



Parents, Guardians & Students,

This week is College Awareness Week. It is a good time to reflect on, and perhaps chat at home around the whole concept of 'going to College' and the vast array of opportunities now available to students across a broad spectrum of Colleges, Courses and indeed student Abilities. There are many different Routes through which any student can reach their desired destination. **A few suggested 'activities' that can be undertaken at home and with family engagement :**

- <https://www.collegeaware.ie/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/The-Long-term-Benefits-of-Going-to-College-for-students.pdf> (*The Long Term Benefits of going to College*)
- <https://www.smartfutures.ie/working-in-stem/> (*Encouraging your teenager to engage with STEM subjects and think about careers in this area*)
- <https://www.collegeaware.ie/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/caw-resources-for-families.pdf> (*Helping your child to become 'college ready'- Resources for families*)
- <https://www.collegeaware.ie/helpful-links/> (*Helpful Links about preparing for, and going to, College.*)
- We also recommend if you - or other adult Family members - have been to College, then chat to your son about this experience and the pathway/course you pursued. They love hearing about this!

Here in the school, the Guidance Department are raising College awareness this week especially, through various activities, including:

- **TY Career Classes:** delivering various sample recorded College Talks/Webinars/Podcasts
- **5th Year Career Classes:** delivering various recorded College Talks, as above
- **6th Years:** Mock Interviews Nov 23rd; Visiting Classes re CAO Applications preparation; One - to - One continued Career counselling; Guest Speakers eg Construction/Engineering, rescheduled from this week - due to current Public health concerns - but hopefully in New Year; Promoting College Open Days eg MU on Nov 26th & 27th; *Scheduled College Talk Mon 29th November for TY & interested 6th Years...are just samples...
- **2nd Years:** Rotating Module (5 weeks) includes ' My Options after School'
- **1st Years:** College Awareness Week highlighted
- **General:** Banner & Posters visible in school promoting College Awareness week.

Happy College Awareness Week!

Kind Regards,

Ms. Costello

Ms. Brophy, Guidance Department.