

CAO Newsletter

23rd November 2020

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

GENERAL INFORMATION

We hope this letter finds you well. We are writing to you to keep you up to date on the CAO application process to Irish colleges. Your daughter has been given a **C.A.O handbook** and this will be an invaluable guide to the C.A.O process. In addition the C.A.O website www.cao.ie contains a wealth of information. The closing date for C.A.O is 1st February and to avail of the discounted application fee, the closing date is **20th January**. Students will have the opportunity to complete the CAO **demo** form online in school in the coming weeks.

OPEN DAYS & GUEST SPEAKERS

The following colleges have been or will be coming to the school on a virtual visit to speak to all 6th year students.

U.L, NUI Galway, Shannon College of Hotel Management, I.T Tralee, C.I.T, U.C.C, Mary Immaculate, Griffith College Cork, Kerry College (P.L.C).

(In addition, U.C.C will be having an information evening for 6th year parents on **Wednesday 3rd December**. The time has yet to be arranged so keep an eye on the website.

DARE (Disability Access Route to Education): If your daughter has a disability, a significant ongoing illness and or specific learning difficulty, she is encouraged to indicate this on the C.A.O application form. She will then be directed to complete a supplementary information form (SIF) (**Section A**) by **March 1st 2021**.

HEAR (Higher Education Access Route to Education): HEAR is a third level admissions scheme for school leavers from socio economically disadvantaged backgrounds. If you feel your daughter is eligible for the scheme, she must indicate this in her CAO application and complete the SIF by **March 1st 2021**. Once she has completed the SIF, a checklist will appear on screen telling her which documents she needs to supply.

Both HEAR and DARE application forms must be submitted by the 1st March 2021

Supporting documentation for HEAR and DARE must be provided by the 15th March 2021.

Students must pay close attention to the deadlines for all parts of the DARE and HEAR applications. For more information refer to www.cao.ie and www.accesscollege.ie.

EXEMPTIONS

It is important to note that **exemptions** are a separate matter to supplying HEIs with information about a disability or specific learning difficulty. If your daughter, for any reason, is seeking exemptions from minimum entry requirements (**e.g. exemptions from Irish or modern language requirements**) then she should indicate it on her CAO form and then contact the admissions offices of the HEIs. If the HEI is N.U.I. (e.g. UCC, NUIG, UCD, NUI Maynooth). She can then look for further details on www.nui.ie. If, however she is applying to a non-NUI college (e.g. UI, Mary Immaculate, Trinity, DCU) then she should contact the college directly for instructions on how to apply for the language exemption.

RESTRICTED ENTRIES

Some courses are 'restricted'. This is indicated on the CAO booklet. Such courses require a student to apply on or before the **1st February 2021**. Late applications will not be accepted. Such courses could include those that require an interview, portfolio, performance, aptitude test etc.

Medicine is a restricted entry course. If your daughter is applying for Medicine she will need to register for the C.A.O and then with her C.A.O application number, *apply* for the HPAT aptitude test on www.acer.edu.au. The date for the HPAT test will be in **February 2021**. The date has yet to be confirmed. Med Entry is a government accredited registered training organisation specialising in HPAT preparation. Med Entry offers discounts of 30% for two or more students and numerous scholarships. For more information visit www.medEntry-hpat.ie. and www.hpat-ireland.acer.edu.au.

FINANCE

In relation to **grants, scholarships and awards**, there is a dedicated website which gives all the information on financial support for further and higher education. All grant applications will be made online to **SUSI** (Student Universal Support Ireland) through the website www.studentfinance.ie or www.susi.ie.

On a final note your daughter will be given every assistance and encouragement here in school, **but it is her own responsibility to ensure that an application is submitted complete, correct and on time.**

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your daughter every success in her future decision making. If you have any queries or questions, feel free to contact us and we will get back to you as soon as we can.

Yours faithfully

Mary Mulcahy / Brídín Kearney
Guidance Counsellors

