

Dear parents/guardians,

We hope you and all your families are well and safe during these challenging and unprecedented times. We are writing to you today with some information with regard to Career Guidance and Counselling in the school which may be helpful for you to be aware of at this time.

Your son has one timetabled period of Career Guidance per week where we are going through our Career Guidance programmes and disseminating information to them about choices and options for next year. We are using a new online programme this year called Reach Plus which will facilitate online work in school and at home and will also allow you to be involved as you will also be able to view material online. There is a new School Guidance & Counselling section on our school website which has a live newsfeed with information on lots of different events, open days, webinars etc. to help assist with career choices and our students should also be receiving a daily email which also updates them on what is happening. We have also begun meeting them individually to support them both educationally and vocationally.

The Higher Education Institutes, PLC Colleges etc. have responded very quickly to the changes necessitated by the current public health emergency and have also moved online. All Open Days, webinars, information evenings, Q and A sessions etc. can also be accessed free and mostly outside of school time to assist students with their choices for next year. As is always the case with sixth year students however, career choices and decision making require their own independent research and work so it is very important they are being proactive at this time and signing up and registering for events that interest them.

**We intend at this time to virtually attend the annual Irish Times Higher Options exhibition on November 4<sup>th</sup> from 1 to 6pm which we usually attend in person each year.**

We are being advised that students will be able to access the usual wide range of talks, Third Level Institutions from both Ireland and abroad, information on other educational and training opportunities and ask questions they may have. All information is online at *[higheroptions.vfairs.com](http://higheroptions.vfairs.com)* (or through The Irish Times / Higher Options 2020) **and tickets must be purchased here individually at a cost of €10. School will be finishing at 12pm for all sixth years that day and we encourage them all to attend what has always been a productive and worthwhile event.**

Finally, we have traditionally held a Career Guidance information evening for Sixth Year parents/guardians in early October which this year we are postponing due to current restrictions. We will advise you at a later date when we can reschedule but in the meantime you can access any information through [www.careersportal.com](http://www.careersportal.com) and as always if we can help you with anything please contact us at the school at any time. In the meantime, we hope you all remain safe and well and we look forward to meeting with you at a later date. Thank you for your continued support,

Yours faithfully,

Ms Kearns

Ms Harris

Ms Dolan

School Principal

Guidance Counsellor

Guidance Counsellor