

Dear Student

I hope you are managing ok during these strange uncertain times. I can imagine it is difficult to keep up the momentum of studying for the Leaving Certificate when there are lots of discussions in the media about alternatives to the exams in July.

The reason I am sending this email is to encourage you to apply now for the PLC Information Technology (IT) course in Drumshanbo. We are very proud of this well established course which has been a feature of Drumshanbo Vocational school for over 50 years

There is a lot of uncertainty about third level places in Universities, IT's and some of the larger Further Education Colleges. This uncertainty is due mainly to concerns about facilitating social distancing in lecture halls and computer laboratories. Colleges themselves are not certain about starting times, some colleges are preparing in case first year students don't start until January.

Benefits of joining the PLC IT course

Acquire excellent IT skills which you will be using in third level

- Word,
- Excel spreadsheets
- Powerpoint presentations,
- Access database
- Microsoft Teams
- Moodle
- Classnotebook
- Sage Payroll and Accounts
- Microsoft Publisher

The course also offers an opportunity to use PLC points to get into Universities as well as the vast majority of ITs. Two of our students this year expect to get CAO round zero offers (the week before the main offers CAO offers for Leaving Certs). They expect to get places in Commerce and Arts in NUIG Galway; one of the learners does not have a foreign language.

In the face of all this uncertainty in the third level sector, especially in relation to accommodation in the cities, you may be considering taking a year out, staying close to home and working. This would be an ideal time to complete the PLC in Drumshanbo, you will be using Microsoft Teams, Class notebook and Moodle which should mean you will be well equipped for dealing with blended learning (combination of online and traditional classes) in college, which will undoubtedly be a feature of all third level courses in the future.

Some of you have already submitted a hard copy or paper application form, but the ETB are not considering these applications as valid and are encouraging all learners to apply online. If you have any issues applying online email me with your phone number and I will attempt to guide you through the process.

The adult education section of the ETB is expecting increased demand for all adult IT courses due largely to the impact of Covid on job losses. Places will be offered to learners who are suitable for the course based on the date we receive the application online. There will only be 20 places on the course. As you know you can change your mind at a later date, but we won't be able to accommodate late applicants, if the course is full. It is with that in mind I am encouraging you to apply sooner rather than later for the PLC course.

[Apply online here](#) for the PLC Business IT course. You will need to know your PPSN number and use an alternative email to your dvs one (students in the past have reported difficulty registering using dvs email)

Phyllis Heduan

Course Co-ordinator