



St Mary's CBS Portlaoise

Weekly Career News Updates

14th May 2020

1. Some Useful Links for Student to look at:

A guide to calculated grades for Leaving Certificate Students 2020:

<https://www.gov.ie/pdf/?file=https://assets.gov.ie/74043/96076aa3e16240cc93e2a56a1ea94d75.pdf#page=1>

Leaving Certificate 2020: Frequently Asked Questions:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/2f07eb-leaving-cert-2020-information/#information-for-leaving-cert-students>

Wellbeing information and Resources: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/256911-leaving-cert-2020-practical-supports/>

If you have any questions about CAO/College information you can contact your Guidance Counsellor directly via email or via the Teams app.

College Offers

- If a student is happy with their offer they can accepted and start college for the year 2020/21 at a date yet to be determined by the colleges.

- If a student is not happy with the C.A.O. offer based on the final grades achieved, the grades can be appealed.
- The appeal process only assesses if the data was correctly entered by the school and correctly processed by the S.E.C.
- The appeal process does not involve a review of the actual data/marks given to students by schools or standardisation made by the S.E.C.
- If the student is upgraded, they will receive a higher offer from the C.A.O.
- The student may be able to take up this new offer for the year 2020/21 depending on the time-frame or start that course in 2021/22.

- If a student is not happy with the final grades received and/or the C.A.O. offer, a student may choose to sit the Leaving Certificate exam/s at a time to be determined.
- A student can sit as many or as few subjects as they wish.
- Students can then combine their result/s from a mixture of the best grades obtained from the original grade/s awarded by the S.E.C. and the new grade/s obtained for sitting the Leaving Certificate exam.
- If this new combination of grades results in an improved offer from the C.A.O. the student can take up this college offer in 2021/22.
- If student has already started a course in 2020/21 and opts to take up the new offer for 2021/22, fees and grants will not be affected.



2. **CAO Change of Mind Facility** opened on 5th of May at 12pm. As a CAO applicant you can register your change of course choices online, free of charge. The closing date is the 1st of July at 5:15pm.

<https://www.cao.ie/index.php?page=video&l=86519317>

Tips for using the CAO Change of Mind Facility:

1. Most years, over half of all CAO applicants make changes to their application. Some use it to the extent that they end up unsure of exactly what their final order of preference was in their final application. This can lead to confusion, stress and anxiety when the offers are eventually issued. To avoid this, it is recommended that you put lots of thought into your final application. When you are rested on your decision, then use the Change of Mind facility to amend your list.
2. Resist temptation to amend your choices based on your anticipated grades. With the Leaving Cert exams postponed it is a stressful and emotional time for any Leaving Cert student, and this year, stress levels are even higher due to the uncertainty Covid19 has brought. The heightened emotions can lead to over exaggerated reactions so try to take a step back and focus on your long-term goals rather than on what's going on in the world right now.
3. Above all, ensure that you list your courses in **genuine order of preference**. But you should also be strategic about your choices. Within the list, you want to have a mixture of 'dream' courses, realistic courses that have points and entry requirements that are close to what expect to be achieving, and you also should list a few 'safety net' courses that have points and entry requirements below the points you are averaging.
4. Through applying for courses in both lists you increase your chances of receiving an offer. You may even receive an offer from both lists. If this happens you will only be able to accept one offer.
5. Ideally, you will have done all the research at this stage, supported by your guidance counsellor and/or teachers. But if you still feel unsure about what courses to choose or how to order them, you may need to get advice from a guidance counsellor who will have the most up-to-date information at hand. Your family and friends may also be a great source of support but remember that good advice should be based on your interests and strengths rather than rumours and hearsay.
6. Before finally signing off on your CAO application you should check and recheck your application for errors. If you make a change of mind you will receive an e-mail to confirm your new course choices. You can also log in to your account via the My Application facility to confirm that all of your details are recorded completely and correctly. If you spot an error alert CAO immediately.



3. **Defence Forces Cadetships 2020 are now open.** Closing dates for applications is Sunday 31st May at 23:59hrs.
<https://www.military.ie/en/careers/current-competitions/>



4. **Mary Immaculate College, Limerick** are holding a series of Live Q&A Sessions. Please click the attached link for more information:
<https://www.mic.ul.ie/news/2020/mic-to-run-a-series-of-virtual-q-a-sessions-for-potential-applicants>



5. **SUSI Grant** applications opened on Thursday 23rd of April. Early applications are processed first so please submit your application early. <https://susi.ie/grant-process/creating-a-susi-online-account/>



6. **Institute of Technology Carlow Virtual Open Day** is being held on the 29th May 2020.



7. **GMIT** is running weekly online Q&A sessions every Friday from 2pm to 4pm until the end of June.
<https://openday.gmit.ie/live-chat/>



8. **Cork Institute of Technology** are continuing to hold live Q&A sessions. Find the schedule of events here:
<https://www.cit.ie/currentnews?id=1471>



9. **Apprenticeships**

Please click the link below to see a list of Apprenticeships available:

<http://www.apprenticeship.ie/en/news/Pages/List%20of%20Apprenticeships%20in%20Ireland%20-%20Generation%20Apprenticeship.pdf>



10. **Letterkenny Institute of Technology** will be holding a Virtual Open Days from Monday 18 to Friday 22 May, 2020. The link to the LYIT Virtual Open Days will be live on the LYIT website from Friday 8 May, 2020. For full schedule of the virtual events see: <https://www.lyit.ie/News-Events/Article/lyit-virtual-open-days-here-to-help-students-1>



11. **Limerick Institute of Technology (LIT)** will host virtual open days throughout May and June to help the Leaving Certificate class of 2020 progress to the next stage of their education. **A full schedule of the virtual events, beginning on Tuesday 12th May and running until Friday, 12th June, is available at: www.lit.ie/virtual-open-days**



12. **HPAT Ireland Announce:** With the recent changes to the Leaving Certificate exams, we have been advised that the results release for HPAT- Ireland has been brought forward. All candidates will receive their results in mid-June. The HPAT-Ireland office will notify candidates by email when results are available.
13. **Free Online Webinars:** Synergy Careers are running the following online webinars (for free) over the coming weeks :
- Thursday 14th of May on PLC's and FETAC progression to 3rd Level.
 - Thursday 21st of May on finance, funding, scholarship, expenses and budgeting.
 - Thursday 28th of May on Transitioning to College. Parents and students can register to attend the webinar online at www.synergycareers.ie. Places are limited.