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Welcome to the start of a new school year. We often hear that a new start or new year is "like a blank page". As a simile it's compact, graspable and not particularly comforting. Afterall anyone who has sat down to write an assignment and been confronted with a pale expanse of paper will know how daunting it can be. What do you need to say and where to start? What should be on the first page or first paragraph? Before that, what's the first sentence? First word? First letter? Like we said, not a very comforting simile.

But you are not facing a 'blank page' as you start this term. By joining this school you have already started to shape your story, emblazoned across the page in gilded letters that you want the opportunity to excel. We want you to come to this school with your passions, interests and dreams, so why would we ever say that any aspect of your life is blank? As you enter those yellow doors you ink those facets, those precious tenets of self, more vividly than ever atop the page.

While you are here you will find kindred spirits who have made the same move and inscribed the same sense of aspiration. Your classmates all know what it means to start afresh in a new year and a new school. They understand what it means to make that change, they know how it feels. And we know it too. There are always people to provide guidance and insight. As you can see from The Buzz, the calendar, the posters, the diary, there is nothing blank about the year to come. Your teachers, Year Heads, the office staff, the guidance team are experts in their fields and can help prompt you to the next line, next paragraph, next page. When the next move of the pen is unclear, there is always someone to help.

The page was never blank, because it was yours. You are not alone, because you are here.

Kind regards,

Yvonne, Aideen, Hugh, Dee, Ailbhe and Lorraine



TIMETABLES



The final deadline for timetable changes is **Friday the 5th of September**Please email timetable@instituteofeducation.ie with any changes

WELCOME BACK















The Guidance Team wish to extend a warm welcome all our students, both new students and returning students of The Institute of Education. We are looking forward to meeting with you all and we especially look forward to providing you with support and guidance on your pathway to college and career success. This year, our team is delighted to welcome Sarah O'Brien, an experienced guidance counsellor of 20 years, who will join Liz Carey, John McGinnity and John Curran. The guidance counsellors work closely with Helen Casey, who is our learning support, DARE & RACE expert and Leanne Hutton, who looks after our International students.

BOOKING AN APPOINTMENT



We offer a drop-in service every morning between 8:30am -9:30am, with no appointment necessary, where you call in to any of the team with any questions you may have or information or support you may need. You can also book a 30 minute appointment in advance, by scanning the QR codes on the noticeboards and outside each of the guidance counsellors offices. Appointments can be booked during study or lunch times but not during class times.

LUNCHTIME TALKS



Our Guidance Team host weekly in-person talks, where guest speakers from leading colleges and universities and past pupils are invited into the school to inform our students of the courses offered, the entry requirements and application process involved, as well as the student experience. For 6th years the talks take place each Thursday during lunchtime from September to February and for 5th years from February onwards. These talks are recorded and available for 5th and 6th year students to view on Moodle also.

Keep updated with our weekly BUZZ newsletter for upcoming Open Days and events taking place this year.

Jane, Liz, John, John, Sarah and Helen



6TH YEAR UCAS



All 6th years applying to the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, and for most courses in Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Medicine/Science in the UK should have their UCAS applications well under way to make the October 15th deadline

Completed undergraduate applications can be submitted to UCAS from the 2nd of September so please also ensure you register for the required admissions tests as soon as possible, if you have not already done so. Please book an early appointment with any of the guidance counsellors and they will organise the buzzword to link your UCAS application to the school/centre and they will assist you in organising your predicted grades, academic references and guide you with your personal statement.

6TH YEAR - SAVE THE DATE

The Institute of Education Futures Fair Event will take place on Thursday 23rd October with representatives from Ireland's top universities and colleges taking stands at the Fair. There are also career talks on a wide range of courses and third-level options available to students.





SAVE THE DATE

FUTURES FAIR

THURS 23RD OCTOBER 2025

SET UP: 4-5PM **EVENT: 5-7PM**

