

Tarbert Comprehensive - Guidance Dept Checklist of Tips for Leaving Cert Class of 2020

This document* outlines some points of reflection and a checklist of 'tips' as you prepare to end your post-primary education and transition to the next stage of your lives.

*This document was written and distributed to students in May 2020. All information is correct and up to date at the time of writing. However, we are at a time of rapid change in terms of the availability of information, and you are advised to keep up to date with official websites.

Contact with your Guidance Counsellor	Mrs. Griffin is available up until May 29th to support 6 th year students with any Guidance related issues (social, personal, educational, and career). *Please note she <u>will not</u> be able to discuss calculated grades.
Transition	Be aware: A big transition, such as leaving post-primary school for the next stage in the journey can be exciting, but it can also cause feelings of sadness or worry. The transition from post-primary education to the next step is significant. Even in a 'normal' year, this transition has its challenges. Asking for help and information where you need it will help with the transition towards the next step of your journey. You can contact school for support in this area until the end of May. If you need extra support, you can also check the link below for wellbeing information and resources: https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/256911-leaving-cert-2020-practical-supports/
Calculated Grades	Try not to worry about this process - Accept that it the process that is in place. You will be offered a calculated grade in August and then you can make choices on what to do next. The grade will be calculated after going through several processes and checks . You will have choices about whether to accept the calculated grade, to appeal, <u>or</u> to choose to do the Leaving Certificate examinations. This choice can be made once you have the calculated grades (and your CAO offer) to hand. Remember that we do not know what the CAO points for courses this year will be – in fact, we never know what the points will be for a course until the offers come out. Just make sure you have choices and options .
CAO Process	Make sure your CAO is in good order! This will help you have several options in August.

	<p>For your CAO to be in good order, you should be careful to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Make sure your courses are <u>in order of preference</u>. (ii) Make sure you have good ‘backups’ in place (iii) Fill out both lists – Level 8 <u>and</u> Level 7&6 <p>It is <u>VITALLY important</u> that your CAO application is complete and that your courses are inserted in order of preference. <u>*This cannot be changed after 1st July at 17:15.</u></p> <p>Remember, you can still introduce new courses onto your CAO lists until July 1st, 2020 (<u>except restricted application courses</u>).</p> <p>All other CAO dates (e.g. the first round of offers) will occur as close to the ‘normal’ dates as possible</p>
<p>Decision making in August</p>	<p>Decision-making in August is best done when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Both the calculated grades <u>and</u> the CAO offer are available to students (ii) Discussed with a trusted and well-informed adult <p>It is important to remember that decisions should be made when both the Leaving Certificate grades, and the CAO offers are in hand.</p>
<p>Appeal Process</p>	<p>If you are not happy with one or more of your calculated grades you have been offered, you can choose to appeal.</p> <p>The appeals process is clearly explained at:</p> <p>https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/2f07eb-leaving-cert-2020-information/</p> <p>(See Q 20. on the above website: ‘Can I appeal the Calculated Grades?’)</p>
<p>Opportunity to sit the Leaving Certificate Written Exams</p>	<p>If you are not happy with the calculated grade/the result of the appeals process you will have the option to sit the Leaving Certificate Examinations as explained here</p> <p>https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/2f07eb-leaving-cert-2020-information/</p> <p>(See Q 20. on the above website: ‘Can I appeal the Calculated Grades?’)</p>

	<p>If you believe that you would like to keep this as an active option, you may wish to devise a study plan for over the summer holidays.</p> <p>At the current time, it is not known exactly when you will be able to sit the examinations. As a result, it is very important that you put a sustainable study plan in place. A balanced timetable for study (including breaks and time off) will help you to rest after a long year, and to keep up to date with course materials.</p>
<p>The Leaving Certificate</p>	<p>Remember that your Leaving Certificate will have the <u>same value and status</u> as in previous years.</p> <p>This means that you can access educational opportunities / employment opportunities with this certificate in the future in the same way as any other year group.</p> <p>Leaving Certificate results and accompanying certificate are to be issued as close to the original planned dates as possible. Original date: Tuesday 11th August 2020</p>
<p>HEAR / DARE</p>	<p>These systems and processes are still in place.</p> <p>All aspects of the HEAR and DARE system continue to be in place this year as in previous years.</p> <p>For further information please see: https://accesscollege.ie/dare/</p>
<p>SUSI (Application for Grants)</p>	<p>If you think you may qualify for a grant, you can apply through SUSI at the website below. https://susi.ie/</p> <p>This website also has a FAQ section for Covid19 related queries: https://susi.ie/do-you-have-a-question-about-covid-19-and-student-grant-funding-check-out-our-covid-19-faq/</p>
<p>PLC</p>	<p>Keep an eye out on all relevant websites for information about PLC Applications and Offers.</p> <p>The situation with PLCs is evolving at the current time. It is expected that you will have an opportunity to apply for a PLC course if you have not done so up to now. For the most up to date information check in with: https://www.fetchcourses.ie/</p>

<p>Apprenticeships</p>	<p>The system of apprenticeships remains in place and it is expected that there will be opportunities for application, as in previous years.</p> <p>For the most up-to-date information, please see:</p> <p>www.apprenticeships.ie www.solas.ie</p>
<p>Applying for a job</p>	<p>Get your CV and cover letter into good shape. It may also be useful to ‘brush up’ on your interview skills.</p> <p>To put your ‘best foot forward’ in applying for jobs, it is important to be well prepared.</p> <p>Draft and re-draft your CV and cover letter before finalising the document. Ask a trusted family member / knowledgeable adult to read over the documents to make sure they read well.</p> <p>When applying for jobs, it is important to make a good impression. For more information see:</p> <p>https://www.ncge.ie/sites/default/files/20190826%20WSG-Applying-Jobs-Student-Resource-Sheet-EN.pdf</p>
<p>Wellbeing</p>	<p>You have some time now to reflect on how you are feeling. It is important to think about how to best look after yourself: what are you doing well and what changes could be made.</p> <p>The following definition of wellbeing has been provided by the Department of Education and Skills (2018):</p> <p>‘Wellbeing is present when a person realises their potential, is resilient in dealing with the normal stresses of life, takes care of their physical wellbeing and has a sense of purpose, connection and belonging to a wider community.’</p> <p>If you are feeling unwell or anxious, talking to a responsible and trusted adult can be helpful. Agencies that are also available if you need extra support are available in the link below:</p> <p>https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/256911-leaving-cert-2020-practical-supports/#other-supports</p>
<p>Communication with University / College / Institution you aim to join</p>	<p>Each university / college / institution will have its own website. Keep up to date and check the website regularly.</p>

	Some might have virtual tours and other opportunities for interested students to avail of at the current time. If you need to, you can also contact the university / college / institution as required.
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Timeline of some important dates for 6th year students:

**Remember: more important dates might become available as time goes on.
Check with official websites for more information.**

May:

- ✓ **Check all appropriate/official websites for updates on a regular basis.**
- ✓ **Research and then list your CAO choices in genuine order of preference – fill both lists.**

June:

- ✓ **Apply for the SUSI Maintenance Grant**
- ✓ HPAT students will get their results back: HPAT Ireland will be in touch with students.
- ✓ **Check all appropriate/ official websites for updates on a regular basis.**
- ✓ Some students may choose to continue with study over the summer months (keep a balanced, sustainable approach) Look after your wellbeing.
- ✓ Apply for PLC courses.
- ✓ Work on developing your Cover Letter and CV / Apply for a job.
- ✓ Seek out an Apprenticeship.
- ✓ Secure your accommodation.

July:

- ✓ **CAO Change of mind Closes on 1st July.**
- ✓ **Check all appropriate/ official websites for updates on a regular basis.**

August:

- ✓ **Calculated Results will be offered to students as close to the 'normal' results date as possible.**
- ✓ Remember: It is advisable to have **BOTH** your calculated results **AND** your CAO offer before making choices on what to do next as outlined above.
- ✓ **Consider all your options.** It may be helpful to speak to a well-informed adult before making any final decisions.

**Have a great Summer!
Best of Luck with everything!**