

6th Year Parents Information January 2024

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s)

Happy New Year and we hope you had a good Christmas. We understand that completing college applications can be challenging for our 6th Year students. We are here to support the students. Please encourage them to reach out to us if they have difficulties or queries about their applications. Below please find some information about college applications. There is further information on this and upcoming career events on the students' career google classroom.

CAO Applications

All students who are applying to CAO should now have opened their CAO accounts. A reminder that the closing date for the discounted application fee is **20 January**. The closing date for applications is **1 February**. Students must have their application completed by this date including your courses in the correct order of preference. Students will be able to change their courses, free of charge, during the change of mind dates from **5 May to 1 July**. All restricted application courses must be applied for by **1 February** and cannot be added later using the CAO the change of mind facility.

DARE/HEAR

Closing date for final completion of the DARE/HEAR application is **1 March** but we **strongly advise students to complete their application earlier**. DARE/HEAR supporting documentation must be sent to CAO by the deadline of **15 March**. Obtaining this information from outside agencies can take time. **Students are strongly advised to gather this information well in advance of the deadline**. For DARE applicants who need to provide a Evidence of Disability form completed by the students consultant this form is available to download here:

<https://www2.cao.ie/downloads/documents/2024/EDF.pdf>

Irish/Language Exemptions

All students who do not study Irish and/or another language should now have applied for their language exemptions as instructed by the CAO and have received confirmation that their exemption was granted. If students have not completed this process or have not received confirmation please let us know so that we can assist you with this. It is vital to have these in order prior to the college offers.

Further Education & Training - PLC Applications

Most PLC colleges are now open for online application on their websites. Students are recommended to apply early. Please complete the online application if you wish to apply. You may need your PPS number to apply. Information can be found on the college websites and www.fetchcourses.ie Please check your emails regularly and follow any instructions given by the colleges following your application.

Applications for Apprenticeships

Information about applying to an apprenticeship can be found on www.apprenticeship.ie and there is also a freephone number available for advice and support: 1800 794 487. Open 12pm-6pm Monday-Friday.

Assistance with your Applications

Students who have any queries or would like assistance with their applications should contact Ms. Bannan (fbannan@olschool.ie) or Ms. Porter (lporter@olschool.ie) by email. **We will also hold lunchtime drop-in sessions to assist you with your applications at the following times.**

Tuesday 9 January 12.42 room 32

Thursday 11 January 12.42 room 32

Thursday 18 January 12.42 room 32

Other upcoming closing dates

Registrations close for the **HPAT** at **5.15pm on 19 January**

The **UCD Ad Astra Elite Sports & Performing Arts Scholarships** closing date **31 January**

The **Lir Academy for Acting** courses closing date is **1 February**

Upcoming Careers Events

Please see the link below to Upcoming Career Events

<https://careersportal.ie/media/index.php>

Please check PLC college websites as more open day events may be added.

The Central Application Office (CAO) is holding a **CAO Virtual Information Evening** for Students & Parents on Wednesday, 17 January 2024, from 6.00pm

Presentations on the CAO application process, advice on choosing courses, support for parents/guardians and live Q&A with representatives of Higher Education Institutions. Spaces for the live online event are limited: a recording will be available after the event for those who were unable to attend. Please see the link below to register
<https://www.cao.ie/index.php?page=webinar>

The **DARE Application Information Session 2024** will take place on Saturday 13 January at 10am-11.30am.

Register below

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_GVFwXP0_TKGoLQ2O_EpnFg#/registration

The **HEAR Application Information Session 2024** will take place on Saturday 13 January from 1.00pm-2.30pm

Register below

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_8XSpxXhTtuom8PX1u7szA#/registration

We wish students well with their applications. If you have any queries please feel free to contact us.

Kind regards

Fionnuala Bannan and Lesley Porter

Guidance Counsellors