

ST MARY'S SECONDARY SCHOOL

GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

LEAVING CERT RESULTS & CAO 2026

What do I do now?



LEAVING CERT RESULTS

Friday 21 August 2026

1. WHEN YOU GET YOUR RESULTS

- Log into your CSSP from 10am and take your time. You do not need to make any immediate decisions.
- Check your results carefully.
- Try not to compare your points with others.
- Calculate your CAO points and check any specific course entry requirements.
- If a result is very different from what you expected, don't panic – you will have an opportunity to view your script and consider an appeal.
- Talk things through with your parents/guardians or email your Guidance Counsellor if you need advice.

Remember: Your Leaving Cert results are one step in your journey. There are many different routes to college and careers, as we discussed.



CAO ROUND 1 OFFERS

**Wednesday 26 August 2026
at 2.00pm**

2. WHEN CAO ROUND 1 ARRIVES

CAO will begin sending offer emails in batches **from 12noon** on 26th August- so don't panic if your friend gets their offer first- all should be sent by 2pm.

Even if you get an early offer, you cannot log into your CAO account to accept/defer it until 2pm- remember there is no rush anyway, all Round 1 offers are held for you for until **Tuesday 1st Sept @ 3pm.**

CAO will offer you the highest preference course on your lists (Level 6/7 & 8) for which you are eligible.

3. SHOULD I ACCEPT MY OFFER?

Ask yourself:

"If I receive no other offer, would I be happy to take this course?"

✓ YES — Accept it.

You can still receive a higher preference in a later round! If you receive your 3rd preference, for example, you can accept Course C and still be offered Course A or B in a later CAO round.

★ VERY IMPORTANT!

Don't turn down a course you would genuinely like simply because you are hoping for a higher preference in Round 2.

4. I DIDN'T GET THE COURSE I WANTED

Don't panic. You still have options.

- Later CAO rounds
- CAO Available Places- opens on the CAO website on 27th August
- Further Education/PLC courses
- Tertiary degree programmes
- Apprenticeships
- Alternative courses that can lead to the same career (possibly this is the offer you received?!)
- Reapplying to CAO next year if appropriate

5. WHAT ABOUT APPEALS?

If you are considering appealing a Leaving Cert result:

- Do not wait for the appeal outcome before accepting a CAO offer you want.
- Accept your offer by the normal CAO deadline.
- If an upgraded result means you become entitled to a higher-preference course, there are procedures in place to deal with this.

6. IMPORTANT CAO DATES 2026

Friday 21 st August	Leaving Cert Results
Wednesday 26 th Aug 12-2pm	Round 1 CAO Offers
Thursday 27 th August	CAO Available Places (see website)
Tuesday 1 st Sept @ 3pm	Round 1 Acceptance Deadline
Monday 7 th Sept @ 2pm	Round 2 Offers
Tuesday 15 th Sept @ 10am	Round 3 Offers
Tuesday 22 nd Sept @ 10am	Round 4 Offers
Tuesday 29 th Sept @ 10am	Round 5 Offers (after LC appeals)
Always check your CAO account and the official CAO website for deadlines.	

Congratulations

**on successfully making it through the
Leaving Certificate!**

If you would like an appointment with your Guidance Counsellor from Thursday 27th August, just email sally.gibbs@stmarysnenagh.ie for a slot.