

## 5<sup>th</sup> Year Careers Bulletin - May 2017

I imagine that many of you find it hard to believe that your 5th Year at DGS is almost at an end. I know that most have found Senior Cycle challenging, getting use to the standards expected and trying to manage your time effectively. Many of you can start your holidays with the satisfaction of knowing that you have worked very hard over the past year, others may feel that they could have put in a lot more effort.

If you speak to any past pupil about their Leaving Certificate year the most significant factor they are likely to mention is that of time and how quickly it seems to pass. I feel that it is important to highlight this by outlining the numerous tasks that lie ahead, in addition of course, to preparing for the exams next June. I hope that by doing this you will be motivated to work to the best of your ability. Enjoy the holidays and I look forward to working with each one of you next September.

### **June – August:**

Valuable time to reflect on your career choices, find out a little more about courses and colleges. One thing to consider over the summer is applying to UCAS; if you are going to do this then perhaps you could work on your personal statement. Also look at UKCAT site (Entry to Med). Important to make a good start on your Agricultural Science Project.

### **September: (33 school weeks to the Leaving Certificate)**

- September – start of DCG coursework.
- All 6<sup>th</sup> year students attend the Higher Options in the RDS – **13<sup>th</sup> Sept.**
- Interviews with all 6<sup>th</sup> year students, examine career paths, assistance in devising study timetables.
- UCAS applications commence.
- Open Days Queens (7<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup>) & Ulster (Jordanstown 5<sup>th</sup> -7<sup>th</sup>)
- UKCAT final Registration Date
- DCG Project Underway
- NUI Exemptions 2018 Entry processed.
- DARE & HEAR applicants check supporting documentation.

### **October:**

- Applications to UCAS (15<sup>th</sup> Deadline for Med/Den/Vet, Oxford or Cam).
- 6<sup>th</sup> Year Parent Teacher Meeting – (3<sup>rd</sup> Oct provisional date)
- College Open Days begin. [www.qualifax.ie](http://www.qualifax.ie) for events. (UCC & NUIG)
- UCD Open Evening Events ([www.myucd.ie](http://www.myucd.ie))

## November:

- **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> – return after mid-term.**
- **Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> – CAO Application for 2018 opens**
- **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> UCAS Application School Deadline.**
- **Open Days (UCD,DCU, Maynooth)**
- Introduction to the CAO System.
- HPAT registration **9<sup>th</sup>** (provisional date)
- Christmas Exams – provisional start date **Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup>.**
- L.Cert. History/DCG/Ag. Science/Geography underway.

## December:

- Open CAO Accounts online
- Art portfolios should be nearing completion.
- Remaining UCAS application forms sent.
- Interviews for some students in UCAS Colleges.
- Application to some PLC Colleges begin.
- **Open days (TCD & DIT)**
- **22<sup>nd</sup> - School closes for Christmas holidays.**

## January: (17 school weeks to the L. Certificate)

- 8<sup>th</sup> – Return after Christmas Holidays.
- All students finalise their CAO choices.
- DCG Project deadline
- Deadline for Portfolios to NCAD.
- **20<sup>th</sup> - CAO discount deadline.**
- Indicate levels for L. Certificate Exams.
- PLC College applications continue
- RCSI Open Day (Ticket only)
- **29<sup>th</sup> – provisional start date of Mock Exams**

## February:

- **1<sup>st</sup> - deadline for CAO Applications.**
- Deadline for Portfolios to DIT and other Art Courses
- Application to PLC Colleges
- 9<sup>th</sup> – Mock Exams finish & School closes for Mid-Term.
- HPAT exam takes place (Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> – provisional test date)

## March:

- Ag. Science Practical coursework deadline.
- Portfolio deadline for Art Colleges, Cork & Limerick.
- Some PLC College Interviews.
- **23<sup>rd</sup> – School Breaks for Easter Holidays**
- Interviews/Auditions for courses in Music/Drama/Arch.

### April:

- **9<sup>th</sup> Return from Easter Holidays**
- Language Orals/Music Practicals/Ag. Science.
- Grant Application Scheme (SUSI) opens online.
- Project deadlines approaching Const. St. /Geography/History.

### May:

- Interviews for PLC Colleges (O’Fiaich & Drogheda)
- Practical Exams in Construction/Art.
- CAO Change of Mind Information & Course Changes received.
- **5<sup>th</sup> - CAO Change of Mind Facility Opens.**
- Finalise course choices on the CAO form.
- **23<sup>rd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> Year Final Assembly (provisional date)**
  
- **Application for on-campus accommodation for Maynooth & UCD Open.**

### June:

- **Wed 6<sup>th</sup> - Leaving Certificate Examinations commence.**
- Decisions on DARE & HEAR Application Schemes communicated.
- Results of HPAT published.

### **Some useful websites:**

[www.cao.ie](http://www.cao.ie) - quick link to all IT and University websites in Ireland.

[www.careersportal.ie](http://www.careersportal.ie) self-assessment/online videos/stats on L.Cert. Results

[www.skool.ie](http://www.skool.ie) - Information on study skills and college courses.

[www.qualifax.ie](http://www.qualifax.ie) - search engine for all college courses in Ireland.

[www.ucas.ac.uk](http://www.ucas.ac.uk). - Directory of all college courses available in the U.K.

[www.petersons.com](http://www.petersons.com) – Search directory for courses & scholarships to the USA.

*Alan Norton.*