

06/05/2020

Dear Fifth Year students, parents and guardians,

We hope you are all well and safe at home during this difficult and unprecedented time. We are writing to you with some final updates for the year for Career Guidance.

As we previously informed you all of the educational partners are working very hard to ensure students will not be disadvantaged in any way and are continuing to update students on their websites and through the daily email from www.careernews.ie (Career and Education News) which we asked each of you to sign up for. It is very important that students begin thinking at this time about their options after the Leaving Certificate so that they can begin working towards these goals. We will look forward to working with you all in the next academic year but in the meantime we advise the following:

Summer Schools

Although some Summer Schools have been cancelled many colleges and universities are offering alternatives and giving students the opportunity to attend events virtually and online. This is a very helpful way to research courses and colleges so we encourage you to go to their websites and see what is available.

HPAT for Medicine/ Applications for Veterinary Medicine

These two courses require both a high level of academic achievement in the Leaving Certificate examinations as well as additional requirements for entry. For medicine this means the HPAT examination which can require significant preparation in advance. It can be very helpful to begin this work during the summer holidays before Sixth Year to see what is involved and to allow you sufficient time to prepare. Students interested in Veterinary Medicine need to complete work experience before entry (2021) so this is something we would ask students to consider at this time. All of the information is available online (<https://www.ucd.ie/vetmed/study/> and <https://hpat-ireland.acer.org/>) however if you are interested in either of these course we suggest you email Ms Harris to arrange an appointment (by phone) to ensure you have all the information you need and understand exactly what is required.

Importance of Summer Examinations and Assessments

We appreciate how difficult working from home can be but are delighted that you are engaging so well with your teachers and continuing to work hard. It is very important to be mindful that many Higher Education Institutes, (particularly those in the UK and abroad), Post Leaving Certificate Colleges, employers etc. can put significant emphasis on the fact that Senior Cycle is a two year programme and as such may look for evidence of achievement in Fifth Year. This would include school reports and end of year results which could impact your entry into a particular course or college so we would encourage you to continue to do your best with your study so that you achieve your potential in your end of year assessments. Likewise if you are interested in courses such as **Art or Music**, the work you completed in Fifth Year and though out the coming summer can be a helpful addition to your portfolio so we advise you to check out portfolio guidelines for the courses in which you are interested and continue working towards these.

Maynooth University Awards

For the last number of years the school has worked in partnership with Maynooth University who award students certificates and prizes for high academic achievement in Fifth Year. The awards (which are presented in October) are across all subject areas and represent a significant and prestigious achievement for winners so again we encourage our students to continue to work hard towards their goals and potential.

We hope this information is helpful but if you have any questions or queries on any of the above please email mharris@salesianscelbridge.com for further information.

Thank you for your continued support,

Yours faithfully,

Ms B. Kearns

Ms M. Harris

Ms D. Dolan

Principal

Guidance Counsellor

Guidance Counsellor

