

MCS
Guidance
April 2023



CAO Change of Mind

- ▶ Opens on **5th May** and closes on **1st July**
- ▶ It's **FREE** (Until then it's €10 to change)
- ▶ Use your application - fill up your slots!
- ▶ **Don't take off your dream course** because you now think you won't get it.
- ▶ Don't make too many drastic changes!
- ▶ Use it **carefully** - it's your last chance to get it done.

CAO

- ▶ Remember if you get offered your **no. 1** choice you will **NOT** get offered anything further down your list.
- ▶ If you get offered your **2nd, 3rd or 4th** choices everything underneath these disappears (*i.e. you will not get an offer on them*)
- ▶ You can move **UP** your list in later rounds
- ▶ **Do add** 6/7 courses if you haven't done so already
- ▶ Always use **genuine order of preference**

CAO Vacant/Available Places

- ▶ Every year, some CAO courses have surplus places available because there is a **deficit** of qualified applicants to fill them.
- ▶ This means that there is an opportunity, both for qualifying students who are already in the CAO system to apply for these courses, **and** for those who are not in the CAO system to consider applying.
- ▶ If you are disappointed with your offer **keep vacant/available places in mind**

DEFERRAL

- ▶ Deferral allows you to **'bank'** an offer for one year.
- ▶ You ask for a Deferral after you've gotten an offer.
- ▶ **DO NOT ACCEPT THE OFFER** but immediately...
- ▶ Email the **COLLEGE** that offered the place at least 2 x days **before the closing date** explaining why you wish to defer.
- ▶ Next year, (2019) you must put the deferred course as **your first and ONLY course** on your CAO application.

Exemptions for NUI & TCD

- ▶ If you have exemptions from Irish and/or a language **you need to apply for an NUI exemption**.
- ▶ If you don't do a language other than English (Irish or modern language) you need to apply for a **TCD exemption**.
- ▶ Please ask me for the forms and come to see me
- ▶ Keep an eye on your CAO account to see if the exemptions have been applied - otherwise you may not get offers!
- ▶ This is **YOUR** responsibility!

DARE Applicants

- ▶ You will be notified by the end of **June** about the outcome of your DARE application.
- ▶ If you don't hear anything by July 1st **contact** DARE dept. in CAO

SUSI GRANTS

- ▶ www.susi.ie
- ▶ Check out the SUSI presentation on the MCS website...
- ▶ Susi Grants & College Expenses (MCS Website)

EUNICAS - Applying to Europe

- ▶ It's not too late to apply for some colleges - check the website!
- ▶ Entry requirements are less than Ireland
- ▶ Contact **Guy Flouch** at EUNICAS if you're really serious about it -
- ▶ move fast!

UCAS - CLEARING

- ▶ If you get no offers you may wish to use **UCAS** clearing.
- ▶ You can make applications for courses that still have places remaining.
- ▶ Opens from **July to September**
- ▶ Only apply if you're really interested in it - **remember** you have to move away.

Further Education Courses (PLC)

- ▶ All further Ed colleges are taking applications at present.
- ▶ It's not too late to apply.
- ▶ You'll be called for interview over the next couple of months.
- ▶ You can decline an offer if you'd prefer to take CAO
- ▶ If you get no offers from CAO it may also be an option - **contact relevant colleges ASAP**



Some useful Exam Tips



It is just an Exam

- ▶ **Remember** You are **not** Your Exam Results
- ▶ You are more valuable than that
- ▶ This is **one** stage of your life - it will pass
- ▶ There will **always** be opportunities

You can do this

- ▶ Be positive
- ▶ You don't need to know everything
- ▶ Don't listen to negativity and panic
- ▶ You do need to access what you know
- ▶ Exam technique helps



Aids to Concentration

- ▶ Have your own place to study
- ▶ Don't sit on the bed
- ▶ Plan your mobile phone usage
- ▶ Exercise your eyes and your neck muscles
- ▶ Keep your two feet on the ground
- ▶ Have something to look forward to each day



Keep Well

- ▶ Eat well - eat enough
- ▶ Keep hydrated sip water
- ▶ Avoid too much sugar and caffeine
- ▶ Avoid Alcohol (Avoid means Do not Consume)
- ▶ Get enough good sleep
- ▶ Avoid late nights
- ▶ Accept help
- ▶ Be with people who are good for you



Stress

- ▶ A certain level of stress is useful - it gets us going
- ▶ Stress is less when you have a plan
- ▶ Be realistic and know that there is always PLAN B
- ▶ There is still time
- ▶ **Learn how to relax** 10 minutes of music without words can really help



Psyching up for the Exam

- ▶ Visualise yourself in the exam room
- ▶ Know your timetable and where the breaks are in your subjects
- ▶ Focus on the exams that are crowded on top of each other
- ▶ Know what options are in the exam
- ▶ Know the format of the questions
- ▶ Plan your answers not just study
- ▶ Practice writing at speed

The Exam has come

- ▶ What's done is done!
- ▶ The time has come!
- ▶ There may be all sorts of reasons that you have not worked in the way that you would have liked **but forget all that now.**
- ▶ Just do your best
- ▶ **Go for It!**

Sitting the Exam

- ▶ Make the most of it. **Show** what you know
- ▶ Read **all** of the paper and **mark** the questions
- ▶ Know the number of questions to be answered
- ▶ Know how to **divide** your time
- ▶ Start with the easiest questions
- ▶ Answer the question asked
not what you **wish** they had asked
- ▶ Keep your feet on the ground and **keep telling yourself that you will be ok**

- ▶ Even if you have not finished move on to the next question when the time is up
- ▶ If you are short of time write bullet points
- ▶ Attempt all questions you need to do. Don't go for two brilliant questions and two half done
- ▶ Plan your answers especially your last one
- ▶ Have opening and closing paragraphs
- ▶ Use diagrams



Answer what is Asked

- ▶ Know the **meaning** of the question
- ▶ If you are asked for reasons - give reasons
- ▶ If you are asked to name something **don't** explain it
- ▶ If you are asked to explain something **don't** discuss it
- ▶ If you are asked to discuss something **don't** just define it

Know what the words mean

- ▶ Outline
- ▶ Analyse
- ▶ Give reasons for
- ▶ Describe
- ▶ Debate
- ▶ Define
- ▶ Distinguish between
- ▶ Present arguments for
- ▶ Explain etc.

- ▶ If you are asked to be brief, be brief don't write three pages
- ▶ Show the steps in formulae
- ▶ Label your diagrams
- ▶ Write the number of the question at the top of your answer
- ▶ Don't waffle. Show what you know
- ▶ Give the main points

Wishing you the best

- ▶ Everybody is rooting for you
- ▶ Just do your best
- ▶ It is only an exam
- ▶ You have so much to look forward to

After the exam

- ▶ Move on. Leave it behind
- ▶ **NO POST MORTEMES**
- ▶ Everybody's exam is their own business
- ▶ What somebody else wrote is irrelevant
- ▶ Keep going to the next exam
- ▶ Look after yourself

**ENJOY THE
SUMMER!**