas off.
- Don't be tunnel-visioned into just one course that you would like to do – have other options. Have a back-up.
- Don't get worked up over little things. Look at important things – you might have to leave homework to get a project done. The project could be most important at that time.
- Get started and do one thing. The others will follow. Don't spend loads of time thinking, just get something done.

Promoting Positive Mental Health

Resilience

- Talk to a grandparent. It clears the mind and you are doing something good by visiting her/ him.
- Sit with a family member/ help a family member eg a little sibling who may also be under stress doing the JC. You have been there and know that it will be ok. Help them with that.
- It will be fine. Believe that.
- Be optimistic. Look forward to doing well, not fearing that you won't. (I think this can only come if you have put in the graft!)
- **The LC is not the be all and end all. If you don't get the course you want, there will be other options.**

East Glendalough School Parents Association AGM

Thursday 6 September, 7.30pm

**Parent volunteers needed to help with
breaktime walkaround – please contact
Office or Ms Weir**