

3rd September 2021

Dear Student,

Congratulations you have now received your Leaving Cert results and hopefully you are happy. If you are a little disappointed and fear you won't get your first or second choice on CAO do not jump to conclusions about points and offers – just wait. If your results are not all that you had hoped for – remember you still have **choices** and **many options**. Take time to become aware of these options which include:

- A Post Leaving Certificate Course (**PLC**) – can gain up to 390 points in the LC or can gain access on a place in a university course reserved for PLC students
- Look up **Available Places** on www.cao.ie. These are CAO courses that are not full because not enough people applied for them. You may not need to have the points for these courses but you will have to have the minimum entry requirements.
- Some Institutes of Technology may be offering **Direct Entry places** for certain courses. If you're interested in the courses LIT have on offer for Direct Entry see www.lit.ie/direct for a list of courses and an application form.
- **Apply directly** to a Private College, but remember that these courses are fee paying.
- **Repeat the Leaving Certificate** if you have not worked hard and could do better.
- Get a job for the year or engage in voluntary work to help you make a more informed decision next year.

CAO first round offers will be out this **Tuesday 7th September @14.00 pm** and must be accepted by **Monday 13th September @15.00**. Remember you can still be offered a **HIGHER PREFERENCE** in Round Two on 20th of September, Round Three on 28th September, Round 4 5th October and Round 5 on the 12th of October **EVEN** if you have accepted an offer from Round One so think carefully before rejecting any offers in Round One. You can access your offers online at www.cao.ie.

Please see attached some common issues and questions students have at this time of year but if you have any further questions or are confused about what your next step should be please feel free to contact me. You can email me directly at guidance@stcaimins.ie or just ring the school and leave a message and I will get back to you.

Once you have made a decision about next year and have decided on what course or path you are taking please email the above address and let me know what your plan for the year ahead is.

Wishing you all the best of luck,

Hannah Fitzpatrick

Guidance Counsellor

CAO OFFERS:

On **Tuesday 7th of September** you will receive communication from the CAO where you will be offered one of the following:

- A Level 8 Degree offer
or
- A Level 7/6 Degree offer
or
- Both
- You may only accept **ONE** offer. You have until Monday 13th September @ 3pm to accept the offer.
- Round Two Offers are out on 20th of September, Round Three on 28th September, Round 4 on 5th October and Round 5 on the 12th of October.

MATHS:

If you failed Maths or did not get the prerequisite Maths requirement for your course don't panic, you may be able to sit a second chance Maths exam in the College you have applied for. For example, UL have a special Maths entry exam for their Science and Engineering courses which takes place on **September 10th**. See CAO Website for details of colleges that offer Special Maths Exams. It is a good idea to contact the admissions office of the particular college to book a place, download the exam papers and start practicing the questions ASAP. If you failed ordinary level maths it is often possible to do a PLC course and either sit a Maths or Statistics module or repeat ordinary level maths in the PLC College while simultaneously doing your PLC course.

IF I START A COURSE CAN I TRANSFER?

There are also a few limited avenues whereby you can transfer from a course in one college to another similar course in another college having completed the first or more years on your original course. The content of these courses must overlap. These options are NOT guaranteed, very limited, and depend on both results obtained at the end of 1st year (subsequent years) and availability of places. It also often involves doing an extra year.

NB: Similarly, there are internal transfer options between courses within the same college provided you obtained the original points and entry requirements required for the course you

want to enter when you sat your Leaving Certificate. There also has to be places available on the course you want to transfer into. If you wish to do an internal transfer in First Year because you do not like your course, it is best to do it sooner rather than later. Contact Student Services to initiate the internal transfer process.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I DROP OUT OF MY COURSE?

With any course within the third level system there are two bills to be paid. Registration fees (approx. €3,000) are paid by the student (or SUSI if you qualify for the grant) and tuitions fees are paid by the state. Every student is entitled to the tuitions fees being paid by the state for a 1st year once, a 2nd year once and so on. Therefore if you have to repeat a year, including restarting 1st year in another course/college, you will have to pay both registration fees and tuition fees for that repeat year only. There is a sliding scale of fee payment. If you complete the whole of a year you will have to pay full tuition fees when doing that year again. If you leave before 1st February (approximately – it varies from college to college) you will have to pay half tuition fees. If you drop out early (e.g. October) and, depending on the date you stop attending, you may not have to pay tuition fees when repeating. In all cases you must inform the college and SUSI if receiving the grant, of your decision.

NB: Remember that starting College is daunting for everyone and it may take many weeks to settle in. It is important to be realistic about your expectations of courses and the difficulty of their content. Many courses are theoretical and even the most well thought-through course choice will have one or two modules that are ‘boring’ or very difficult, sometimes you just have to work hard and hang in there. Often students believe that they will be more successful or happier if they change to a different course when in reality what is actually required is more study and commitment to the course they are in. Make use of **free Support Services for First Years** such as Maths, ICT, Science and Academic Writing Workshops. That being said there are cases where students have genuinely chosen the wrong course and may wish to move. The best advice is to talk to a College Career Advisor, the Course Director of the current and desired new course or your Academic Advisor if you have been assigned one.

Remember that if this leaflet does not have the answer to your questions you can contact **Ms.Fitzpatrick at guidance@stcaimins.ie** or use the Guidance Helpline where qualified and experienced Guidance Counsellors from the Institute of Guidance Counsellors will be on hand to provide information and advice to callers. The number is **1800 265 165**.

CALCULATE YOUR POINTS

The six best results will be counted for points computation.

Higher Level	Points	Ordinary Level	Points	Higher Level Maths	Points	Your Results	Best Six for Points
H1	100			H1	125	1.	1.
H2	88			H2	113	2.	2.
H3	77			H3	102	3.	3.
H4	66			H4	91	4.	4.
H5	56	O1	56	H5	81	5.	5.
H6	46	O2	46	H6	71	6.	6.
H7	37	O3	37	H7	37	7.	Total
H8	0	O4	28	H8	0	8.	
		O5	20				
		O6	12				
		O7	0				
		O8	0				
LCVP							
Distinction			Merit			Pass	
66			46			28	