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UCD New ERA School Profile Questionnaire 2008

Dear School Principal & School Career Guidance Counsellor,

The New ERA Access programme of University College Dublin through funding from the HEA, have commissioned researchers at the UCD Geary Institute to conduct an evaluation of the effectiveness of the programme.

The research team is led by Dr Kevin Denny and consists of Dr Orla Doyle, Patricia O'Reilly and Vincent O'Sullivan (www.ucd.ie/geary).

As part of this evaluation we are conducting a survey of all the schools that participate in the Higher Education Access Route Programme (HEAR).

Your school is being asked to participate in this short survey as it is one of the 310 second level schools that are part of the HEAR Scheme. The aim of the questionnaire is to collect information from these schools on factors affecting progression to third level, progression rates to third level, Leaving Certificate results and subject choices.

Information in this survey will allow us to evaluate the effectiveness of the Access programme and help to inform on future policy on access to higher education and thus work towards catering for the needs of your school.

By completing and returning this survey you are consenting to the information being used in the study. We would like to emphasise that any information you may supply will be treated in the strictest confidence. To address any concerns you may have, we have appended our Data Protection Policy to the survey.

Please return the questionnaire using the enclosed envelope before April 16th 2008. If we do not hear from you before then we will follow up with a brief telephone call in order to establish which schools are participating.

When the final report is published, a copy will be available on the Geary Institute website (www.ucd.ie/geary) and the New ERA website (www.ucd.ie/newera).

If you have any questions relating to the survey or if you wish to obtain an electronic version of the survey, please contact Patricia O'Reilly on tel: 01 7164626 or email patricia.oreilly@ucd.ie.

Thank you for your support

Thank you for taking the time to complete the questionnaire. Please answer as many questions as possible. Please provide approximate answers if necessary.

School Roll Number: _____

| |
|--|
| Section A: School Characteristics |
|--|

Section A relates to the general characteristics of your school. This helps us to create a general school profile.

Q1: How many whole-time teachers work at your school?

Answer: _____

Q2: The school catchment area is....
(Please insert X in the appropriate box)

- | | |
|--|-----|
| predominantly urban | [] |
| equally balanced between rural & urban | [] |
| predominantly rural | [] |

Q3: On average, roughly how many hours per month are allocated to a career guidance Teacher?

Answer: _____

Q4: On average, roughly how many hours per month are allocated to a home school liaison Teacher?

Answer: _____

Q5: Roughly what percentage of students came from families with medical cards in 2007?
(Please insert X in the appropriate box)

- under 10% [] 10-19% [] 20-29% [] 30-39% [] 40% or more []

Q6: In your opinion, parental involvement at parent-teacher meetings is
(Please insert X in the appropriate box)

- Excellent [] satisfactory [] not satisfactory []

Q7: Do students from the Travelling Community attend your school?
(Please insert X in the appropriate box)

yes [] no []

If yes,

Q7a: How many students are from the Travelling Community? _____

Q7b: Does your school provide additional supports to students from the Travelling Community?
(Please insert X in the appropriate box)

yes [] no []

Q8: Do the children of recent immigrants to Ireland attend your school?
(Please insert X in the appropriate box)

yes [] no []

If yes,

Q8a: Can you please provide the approximate number of these students?

| Nationality of students | Approximate number of students |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |

Q8b: Does your school provide additional supports to students who are children of recent immigrants to Ireland?

(Please insert X in the appropriate box)

yes []

no []

Q9: Did your school have contact with a university before becoming linked to the HEAR scheme?

(Please insert X in the appropriate box)

yes []

no []

Q 10: Apart from the HEAR scheme, does your school participate in the outreach activities of a third level institution such as shadowing days, summer schools, etc?

(Please insert X in the appropriate box)

yes []

no []

Q11: Has your school any links with community projects (e.g. Area based partnership)?

(Please insert X in the appropriate box)

yes []

no []

If so, please specify _____

Section B: Leaving Certificate Class of 2006/2007

This section relates to the leaving certificate class of 2006/2007, i.e. those who sat their leaving certificate in the Summer of 2007.

Q1: What percentage of the Leaving Certificate students were studying for the Applied Leaving Certificate?
(Please insert X in the appropriate box)

Answer: _____

Q2: What percentage of students are taking at least one foundation level course?
(Please insert X in the appropriate box)

Answer: _____

Q3: Of those studying the traditional Leaving Certificate, what were the average Leaving Certificate points achieved in 2006/2007?
(Please insert X in the appropriate box)

<200 [] 200-245 [] 250-295 [] 300-345 [] 350-395 [] >400 []

Q4: What percentage of the Leaving Certificate class achieved more than 400 points in 2006/2007?
(Please insert X in the appropriate box)

≤10% [] 11-19% [] 20-29% [] 30-39% [] >40% []

Q5: Please complete the table below in relation to the Leaving Certificate Class of 2006/2007
(Please insert X in the appropriate box)

| Core Matriculation Subjects taught at Leaving Certificate Higher Level in 2006/2007 | Was this subject taught within a mixed level or higher level only class? | |
|---|--|--------------------------------|
| | Separate Higher Level Class | Mixed Levels Within Same Class |
| Mathematics | | |
| Irish | | |
| English | | |
| Foreign languages | | |

Q6: Which Science subjects are on offer at Leaving Certificate level?

(Please insert X in the appropriate box)

Biology [] Chemistry [] Physics [] Agricultural Science [] Engineering []

Q7: What specific factors in your school affect the subject opportunities available to your students in terms of:

a) The **provision of matriculation** subjects at Leaving Certificate

(Please insert X in the appropriate box)

| Factors | Yes | No |
|--|------------|-----------|
| Lack of resources | [] | [] |
| Insufficient subject teachers | [] | [] |
| Student teacher ratio | [] | [] |
| Insufficient student number selecting certain subjects | [] | [] |
| Timetable restrictions | [] | [] |

Please specify any other factors:

b) The **provision of matriculation** subjects at LC **higher level?**

(Please insert X in the appropriate box)

| Factors | Yes | No |
|--|------------|-----------|
| Small number of students doing higher level subjects | [] | [] |
| Student ability | [] | [] |
| Student teacher ratio | [] | [] |
| Prioritizing of ordinary level classes and foundation due to high demand for those classes | | |
| Small numbers doing the LC | [] | [] |

Please specify any other factors:

Section C: Progression to Further and Higher Education in 2007

These questions will help us to identify the level of progression and the areas where students go on completion of their Leaving certificate. (If there are questions for which no data is available, even rough estimates would be helpful).

Q1: What percentage of the Leaving Certificate Class made a CAO application in February 2007?

(Please insert X in the appropriate box)

0-20% [] 21-40% [] 41-60% [] 61-79% [] 80% or more []

Q2: What percentage of the Leaving Certificate Class of 2006/2007 progressed to a Post Leaving Certificate Course (PLC Course) in Autumn of 2007?

(Please insert X in the appropriate box)

0-10% [] 11-20% [] 21-30% [] 31-40% [] 41% or more []

Q3: What percentage of the Leaving Certificate Class of 2006/2007 progressed to the Institute of Technology sector to study for a certificate, diploma or a degree in the Autumn of 2007?

(Please insert X in the appropriate box)

0-10% [] 11-20% [] 21-30% [] 31-40% [] 41% or more []

Q4: What were the main Institutes of Technology to which your students progressed? Please list top 3

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Q5: What percentage of the Leaving Certificate Class progressed to the University Sector to study for a degree in the Autumn of 2007?

(Please insert X in the appropriate box)

0-5% [] 6-10% [] 11-20% [] 21-30% [] 31% or more []

**Q6: What were the main Universities to which your students progressed?
Please list top 3**

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Q7: In a previous questionnaire, schools identified the following factors as barriers for their pupils to progression to further and higher education. Please rank these factors (1-3) in terms of the degree to which they impact on your pupils:

- 1 = No impact**
- 2 = Some impact**
- 3 = High impact**

| School Factors | Rank 1-3 | Pupil Factors | Rank 1-3 | Other Factors | Rank 1-3 |
|---|----------|--|----------|---|----------|
| Lack of Higher Level <u>only</u> Classes at LC | | Lack of confidence/ Low self-esteem | | Full time job opportunities for school leavers (as an alternative to third level) | |
| Insufficient demand to justify offering full range of LC subjects | | Lack of staying power/long-term commitment | | Cultural factors / Community factors | |
| Teacher/Pupil ratio | | Financial pressures | | Peer pressure | |
| Lack of belief generally within school that higher education is a real option | | Lack of family role-models vis-à-vis higher education | | Lack of community role-Models | |
| Insufficient time devoted to career guidance | | Part-time work throughout school career affecting exam performance | | Urban / Rural isolation – travel difficulties | |
| Greater pressure to meet the needs of foundation /ordinary level pupils | | Poor literacy skills generally | | Insufficient knowledge of HE among parents, friends, community | |
| | | Poor study facilities at home | | Students opting for the Leaving Cert Applied | |

Are there any other factors you would like to add?

Section D: Retrospective Information – What was your school like in 2001?

Section D relates to what your school was like in 2001. We want to see if the HEAR scheme has had an effect on the choices of students. We are using 2001 as our base year. We understand that a lot of time has elapsed and that the school staff may have changed considerably. However we would really appreciate if you could provide us with the relevant information. If the school does not have easily accessible records from this period, please provide approximate answers if at all possible where information is unavailable.

Q1. How many students in total attended the school (including transition year) in 2001?

(Please insert X in the appropriate box)

under 200 [] 200-299 [] 300-399 [] 400-499 [] 500-699 [] +700 []

Q2. What percentage of students came from families with medical cards in 2001?

(Please insert X in the appropriate box)

under 10% [] 10-19% [] 20-29% [] 30-39% [] 40% or more []

Q3. Did the school have a career guidance counsellor in 2001?

(Please insert X in the appropriate box)

yes [] no []

Q4. What were the average Leaving Certificate points achieved in 2001?

(Please insert X in the appropriate box)

<200 [] 200-245 [] 250-295 [] 300-345 [] 350-395 [] >400 []

Q5. What percentage of the Leaving Certificate class achieved more than 400 points in 2001?

(Please insert X in the appropriate box)

≤10% [] 11-19% [] 20-29% [] 30-39% [] >40% []

Q6. What percentage of the Leaving Certificate Class made a CAO application in 2001?

(Please insert X in the appropriate box)

0-20% [] 21-40% [] 41-60% [] 61-79% [] 80% or more []

Q7. What percentage of the Leaving Certificate Class progressed to the Institute of Technology sector to study for a certificate, diploma or a degree in 2001?
(Please insert X in the appropriate box)

0-10% [] 11-20% [] 21-30% [] 31-40% [] 41% or more []

Q8. What percentage of the Leaving Certificate Class progressed to the university sector to study for a degree in 2001?
(Please insert X in the appropriate box)

0-5% [] 6-10% [] 11-20% [] 21-30% [] 31% or more []

Special Section for schools linked to NUI Maynooth: Participation in Access Activities

Q1. Which Maynooth Access Programme(MAP) services/activities does your school currently avail of?

| | Yes | No |
|---|-----|-----|
| Maths is Fun (2 nd years) | [] | [] |
| 3 rd year Special Awards | [] | [] |
| Take 5 | [] | [] |
| LC Oral Language preparation | [] | [] |
| 6 th year Science Practicals | [] | [] |
| HEAR(Higher Education Access Route) | [] | [] |
| Exam Support | [] | [] |
| School/Parents/Community Campus visits | [] | [] |
| KITE-Kildare Into Tertiary Education | [] | [] |
| 2 nd Year Achievement Awards | [] | [] |
| LCVP Interview Skills | [] | [] |
| 5th & 1st Yrs Media Workshop | [] | [] |

Other: Please specify: _____

Q2. Please rank (on a scale of 1-3) MAP services in accordance with the level of benefit derived from each service/activity by your school

- 1 = of limited or no benefit*
2 = beneficial
3 = very or extremely beneficial

| | Level of Benefit | | | |
|---|------------------|---|---|---|
| | Do not use | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Maths is Fun (2 nd years) | | | | |
| 3 rd year Special Awards | | | | |
| Take 5 | | | | |
| LC Oral Language preparation | | | | |
| 6 th year Science Practicals | | | | |
| HEAR(Higher Education Access Route) | | | | |
| Exam Support | | | | |
| School/Parents/Community Campus visits | | | | |
| KITE-Kildare Into Tertiary Education | | | | |
| 2 nd Year Achievement Awards | | | | |
| LCVP Interview Skills | | | | |
| 5th & 1st Yrs Media Workshop | | | | |

Q3. In your view, what additional services and/or supports could MAP provide to your school?
