

Parental, Financial & Other Supports Available to the Parent/Guardian(s) of Leaving Cert Students

The Abbey Vocational School Guidance Department



Date: Monday, 06 November 2017

Presented by: Jane Mc Morrow & Maria Faherty

As part of the Abbey Vocational School's commitment and support to parents; below is information on the parental, financial and other supports available to the parents of students wishing to further their education after completing the Leaving Cert.



The information is as follows:

1. Information Resources For Parents

The CAO have published a booklet to assist parents in supporting their Leaving Cert student with the CAO application process. There are only 12 pages in it so it's short and to the point. It can be downloaded [here](#).

Other useful information portals for parents include:

- a) The CAO website has a section **dedicated to parents** [here](#).
- b) *CareersPortal.ie* offer a **Parents Guide** section [here](#)
 - ✓ Make the most of the guide by clicking on the different links on the far left of the screen (in the grey shaded table).
- c) A good FAQ's section about the costs involved in going to 3rd level can be viewed on *CareersPortal.ie* [here](#).

2. Student Grant - Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSI)

SUSI is the single awarding authority for all student grant applications. You will apply (if eligible) for a grant via the SUSI online system. The SUSI home page can be viewed [here](#).

- a) An **Eligibility Reckoner** which will give you an idea if you are eligible to apply to SUSI can be viewed [here](#). The **Income Thresholds and Grant Award Rates** can be viewed [here](#).
- b) The **Resources** page [here](#) on the SUSI website is very good. You should also keep an eye on the **SUSI Facebook** page [here](#).
- c) To assist all applicants there is a **SUSI Support Desk** for email and telephone queries. The feedback from parents is that staff @ the support desk are very helpful. Their contact details are [here](#).
- d) The SUSI application process for 2018 applicants is scheduled to open in early April 2018.

3. Disability Access Route to Education (DARE)

DARE is a third level admissions scheme for school leavers whose disability has had a negative impact on their second level education.

Everything you need to know about DARE including how to make an application can be found [here](#). The CAO also offer a DARE information section with some useful resources on their website [here](#).

It is important to note that **not** all 3rd level institutions take part in the scheme. A list of participating institutions can be found at the link provided above - see the tab “Participating Colleges” in the green strip at the top of the page.



NOTE:

- i. Be sure to double check anything important in relation to DARE with each individual institution.
- ii. A DARE Application Advice Clinic will take place in the Villa Rose, **Ballyboffey** on Saturday, **20 January 2018** between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. See [here](#) for further details.

4. Higher Education Access Route (HEAR)

HEAR is a third level admissions scheme that offers places on reduced points and extra college support to school leavers from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds.



Everything you need to know about HEAR including how to make an application can be found [here](#).

It is important to note that **not** all 3rd level institutions take part in the scheme. A list of participating institutions can be found at the link provided above - see the tab “Participating Colleges” in the yellow strip at the top of the page. The CAO also offer a HEAR information section with some useful resources on their website [here](#).

NOTE:

- i. Be sure to double check anything important in relation to HEAR with each individual institution.
- ii. A HEAR Application Advice Clinic will take place in the Villa Rose, **Ballyboffey** on **Saturday, 20 January 2018** between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. See [here](#) for further details.

5. Breaking the Mould (SPECIFIC TO IT SLIGO ONLY)

The *Breaking the Mould Access Programme* is designed for school leavers who have the ability to benefit from and succeed in higher education but who are under-represented at third level for various social and economic reasons including long term unemployment, low family income or little or no family tradition of progression to higher education. For full details of the programme see this part [here](#) of the IT Sligo website.



6. Grants & Scholarships

CareersPortal.ie have a helpful section on all things *Grants & Scholarships* related.

- a) Click [here](#) and then click on the different subsections under the *Grants & Finance* menu towards the **bottom far left** of the page [black & grey shaded areas].
- b) Please ensure you read the section on **Scholarships & Award Schemes** [here](#) to see if any of the schemes may be applicable to you

