

20/04/2020

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 updates on your Career Guidance programme and some information which may be helpful for you at this time.

### **DAT Test Alternative/ Higher Options**

As part of the Career Guidance service in the school we intended to run the Differential Aptitude Test Series (DATS) in the school in April which can be helpful for both career choice and to experience sitting aptitude tests in general. We are now looking at alternatives which can be run in the first term next year so you will not miss out on this opportunity or experience. For those of you who had paid online for this, the school will inform you how to apply for a refund in due course. We had also asked for payment for the Higher Options exhibition in the RDS at this time and this will also be refunded with the DAT payment.

### **Career News and Updates during Covid-19/ Spring Open Days**

Usually at this time of year we would be encouraging students to begin their career explorations, attend Spring Open Days and register for Summer Schools held every year in the different Higher Education Institutes. Although some of this is no longer possible at this time there are lots of alternative and creative ways to start your research. We would strongly encourage all our fifth year students to sign up to [www.careernews.ie](http://www.careernews.ie) (Career and Education News) to receive a regular email which will give you lots of advice, support and information on choosing a career, support for study, going to college, apprenticeships and much more. Many colleges are now having alternatives to their Open Days which include virtual tours, webinars, online lectures etc. many of these will be advertised here or simply log onto the college websites for information. Maynooth University is having their virtual Spring Open Day on April 25<sup>th</sup> and students can register now in advance on [openday.maynoothuniversity.ie](http://openday.maynoothuniversity.ie) which we would strongly recommend.

### **Applying to University/ College in the UK**

At this time of year we also ask any student who may be interested in going to study in the UK to begin their research on [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com) as the application process is very different to

our own CAO system and requires students to engage in significant research and independent work on their application. In particular we would advise anyone interested to check out potential fees and finance as these can be both costly and prohibitive and need to be discussed at home in advance of making decisions about any application.

Finally we would like to assure you that all of the educational partners, universities, colleges etc. are working very hard to ensure no student will be disadvantaged due to closures or cancellations of events this year. Here in the school we will also be doing the same and will look forward to working with you all next year. If you have any questions or queries please email [mharris@salesianscelbridge.com](mailto:mharris@salesianscelbridge.com) and in the meantime we hope you all stay safe and well.

Thank you for your continued support,

Yours faithfully,

Ms B. Kearns

Ms M. Harris

Ms D. Dolan

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Principal

Guidance Counsellor

Guidance Counsellor

