



6th Year Parents CAO/PLC Information Evening

Fáilte Romhaibh

Ursula Hynes – 6th Year Moltóir

(UHynes.RTH@lmetb.ie)

Louise Canty– Guidance Counsellor

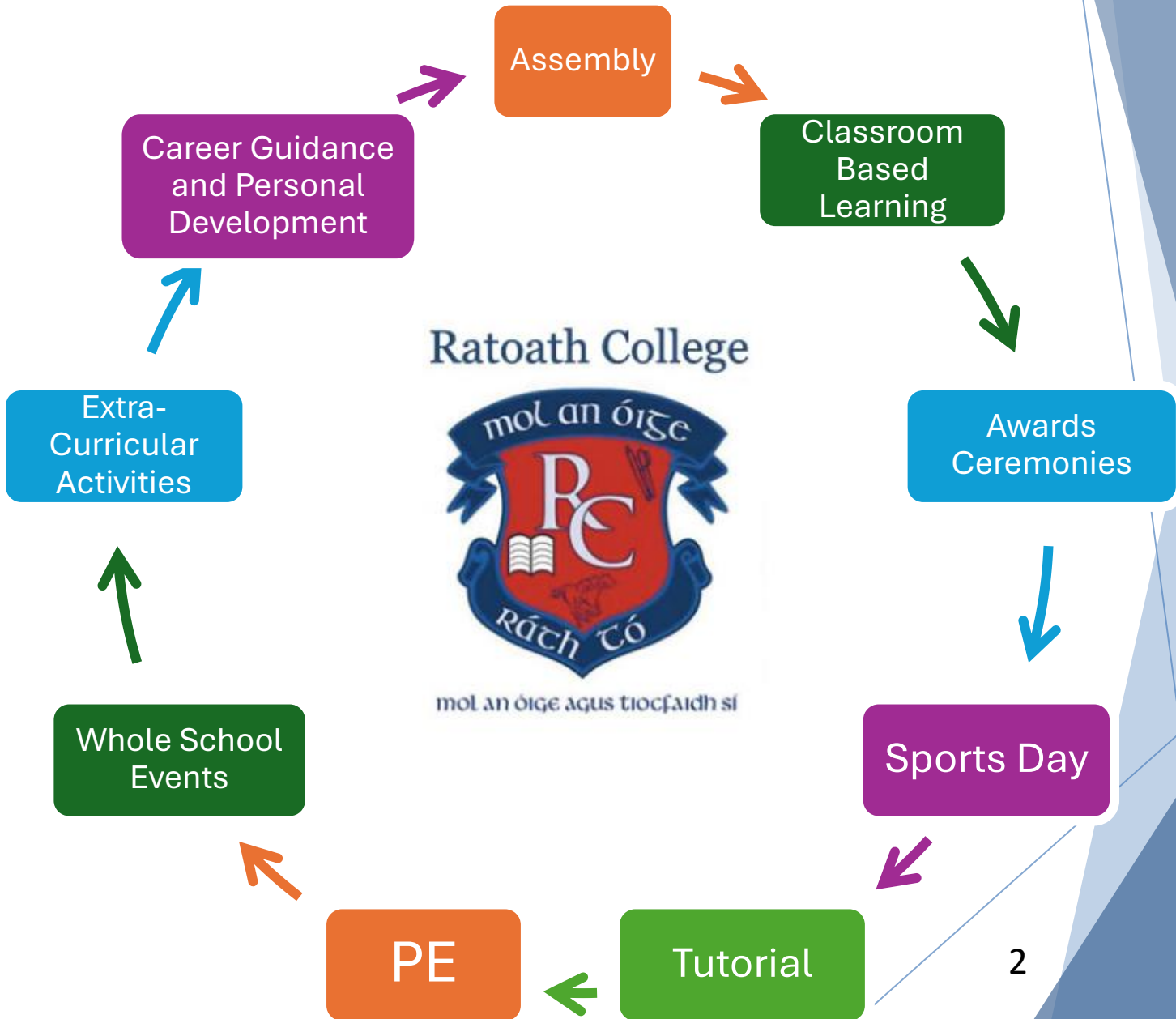
(LCanty.rth@lmetb.ie)

Aine Brooks – Guidance Counsellor

(Abrooks.RTH@lmetb.ie)

Thursday 9th October 2025

A Holistic School Experience



What do we want?

- ▶ The same as you.
- ▶ Your child to be happy & healthy
- ▶ Achieve their best and reach their full potential
- ▶ Critical thinking and problem solving
- ▶ Independence and responsibility
- ▶ Resilience and adaptability
- ▶ Social skills and teamwork
- ▶ Future orientation



What you can do...

- ▶ Encourage your child to come to school every day - before assembly at 8.40am to organise their books
- ▶ Where possible, organise appointments outside of school
- ▶ Absence notes/Early Excuse Notes should be entered into Compass before 8:40 a.m. or the night before.
- ▶ Monitor the Dialann closely for positive/poor behaviours
- ▶ Regularly review study habits/plans with your son/daughter
- ▶ Uniform - as per our uniform policy in the Dialann
- ▶ Reusable water bottle - we are a single-use plastic free school



Communicating

- ▶ **Subject Teacher:** Where you have a concern or query in relation to a particular subject, please contact your child's teacher for that subject.
- ▶ **Caomhnóir:** Where you have a concern or query of a pastoral care nature, please contact your child's Caomhnóir.
- ▶ **Moltóir:** If there is a serious concern, please contact your child's Moltóir Ms. Hynes at UHynes.rth@lmetb.ie or by calling the school.

What we will do...

▶ Teaching and Learning

Our main goal is for your son/daughter to achieve to the utmost of their potential in Senior Cycle.

▶ Care

To achieve this, we will work with you to ensure your son/daughter remains happy, comfortable and confident in school.

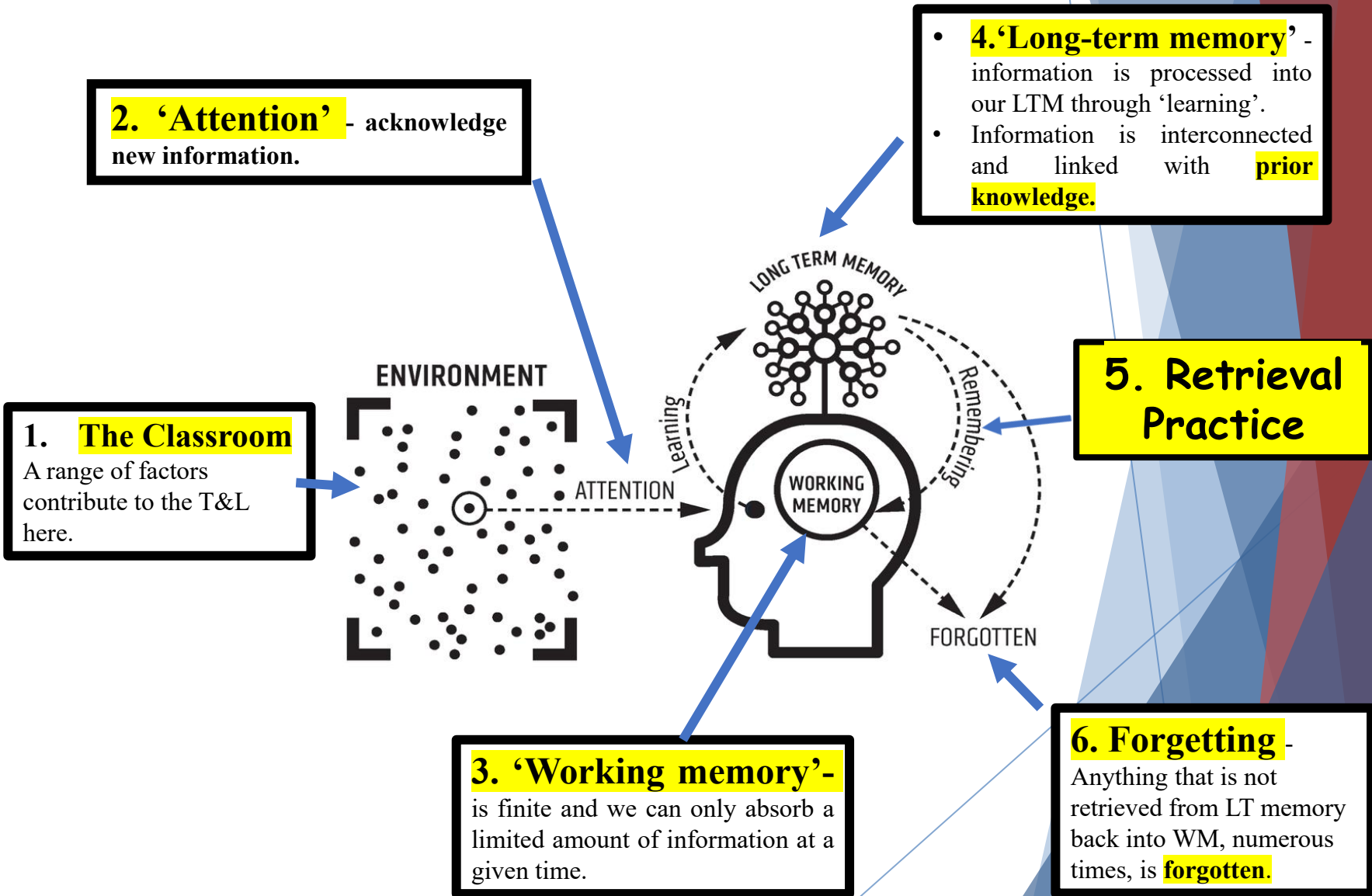
▶ Guidance

Our team will meet with all 6th year students regarding Post Leaving Cert Options & Pathways, The CAO/PLC process & Wellbeing.

Good Goals Are:

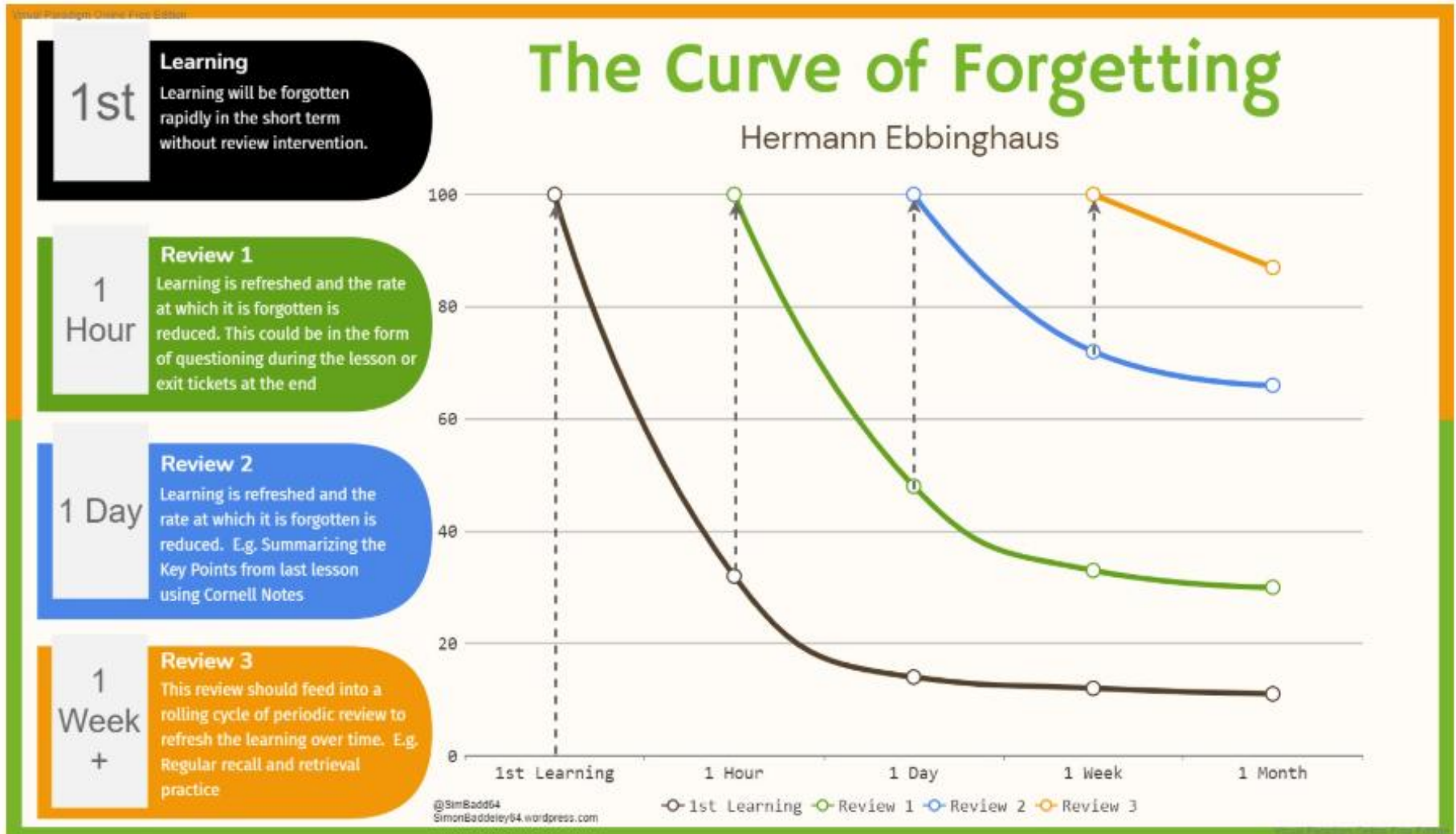
S	Specific	What, exactly, do you want to achieve. Avoid Generalisation
M	Measurable	How are you going to measure/quantify achievement of this goal?
A	Attainable	Is this goal realistic? Are you in control of it?
R	Relevant	Is this goal worthwhile?
T	Time-limited	What is the realistic timeframe to achieve this goal?

Memory - the Science of Learning



Importance of Retrieval Practice

Hermann Ebbinghaus



Clarke & Sweller

- ▶ “Learning is a change in long-term memory, if nothing changes nothing has been learned”



Important Dates

- ▶ CAO registering - 5th November, 12:00 p.m.
- ▶ Careers Fair in Ratoath College, November 12th
- ▶ 6th year Parent Teacher Student Meeting – November 20th 4:15 p.m. – 6:45 p.m.
- ▶ Mock Exams – January 12th – January 23rd
- ▶ Orals & Practical Exams – Easter



Looking Forward to June 2026
Leaving Certificate Graduation Ceremony –
Monday May 18th

*“No one can reap the fruit
without planting the tree”*





CAO/PLC Information Evening

Guidance & Counselling Department

9th October 2025

Louise Canty

Agenda

- ▶ Applicant's responsibility
- ▶ National Framework of Qualifications
- ▶ National Tertiary Office (NTO)
- ▶ PLC (Post Leaving Cert) courses
- ▶ Entry requirements and points system
- ▶ HEAR/DARE -Access routes
- ▶ SUSI Grant
- ▶ Apprenticeships
- ▶ Study abroad or the UK
- ▶ Making a CAO application
- ▶ Allocation of places
- ▶ Important dates 2025/26
- ▶ Dos and Don'ts of the CAO application

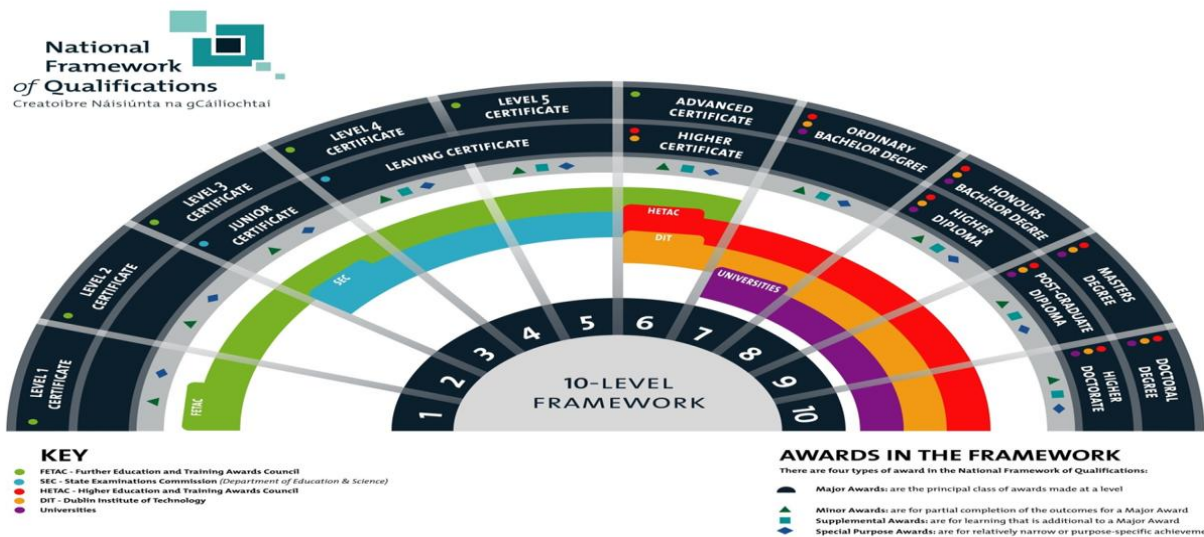


Applicant's Responsibility

- ▶ Research, Research, Research!!!
- ▶ Open Days – attend at weekends
- ▶ Complete Interest Tests/Identify talents and skills
- ▶ Consider subjects you enjoy
- ▶ Guidance Appointments
- ▶ www.careersportal.ie
- ▶ Be familiar with how to make an application
- ▶ PLCs - **Separate application**

National Framework of Qualifications

- ▶ Students can apply for 3 levels of award on their CAO application
 - ▶ Level 8 Honours Degree
 - ▶ Level 7 Ordinary Degree
 - ▶ Level 6 Higher Certificate
- ▶ Opportunity to apply for 20 courses
 - ▶ Ten level 8 choices
 - ▶ Ten level 6 & 7 choices
- ❖ PLCs are level 5 – Not on CAO but there is information regarding courses

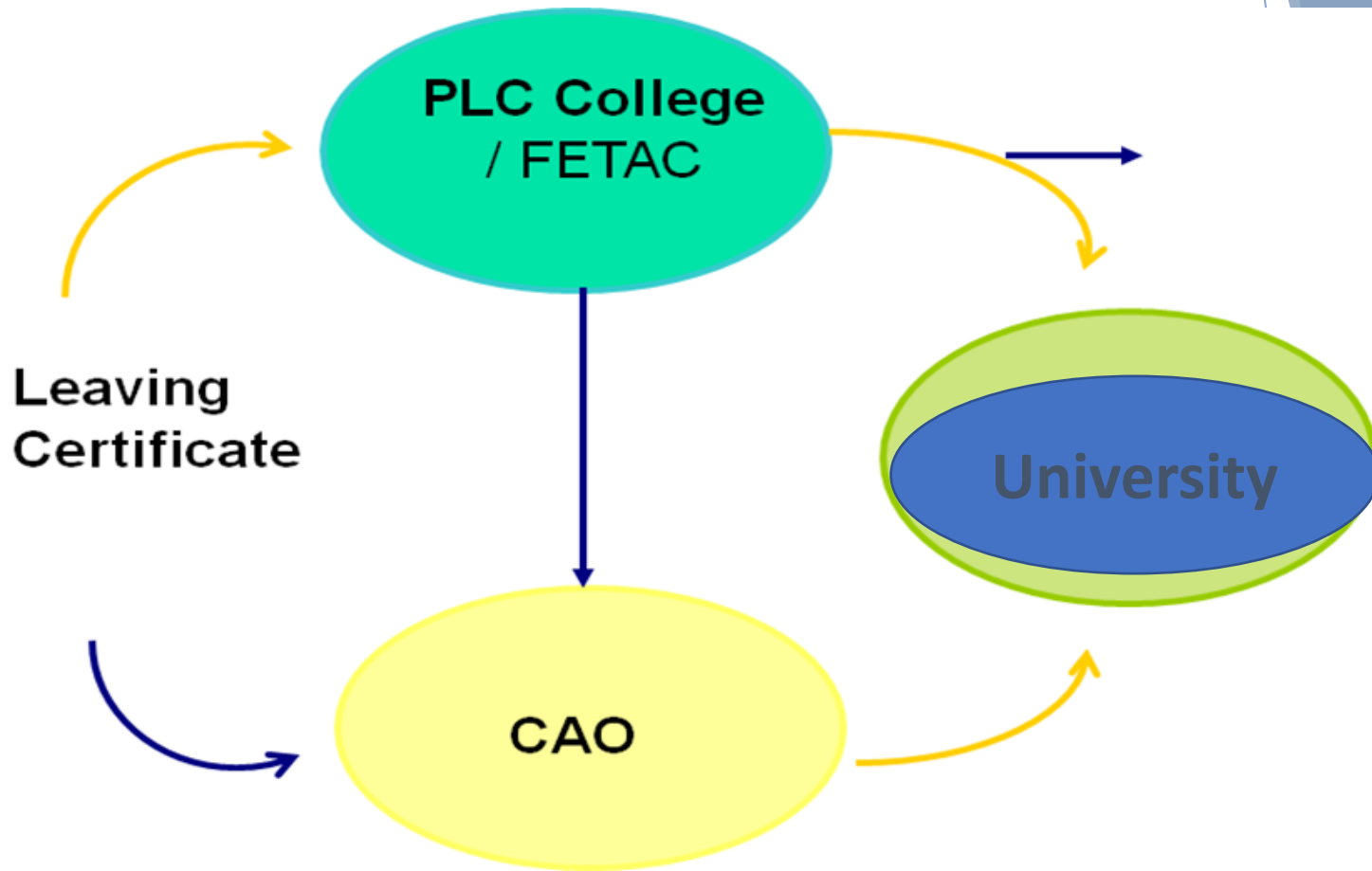


National Tertiary Office (NTO)

- ▶ Tertiary Degrees are co-designed and co-delivered by the Education and Training Boards and Higher Education Institutions to provide seamless pathways from Further Education to Higher Education.
- ▶ BSc (Hons) in Intellectual Disability Nursing
- ▶ Graduating from Dundalk Institute of Technology (DkIT)
- ▶ Starting at LMETB-O'Fiaich Institute, Dundalk
- ▶ Duration: 5 Years

PLC Courses

- ▶ Small classes and support services
- ▶ Small fee
- ▶ Wide range of courses on offer
- ▶ Only one year long with certification on completion
- ▶ Gain confidence and maturity
- ▶ Graduate with a level 5 (Level 6 for a two-year course)
- ▶ Can progress onto third level (CAO)

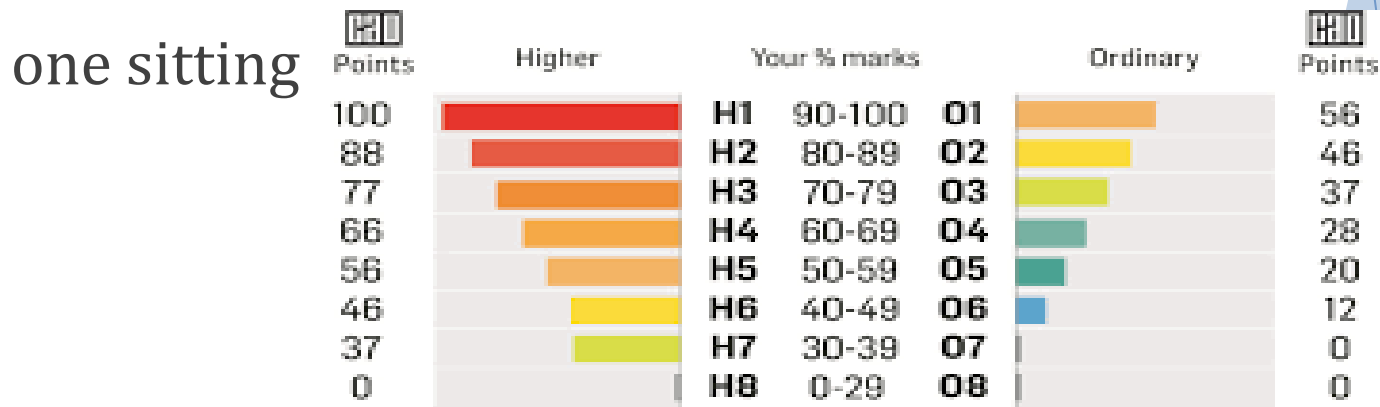


Course Entry Requirements

- ▶ Minimum entry requirements
 - ▶ NUIs (Maynooth, UCD, NUI Galway, UCC)
 - ▶ 2H5 & 4 H7/O6
 - ▶ Pass at HL or OL in English, Irish Maths and a 3rd language
- ▶ Specific Entry Requirements
 - ▶ E.g. H4 Irish - Primary Teaching (English & Maths 04/H7)
 - ▶ Human Nutrition & Dietetics (TUD) H4 Chemistry
 - ▶ Computer Science (TCD) H4 Maths

Points System

- ▶ Points are calculated from ONE sitting of the Leaving Cert
- ▶ Points are awarded for highest 6 subjects
- ▶ 25 bonus points awarded for HL Maths (Being one of your best 6 after you add the bonus points)
- ▶ Entry requirements can be achieved over more than



+25 Bonus points for H1-H6 maths

LCVP link modules Distinction 66 Merit 46 Pass 28





Disability Access Route To Education

www.accesscollege.ie

The Disability Access Route to Education (DARE) is a college and university admissions scheme which offers places on a reduced points basis to school leavers with disabilities/learning difficulties/ongoing illness.

higher education
access route
hear

The Higher Education Access Route (HEAR) is a college and university admissions scheme which offers places at reduced points to school leavers from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds.



Dare

DARE | DISABILITY
ACCESS
ROUTE TO
EDUCATION

- The Disability Access Route to Education (DARE) is a third level alternative admissions scheme for school leavers whose disabilities have had a negative impact on their second level education.
- Eligibility (Must have Evidence of Disability), eg Physical, Mental Health, SLD's
- The SLD report or school based testing must also have been completed in the last two years.
- DARE offers reduced course points (Supply & Demand)
- Tick the DARE box on the CAO application and application to be completed, along with supporting documentation by 15th March
- 3 Sections:
Part A – completed on CAO application by the student and/or parent/guardian
Part B – completed by Guidance counsellor using the EIS form
Part C – evidence e.g. a report OR form to be completed by medical professional
- www.accesscollege.ie



Hear Scheme



Six Indicators

- Income falls below a certain limit
- Medical/GP Visit card
- Means tested Social Welfare
- Socio Economic group under - represented in higher education
- Attend a DEIS School
- Area Profile

This is separate to a SUSI grant

SUSI Grant

- ▶ Student Universal Support Ireland (**SUSI**) is Ireland's national awarding authority for all further and higher education grants.
- ▶ **SUSI** offers funding to eligible students.
- ▶ Online www.susi.ie
- ▶ <https://susi.ie/eligibility-reckoner-app-irish/index.html>
- ▶ Opens in April 2026 based on household income 2025.



Apprenticeships

A craft apprenticeship will generally last for 4 years, during which time you will spend 3 different periods in off-the-job training.

New apprenticeships in ICT, finance and hospitality include software development and accounting technician.

Steps in Securing an Apprenticeship

1. Research- www.apprenticeships.ie
2. Contact local ETB
3. Find an Employer/ Service Provider
4. Make an application (by online application or Cover Letter and Curriculum Vitae)

Study abroad or the UK

Students studying abroad apply directly to the college. Use <https://www.eunicas.ie/> to research courses

Students wishing to study in the UK must apply through the UCAS system <https://www.ucas.com/>

Fees for these institutions and courses abroad/UK vary. You should check out the specific college websites to find out more

Central Applications Office (CAO)

- ▶ Is the organisation responsible for overseeing most undergraduate applications in the Republic of Ireland. The primary mission of the **Central Applications Office** is to centrally process applications in a fair and efficient manner.
- ▶ Apply online – Online facility opened on 5th November 2025
 - ▶ 20th January €35 (5:00pm)
 - ▶ 1st February €50 (5:00pm) *3rd February -1st March amend courses (€10 fee)
 - ▶ 1st May €65 (5:00pm) **Late online application**
 - ▶ Change of mind: 5th May – 1st July (5:00pm)(free of charge)
 - ▶ Before end May **Statement of Record** sent to all applicants (Contact CAO if you don't receive it)
 - ▶ Restricted courses to be included by February 1st
Clearly identified in the handbook e.g. Drama, Music, Medicine, Art
 - ▶ **September** - Leaving Cert Results/Round 1 Offers issued and Round 2 Offers issued

Making an Application

- ▶ www.cao.ie Click apply (PDF of CAO Booklet online)
- ▶ Personal Information, pay and create an account/password.
 - ▶ CAO number/password – log in
 - ▶ Course Choices
 - ▶ Qualifications and Assessment – LC 2026
 - ▶ HEAR/DARE – Tick a box if you wish to be considered for either



List your courses in genuine order of preference

- ▶ **2 course** lists allowing 10 choices in each
 - ▶ Level 8
 - ▶ Level 6/7

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10

Dream Courses

Realistic Courses

Safety Net Courses



After Making an Application

- ▶ Receive confirmation of your application
- ▶ Some students may be called for extra assessments/Interview
- ▶ Change of Mind facility becomes available 5th May 2026 – use sparingly and carefully, this closes on July 1st 2026
- ▶ **Statement of Application Record emailed before end of May-Inform CAO if you don't get this**
- ▶ Leaving Certificate results are sent to CAO
- ▶ Places are allocated and offered by post and online
- ▶ Students accept, reject or defer offered places (You can only move up on the list)
- ▶ You may be offered 2 places, one from level 8 and 1 from level 6/7
- ▶ Further rounds of offers are made until all course places are filled



Allocation of Places

Order	Course	Course Points	Student's Points	Eligible
1	UCD Commerce	502	466	NO
2	DCU Business	468	466	NO
3	TCD BESS	505	466	NO
4	Maynooth Business	423	466	YES
5	TU Business & Law	470	466	No
6	NCI Business	290	466	YES
7	DCU Global Business	470	466	NO
8	NCI Marketing	200	466	YES
9	TU Business	250	466	YES
10	Dundalk IT Business	300	466	YES

All courses below offered course are removed.

Order	Course	Course Points	Student's Points	Eligible
1	UCD Commerce	502	466	NO
2	DCU Business	468	466	NO
3	TCD BESS	505	466	NO
4	Maynooth Business	405	466	YES

Round 2 – points drop on some courses

Order	Course	Course Points Round 1	Course Points Round 2	Student's Points	Eligible
1	UCD Commerce	502	490	466	NO
2	DCU Business	468	465	466	YES
3	TCD BESS	505	510	466	NO
4	Maynooth Business	405	395	466	YES

Important Dates 2025/26

- ▶ **20th January** Apply by this date to avail of the discounted fee of €35
- ▶ **1st February** Normal closing date for applications (€50)
Change of Mind - 5th February (12:00 noon) to 1st March (17:15) €10 Fee
- ▶ **1st March** Deadline for online application HEAR/DARE (On CAO application)
- ▶ **10th March** Deadline for submission of documentation to arrive in CAO
- ▶ **5th May** Change of Mind facility opens (Free of charge)
- ▶ **Before End May** Statement of Record sent to all applicants (**Contact CAO if you don't receive it**)
- ▶ **1st July** Change of Mind facility closes
- ▶ **September** Leaving Cert Results
- ▶ Round 1 Offers issued and Round 2 Offers issued

Better Options Education Fair

- ▶ Date: Saturday, 25th October 2025
- ▶ Time: 10:30-14:30
- ▶ Location: Online (Zoom)
- ▶ Free event – Registration required on Eventbrite! <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/better-options-2025-tickets-1562980971159>
- ▶ Better Options 2025 is AHEAD's annual college information event for students (and parents) with disabilities exploring post-secondary education and training in Ireland. Whether you're considering a university, a further education college, or an apprenticeship, this event has information tailored for you.



Dos and Don'ts



DOs



DON'Ts

- ▶ Do list your choices in order of **preference** and not points.
- ▶ Don't guess what the points are going to be for a course.
- ▶ Don't overestimate/underestimate your Leaving Cert results.
- ▶ Do attend college/university Open Days.
- ▶ Do consider level 6/7 & PLCs – remember the Framework of Qualifications.
- ▶ Do continue meetings with Guidance Counsellor.
- ▶ Don't base your choice on one college, it may not have the exact course you are looking for. Think of all options!
- ▶ Don't forget to research the course details/entry requirements.
- ▶ Don't panic!! The change of mind facility is available!



Current provisions and resources

- Weekly **Guidance** Class with Guidance Counsellor
- All 6th Students will receive **1-1 Career Apt** by Mid-term

Ms. Brooks (McAuley, Campion, Duffy, Fox, Walsh)

Ms. Canty (Galvin, Wogan, Bruce)

- All students have received their interview profile booklet
- Individual College Prospectus on college websites or in the Guidance library
- Careers Fair -12th Nov 2025
- UCAS meetings & applications- every Tuesday lunch-time
- DARE & HEAR will be done with students before deadline
- Students will always be updated in their class team/guidance & Tutorial class.

**Please do not hesitate
to reach out if you have
any questions**

