

Dear parents/ guardians,

We hope you and your families are all well as we come to the end of this challenging year. We would ask you to read the information in this letter very carefully and if you have any questions or would like further information about anything please contact us at the school.

There are many opportunities available to your son for next year (Higher Education Institutes, PLC's, Apprenticeships, Employment etc.) and as we would every year, we have strongly urged your sons to sit down with you again over the next few weeks to discuss any recent changes they may have made to their plans and applications. In particular, we would urge them to sit with you and comprehensively go through their final CAO application. In order to maximise their potential and opportunities the CAO needs to be completed correctly, giving due consideration to all the advice issued by the CAO. Their website (www.cao.ie) has very clear advice, video guides and up to date information on this process.

We are aware that every year, some very simple but avoidable errors are made by students which can cost them a place in their preferred course. Some of the main issues we have noticed over the past number of weeks in working with your sons include the following:

- Applying to colleges outside Leinster (for example Cork, Galway etc.) or private colleges without discussing costs and fees with you first.
- Not being aware of all the information for courses to which they have applied and so not fully understanding what they may be studying for the next three/four years.
- Not checking the Minimum Entry/ Matriculation Requirements and Subject Requirements to courses (in particular, Irish, Maths, English and Third Language).
- Not putting their courses in genuine order of preference.
- Finally, and most importantly, as we do every year, we strongly advise students to utilise all options available to them and have a backup plan in place so that no matter what results they achieve in the Leaving Certificate or what happens with CAO points they still have suitable choices. The CAO operates to the advantage of students so long as they complete it as advised by the CAO and this includes filling out all twenty choices (ten for Level 8 and ten for Level 6/ 7).

Our students have worked exceptionally well in this year of both uncertainty and adversity, and we hope they will be successful in all they hope to do in the future. We will continue to support them with anything they may need, and they can continue to make appointments with us until the end of the school year. Thank you for your continued support,

Yours faithfully,

Ms Kearns

School Principal

Ms Harris

Guidance Counsellor

Ms Dolan

Guidance Counsellor