



October 2023

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s)

As your daughter is now in her final year in school, we would like to inform you about the guidance programme in 6th Year. In the coming year students will have to make important decisions in relation to their future. The following programme is provided to facilitate students to make the best possible choices as well as accurate and effective applications.

Career Classes

Students attend a fortnightly careers class until the end of January. During these classes students will learn about the different opportunities open to them and the details of various application procedures.

Individual Consultations

We will meet with students for an individual consultation to discuss their personal choices and applications and follow up with further consultations as required.

Small Group Work

Work will be done in small groups where a number of students are making common applications, for example, applications to the UK colleges.

Following the 6th Year Parent Teacher Meeting any parents who wish to have a call or meeting with us are welcome to do so. This can be arranged by emailing Fionnuala Bannan - fbannan@olschool.ie for students in B6 & C6 or Lesley Porter - lporter@olschool.ie for students in L6 & P6. Once an email is received a suitable time will be arranged with you.

Visiting Speakers

A number of representatives from the colleges will make presentations to students on the options available in their colleges. We will also invite past pupils later in the year, to make presentations to 6th Year students and share their experience of starting college.

College Information & Open Day Events

Many both in person and virtual career events and college open days are due to take place over the coming months. A list of these events is available on the following links https://www.qualifax.ie/events

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

and on the school guidance website. We would encourage students to engage with these events in order to gather as much information as possible about their courses and colleges of interest enabling them to make informed decisions.





We wish to inform you of two access routes available into Higher Education. The **HEAR** and **DARE** programs may assist students, who meet certain criteria, to access college. Information on both is available on www.accesscollege.ie or feel free to contact us for further information.

Information on financial support and scholarships for college is available on www.susi.ie

https://careersportal.ie/school/student_supports.php?parent=2006&ed_sub_cat_id=429 www.studentfinance.ie

We advise early application.

The 6th Year Students and Parents career information event will be online on Monday 13th November 2023 at 5.30pm. We will provide an online presentation on CAO college applications. We will also provide information on Further Education/PLC (post leaving certificate) courses, apprenticeships, SUSI grants and access routes to college (DARE & HEAR). We will provide you with more information about this event prior to the date. We would encourage both 6th year students and their parent(s) to join this information meeting. Should you have any queries regarding any of the above, do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

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