

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

I am writing to you with a view to looking ahead to your daughter's impending Leaving Certificate Year and career / course choice. The coming academic year is a busy one for your daughter and the more prepared and equipped with knowledge and decisions she can be coming back in September, the easier she will find it. Your daughter will have weekly career classes right throughout 6th Year.

In preparation for career and course choices next year, we have covered the following topics in the 5th Year Career Module –

- How to choose a career
 - Career goal setting
 - The 5 stages of Career Decision Making
 - Self-evaluation career wise
 - How to research effectively
 - Course and study options
 - Entry requirements and levels
 - The language of careers and education
 - The CAO System
 - The FE/PLC System
 - The Higher Education Links Scheme
 - The UCAS System
 - EUNiCAS
 - Apprenticeships and opportunities.
 - The importance of back up plans
 - Research, both in school and independently
 - Over half of 5th Years requested 1 to 1 career appointments to begin focused career research.
- A Personal Career Map Poster :**
- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| - Occupational Interest Assessments | - Work Aptitudes (TY EirQuest results included) | - Work Personality Traits |
| - Work Values | - Career Categories | - Subject strengths |
| - Work Skills | | |

Each student should have completed a 'Personal Career Map' of themselves under the above headings in an attempt to bring about greater self-knowledge and awareness of oneself. It should give the student a 'working document' to relate back to when trying to choose the right career.

I would urge your daughter to sit and down and discuss all of the above, and go through the contents of her Career Folder with you over the summer. All of this completed career work in TY and 5th Year must be kept safely over the summer, as it will be used and referred to right until the end of 6th Year.

Career Advice for you and your daughter over the summer!

- Have lots of discussion and research around career choice, college choice, location, options and finance.
- For UCAS, EUNiCAS and all other international applications, do your research thoroughly over the summer. These application systems are lengthy and require time and effort. Check entry requirements, college and course options, whether your course requires you to register for an Admissions Test, work on your Personal Statement etc.). The more prepared you are for September, the easier it will be for you.
- Take the opportunity to do Work Experience during the summer.
- Research what Scholarships/Bursaries your daughter might be eligible to apply for.
- Visit the colleges.
- Talk to as many sources of help and information as possible.
- Take notice of the 5th Year TLA3 Summer Reports in terms of result, comment and advice.
- Be realistic about your choice of subject levels for September.
- Familiarise yourself with DARE and HEAR and SUSI - your daughter might just qualify.
- Look at the cost of going to college and the financial supports available to you.
- Consider how many application systems your daughter will apply for.

I look forward to working with you and your daughter next year. Please contact me if I can be of any help.

The following is an outline of the career related timetable for 6th Year:

Summer to September	UCAS EUNICAS	Registration for Admissions Tests for some UCAS/UK courses Research European Application Systems and deadline dates. Check various closing dates for different colleges.
Septembers – all year	EUNICAS	Ongoing deadlines set individually by European countries and colleges.
October 15 th	UCAS	Closing date for Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary, Oxford, Cambridge.
Before October Midterm	UCAS	Preferred school date for submitting <u>all other</u> UCAS applications to reduce pressure on all parties.
Early November	CAO	CAO opens and registration for HPAT (Medicine) takes place.
November/December	UCAS	UCAS interviews and assessments with October 15 th deadline.
January 29 th	UCAS	Closing date for all other UCAS applications made for October 15 th apart from some Art & Design course options (March).
February 1 st	CAO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Closing date for applications ➤ SUSI early Grant registration ➤ HEAR + CAO (Higher Education Access Route – Part 1) ➤ DARE + CAO (Supplementary Information Form Part A)
February / March	FE/PLC UCAS	FE/PLC applications and interviews. UCAS interviews and assessments from January 29 th application deadline.
March/April	CAO FE/PLC	DARE/HEAR supporting documentation deadlines. Portfolio, Audition, Performance for Restricted CAO course and FE/PLC entry (Music, Theatre, Art, Dance etc.)
March 15 th	CAO	DARE and HEAR closing date; completion and submission of all supporting documentation.
Early May	CAO	CAO Change of Mind opens. Closing date is July 1 st .
April to August	FE/PLC	SUSI Grant Application. Applications can still be made for FE colleges.
July 1 st	CAO	Final Closing Date
Late August	Results, CAO	LC results issued and CAO Round 1 c5 days later.

Glossary of Career Terms:

APPRENTICESHIPS	www.apprenticeships.ie	Application system for students wishing to undertake an Apprenticeship programme in Ireland.
CAO	Central Applications Office	Application system for Irish college courses requiring points. See www.cao.ie
UCAS	University College Admission Service	Application system for Northern Ireland, England, Scotland, Wales See www.ucas.com
CUKAS	Conservatoires Admission UK	Application system for Northern Ireland, England, Scotland, Wales (for Music, Drama, Dance etc.) See www.cukas.com
EUNICAS	European University Central Application Support Service	Application system for students applying to the European Colleges and Universities. www.eunicas.com

FE/PLC	Further Education / Post Leaving Certificate College	Cork = eg. College of Commerce, Stiofain Naofa, St John's College, City North, Mallow and Kinsale Colleges of Further Education etc
Higher Education Links Scheme	FE/PLC to CAO	FETAC and HETAC FE/PLC courses that link up with Degree programmes.
Tertiary Courses	FE/PLC to CAO	FE courses that are linked automatically to Third Level Degrees. Guaranteed progression. https://nto.hea.ie/courses/
DARE	Disability Access Route to Education	A supportive application system working in addition to the CAO, that students with health, learning, psychological, physical or psychiatric issues may be eligible to apply for. See www.accesscollege.ie
HEAR	Higher Education Access Route	An application system working in addition to the CAO, that students with financial pressures may be eligible to apply for. See www.accesscollege.ie
SUSI	Student Universal Support Ireland	The Irish Grant application system. See www.susi.ie See www.studentfinance.ie See www.grantsonline.ie

Please refer to our school's Career Website for useful information, links and research tools.

https://careersportal.ie/careerguidance/office.php?school_id=45

The screenshot shows the St. Angela's College Guidance Counselling Website. The header includes the college name and a welcome message. The main content area features a video titled "Statement of Application Record" with a play button and a "Check that your account information is complete and correct." message. To the left, there are "Weekly Checklists" for Apprenticeships and Senior Cycle Weekly Checklists, both due on May 17, 2024. Below that is a "Documents" section with links to Cover Letter Template, Subject Choice Form 2024, Studying and Working as a Physiotherapist, Physiotherapy Registration Criteria 2023, and Moving from Ireland to the UK. On the right, there is a "Career Guidance Noticeboard" with a "View All" link and a "Useful Tools" section containing links to Course Finder, Career Explorer, Career Sectors, Points Calculator, Apprenticeships, and Subject Choice for LC.