



**Our Lady's Secondary School**  
Castleblayney, Co.Monaghan

# A Guide to Leaving Cert

For Students, Parents and Guardians.

*Mr. William Geraghty & Ms. Christine McSorley*



# Our Lady's Secondary School

Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan

Keep up to  
date via  
website  
and  
college  
Open Days

## **Please Note:**

Information  
shared  
tonight is  
only a  
Guide

Students are encouraged  
to make Appt. with  
Guidance Counsellor to  
discuss plans and decide  
what events to attend

FOLLOW ON X (TWITTER):

[@olssguidance](https://twitter.com/olssguidance)

# What you need to know



- **STUDY**
- What is available after the L Cert?
- **Qualifications offered by Colleges and Universities**
- **QQI & The National Framework of Qualifications**
  - **The CAO**

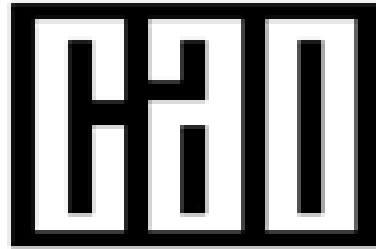
# What you need to know



- **UCAS**
- Supports and Grants for those preparing for College/University
- **Important Dates to remember**
- Important telephone numbers and websites



## Career Choices: Useful Websites





# Career Choices: Useful Websites

**For Apprenticeships**

**Apprenticeship**  
Real-life Learning



**S O L A S**

An tSeirbhís Oideachais Leanúnaigh agus Scileanna  
Further Education and Training Authority

# Career Choices: Useful Websites



Bord Altranais agus  
Cnáimhseachais na hÉireann  
Nursing and Midwifery Board  
of Ireland







# Career Choices: Useful Websites





# Scholarship Information

Some of the Scholarships which can be applied for from the following bodies:

**DCU**

**UCC**

**UL**

**UCD**

**NUI galway**

**TCD (Trinity)**

- **The Naughton Foundation**
- **And much more.....**



**Scholarship**



LIST OF SCHOLARSHIPS HERE:

<https://careersportal.ie/scholarships/>



# Helping Prepare for the Leaving Cert

## Homework and Study:

- **Homework** should be done **soon after arriving home**
- There is a difference between Homework and Study
  - **Study is exam preparation**



# Studying

## Where?



- A warm ventilated room
- A quiet place. Music is distracting

## How long? (Everyone is different)



- Start immediately
- Start off slow and short
- One topic for 1 hour each evening to start with
- Build up time and topics each week





## Studying – The Do's and Don'ts

**Do treat yourself as an individual.**

**Don't compare yourself to others**

**Do make decisions**

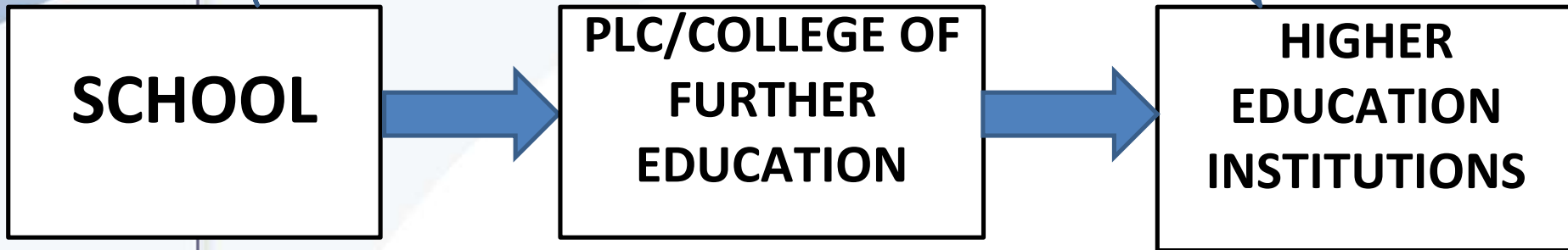
**Do get a good night sleep.**

**Sleep and rest are important**





## 5. Going to College after the Leaving Cert



## WHAT TO DO AFTER THE LEAVING CERT

### NEED TO HAVE



**HIGHER EDUCATION  
INSTITUTIONS: eg. DCU, UCD,  
MAYNOOTH, TRINITY, TU  
DUBLIN, DKIT, ATU SLIGO,  
DONEGAL**

**POST LEAVING CERT COLLEGE  
(PLC)/COLLEGE OF FURTHER  
EDUCATION**

**APPRENTICESHIP  
(UNDER REVIEW THERE ARE 70+  
APPRENTICESHIPS AVAILABLE)**

**JOB/TRAINING/PUBLIC  
SERVICE/BANKS/GARDAI\*\*\*\***

## WHAT YOU



**• A LEAVING CERT. ESTABLISHED  
• CERTIFICATE FROM A PLC OR  
COLLEGE OF FURTHER  
EDUCATION**

**• LEAVING CERT. ESTABLISHED  
• LEAVING CERT. APPLIED (LCA)**

**• JUNIOR CERT. + 16 YEARS OF AGE  
• LEAVING CERT. ESTABLISHED  
• LEAVING CERT. APPLIED (LCA)**

**• LEAVING CERT. ESTABLISHED  
• LEAVING CERT. APPLIED (LCA)  
\*\*\*\*As of 2013/2014 Gardaí will  
accept LCA with a PLC Course**



# BECOME AN APPRENTICE

<https://apprenticeship.ie/career-seekers/get-started/discover>



**GENERATION  
APPRENTICESHIP**  
www.apprenticeship.ie

# NATIONAL FRAMEWORK OF QUALIFICATIONS

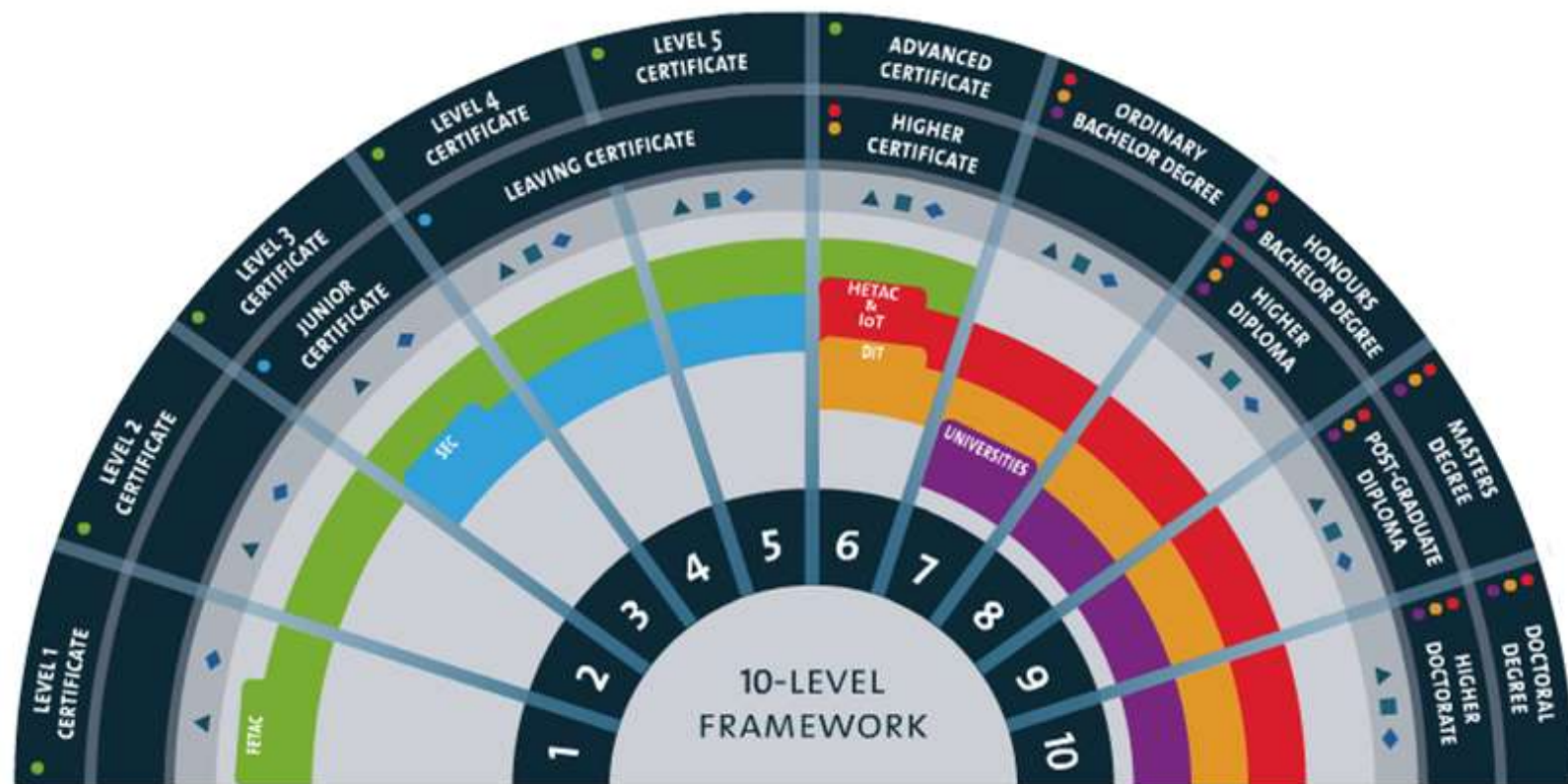
Údarás Náisiúnta  
Cáilíochtaí na hÉireann  
National Qualifications  
Authority of Ireland



WHAT ARE THE FRAMEWORK LEVELS?

WHAT IS AN AWARD -TYPE?

WHAT IS AN AWARDBODY?





# Levels of Qualification

- Levels 1-5 = Certificate
- Level 6 = Advanced/Higher Certificate
- Level 7 = Ordinary Degree
- Level 8 = Honours Degree/Higher Diploma
- Level 9 = Masters Degree/Post-Graduate Diploma
- Level 10 = Doctoral Degree



## College Aware Video

<http://tinyurl.com/nblj8kj>



# What to Check

✓ CHECK THAT YOU HAVE THE RIGHT SUBJECTS AND LEVELS  
TO GET INTO A COURSE

*THESE ARE CALLED THE MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS*

✓ **CHECKING THE POINTS WILL ONLY GIVE YOU A ROUGH IDEA.**

*POINTS CAN CHANGE EACH YEAR*

✓ PLCs DO NOT REQUIRE POINTS. THEY HAVE MINIMUM ENTRY  
REQUIREMENTS AND CALL THE STUDENT FOR AN INTERVIEW

✓ **CHECK WEBSITES (SEE ATTACHED LIST)**



# What is available after Leaving Cert

**See school website for detailed explanation:**

**1. Higher Education Institution**



**2. PLC**



**3. Apprenticeship**



**4. Work**





## How to apply for courses : The CAO

CAO stands for the **C**entral **A**pplications **O**ffice

*All applications to Higher Education Institutions*

*(Universities/Colleges/Institutes of Technology) in the*

*Republic of Ireland are made through the CAO*

CAO application forms are available online at [www.cao.ie](http://www.cao.ie)

An application fee is charged

*see handout/school website for further details...*

***Applications to PLC Colleges are NOT made through the CAO***



# New Grading System for Leaving Cert

New Grades	% Marks
H1 / O1	90-100
H2 / O2	80<90
H3 / O3	70<80
H4 / O4	60<70
H5 / O5	50<60
H6 / O6	40<50
H7 / O7	30<40
H8 / O8	0<30





# New CAO Points System

Higher		Ordinary	
Grade	Points	Grade	Points
H1	100		
H2	88		
H3	77		
H4	66		
H5	56	O1	56
H6	46	O2	46
H7	37	O3	37
H8	0	O4	28
		O5	20
		O6	12
		O7	0
		O8	0



## 9. LCVP – Leaving Cert Vocational Prep

Distinction: 66 points

Merit: 46 points

Pass: 28 points



# UCAS

- ✓ **UCAS** stands for **U**niversity and **C**ollege **A**pplication **S**ystem
  - ✓ UCAS is the system used when applying to ***Universities and Colleges in the UK and Northern Ireland***
  - ✓ Applications can be made using the internet
  
- ✓ *Any student wishing to apply through UCAS should see the Guidance Counsellor immediately, as the **closing dates for UCAS are earlier than the CAO***



# Supports and Grants Available for those preparing for College



higher education  
access route  
**hear**

**DARE** | **DISABILITY  
ACCESS  
ROUTE TO  
EDUCATION**



**Supports and Grants Available  
for those preparing for College**

**See school website for detailed  
explanation:**

**Financial Support**



**College Access  
Programmes**



**DARE HEAR**



**Students with  
Additional  
Needs**



# HEAR/DARE ONLINE INFO SESSIONS IN JANUARY

## DARE Application Information

Online Q&A Session

SATURDAY 14TH JANUARY 2023

10AM - 11.30AM

**DARE** DEPARTMENT OF  
ADULT RESEARCH  
EDUCATION #DARE23



[www.accesscollege.ie/dare/](http://www.accesscollege.ie/dare/)

## HEAR Application Information

Online Q&A Session

SATURDAY 14TH JANUARY 2023

12.30PM - 2PM

#HEAR22 **HEAR** HEALTHCARE  
EDUCATION  
AND RESEARCH

For more information visit  
[www.accesscollege.ie/hear/](http://www.accesscollege.ie/hear/)



## Important Dates and Telephone Numbers to remember

- ✓ Various dates for College/University Open Days:  
Dates available for students from Guidance Counsellor/  
**School Notice Board**/college websites/ [www.qualifax.ie](http://www.qualifax.ie)
- ✓ Application dates for financial and other supports:  
**SEE CONTACTS PAGE ON SCHOOL WEBSITE**
- ✓ **From September onwards:** Various Application/Enrolment dates for  
PLC's
  - ✓ CAO: **1<sup>st</sup> February:** CAO Application Closing Date
  - 1<sup>st</sup> May:** CAO Late Application Closing Date
  - 1<sup>st</sup> July:** CAO Change of Mind Closing Date

## ALSO INCLUDED ON SCHOOL WEBSITE

- ACCOMODATION CONTACTS FOR COLLEGES



- BUS CONTACTS FOR COMMUTING TO COLLEGE



Matthews.ie

*Bus Eireann*

Collins Coaches



# WHAT ARE THE TOP 10 FUTURE CAREERS

<https://youtu.be/qpLVuvKJfsE>





# Our Lady's Secondary School

Castleblayney, Co.Monaghan



*Parents and Guardians are partners in the education of their child, and are welcome to make appointments with the Guidance Counsellor to discuss the many options available to their children*