



BLACKWATER COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Committed to quality education

Dear 6th Year Students/ Parents/Guardians,

Please find below important information regarding CAO, DARE, SUSI GRANTS, FETAC COURSES, APPRENTICESHIPS and ACCOMMODATION.

CAO

The CAO closing date for **CAO applications** is 1st February 2022. Register before 17.00 on 20th January for reduced entry fee of €30.

The CAO handbook has all of the information you need in relation to the CAO:
<http://www2.cao.ie/handbook/handbook2022/hb.pdf>

There is a very informative slideshow and videos on the following websites:

<https://www.cao.ie/index.php?page=video>

http://www2.cao.ie/downloads/documents/2022/dates_and_tips_2022.pdf

DARE/HEAR

Students applying for **DARE** must fill out the relevant sections **online** on their CAO by **February 1st 2022**

Supporting DARE Documents must be sent to CAO headquarters by **15th March 2022**.

DARE Part B: <http://www2.cao.ie/downloads/documents/2022/EIS.pdf> Completed by school

DARE Part C <http://www2.cao.ie/downloads/documents/2022/EDF.pdf> Completed by Health Care professional if necessary

It is recommended to send DARE documents earlier than this to allow CAO adequate time to process the application. CAO Information for parents/guardians and relevant documents can be found on www.cao.ie and <http://accesscollege.ie/dare/>

Students applying for **HEAR** must fill out the relevant sections online on their CAO by **February 1st 2022**.

Supporting HEAR documents must be sent to CAO headquarters by **15th March 2022**.

All information on HEAR can be found at the following address

<https://accesscollege.ie/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/HEAR-2022-Information-4pp-WEB.pdf>

SUSI GRANT (susi.ie)

Parents/Guardians can check if they are eligible for the SUSI Grant by completing the eligibility reckoner test on <https://susi.ie/eligibility-reckoner-app-irish/index.html>.

SUSI generally opens in March/April. Students applying for a SUSI grant must also ensure to tick the relevant box on their CAO form, this simply allows transfer of information between CAO and SUSI. To apply for the grant, you must complete the process on the SUSI website.

LANGUAGE EXEMPTIONS

Step 1: Any student exempt in Irish/French/German, please contact the Guidance Department or the SEN Department to ensure that a Department of Education & Skills Exemption Form has been filled out.

<https://www.education.ie/en/Parents/Information/Irish-Exemption/>

Step 2. Any student with an Irish/French/German exemption, applying for an NUI University needs to be granted an NUI exemption. Please find attached below a link for an NUI exemption form for NUI colleges. NUI Colleges are: UCC,UCD, Maynooth, NUIG.

<http://www.nui.ie/college/docs/exemption.pdf>

NOTE: A separate exemption form must be filled out for Non NUI Colleges such as Trinity, UL, DCU etc...All forms are available online.

Step 3. If an exemption has been granted, CAO needs to be aware of this. Please do not assume that the school or CAO will know this information. It is advised that students and/or their parents/guardians contact NUI/relevant college and CAO directly.

FETAC COURSES

6th Year students applying for post leaving certificate FETAC courses in; Waterford College of Further Education, Dungarvan College, Cork College of Commerce etc. should apply to the college directly. It is important to keep an eye on the college website to see when applications open, they generally open in January. If you apply online as soon as you can, you will be in the first round of interviews. Round 1 interviews usually take place in February/March. Round 2 interviews will take place in May.

For anyone applying, you can avail of a practice interview by contacting either Ms. Higgins or Ms. Landers.

APPRENTICESHIPS

Students looking to do an apprenticeship should look at the following website: <https://apprenticeship.ie/>
The best way to source an apprenticeship is through local contacts! Applications for ESB apprenticeships will open in February. It is good practice to have your CV ready so that you are ready to apply when the opportunity arises.

ACCOMMODATION – MUNSTER

Please keep an eye out on the following websites to find current information on campus accommodation options.

<https://www.ucc.ie/en/accommodation/campusaccommodation/>

<https://studentliving.ul.ie/index.jsp?p=116&n=127>

https://www.wit.ie/current_students/student-accommodation/

<https://www.mic.ul.ie/study-at-mic/accommodation>

<https://www.cit.ie/studentlife.accommodation>

For all other colleges simply type the college name with accommodation after it into google and it should bring you to the college accommodation pages.

The main types of accommodation include: on campus accommodation, private housing, digs (living with a family) and for apprenticeships you may consider air B&Bs, B&Bs or hostels as you may not require accommodation for the full academic year.

Most student unions will be able to give you information on housing options outside of campus accommodation.

Accommodation will fill quickly so please ensure you are looking at opening dates for application and getting your application in as soon as possible. The opening dates differ depending on the location so it is best to check the individual websites.

WHAT TO DO NOW?

Please ensure your son/daughter has applied for college/exemptions/DARE /apprenticeship/world of work etc where applicable. For any students who needs help we will be opening the computer room the first week back in Jan and can assist you with your application.

Please ask your son/daughter to log on to their CAO to ensure they are happy with their choices to-date.

The CAO will close on the 1st February 2022 (reduced fee deadline 20th Jan).

CAO will open again in May 2022 and will remain open until 1st July 2022. Choices can be changed and re-arranged in May if the student wishes. **(please note restricted entry courses can only be added before the 1st February deadline)**. The final date for CAO change of mind is July 1st 2022.

Please email lucie.higgins@blackwatercs.com or marianne.landiers@blackwatercs.com should you have any queries. Students are free to book appointment with Ms. Landers or Ms. Higgins should they wish to talk through their options!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Lucie Higgins and Marianne Landers