



NEWBRIDGE COLLEGE

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Dear Parent/Guardian

As a parent of a final year student, whether for the first time or not, you are probably well aware that a Leaving Certificate exam year is going to be quite different for your son/daughter from their other years spent in Newbridge College. Many say it is the fastest year that they will spend with us as there is so much happening, from increased amounts of homework, increasing pressure to spend more and more time studying, mock examinations, oral and practical examinations, etc., etc..

One key aspect, which is different this year of course, is the need for students to spend time thinking about and researching what they are going to do when they leave Newbridge College next year. The vast majority of our 6th year students will go on to some form of further study, whether in Higher Education (typically courses through the CAO) or in Further Education (typically courses through the PLC system). The closing date for applications to the CAO is February 1st and for PLC courses the closing dates are typically in the month of February.

Given the above deadlines, it is quite obvious that the first term until Christmas is very important for final year students in terms of conducting their careers research. During this initial term students have the time to carry out their research, discuss their findings, think about how best to proceed and finally make some decisions. After Christmas, this process should be more or less complete with students then concentrating on their studies in order to do their best in the L.C.

As your son/daughter's primary educator, you will have a great role to play in encouraging and nurturing the above process. In recognition of this role, I will endeavor to keep you as informed and included as possible regarding our guidance programme throughout this important term. I have put together the enclosed newsletter with accompanying documents, which I ask you to take some time to familiarise yourself with and indeed I intend to send you another later in the term. In addition to these, I intend to hold a CAO information evening for 6th year parents in the college theatre on Tuesday December 8th 2009, in order to explain how the Central application system operates.

If during the year you have any queries regarding your son/daughter's career or educational guidance, please do not hesitate to contact me. I will be available at the 6th year parent / teacher meeting to answer any specific questions you may have, however, don't feel it is necessary for every parent to speak with me at this stage. Should you wish to contact me, my contact details are listed in the attached newsletter.

With every good wish for the year ahead.

Yours sincerely

Brian Howard
Guidance Counsellor