



Our Lady's School

Founded 1953
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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 sixth 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.

Centigrade

Students will be receiving a Centigrade workbook shortly. Centigrade is a higher education selection programme which matches student's interests and abilities to available college courses. The Centigrade workbook will encourage students to undertake structured research before making final choices. We encourage you to have a look at this workbook with your daughter.

Career Classes

Students attend one careers class a week. 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.

Visiting Speakers

A number of representatives from the colleges will visit the school and make presentations to students on the options available to students in their colleges.

Visits to College Open Days

There are many career events and college open days throughout the year. A list of these events is available on www.qualifax.ie and on the school guidance website. Details of the events can also be found on the career notice boards. Students should only attend open days that are relevant and it is the student's responsibility to catch up on any work missed. Where possible if events are held on both Friday and Saturday, students are encouraged to attend on Saturday so as to limit the amount of school missed. **As the students have to leave school unsupervised to attend such events it is necessary that you provide a permission note to your daughter's form teacher prior to the event.**

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 for college is available on www.susi.ie and www.studentfinance.ie .
We advise early application.

The sixth year parent career information meeting will take place on Wednesday 29th November 2017 at 7.30pm. Ms. Fiona Casey, Schools' Liaison Officer, Maynooth University will give a presentation on college applications. We will also provide information on CAO, PLC (post leaving certificate) courses, grants and access routes to college. We look forward to meeting you at this event. Should you have any queries regarding any of the above, do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Lesley Porter
Guidance Counsellors.

Sheila Barr