



# Presentation College

## Carlow

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18<sup>th</sup> October 2018

Dear Parents / Guardians,

In accordance with Circular 14/2017 and other documentation from the National Council for Special Education (NCSE), every effort is made to ensure that we use, organise and deploy teaching resources to support students with special educational needs. This is done in the context of a revised model of allocating special education teaching resources which was introduced by the Department of Education and Skills in 2017.

Some students' needs require that testing is conducted in reading, spelling and writing in order to make applications to the State Examinations Commission (SEC) for Reasonable Accommodations (R.A.) in the State Examinations. Reasonable Accommodations in certified examinations refers to modifications in how a test is administered while not compromising the integrity of the examination system. Accommodations may include changes to presentation format, response format, test setting or test timing. In general terms, the provision aims to remove the impact of a disability so that candidates can demonstrate their full level of attainment, while not given any advantage. Examples of Reasonable Accommodations include the assistance of a reader, use of a tape recorder or word processor, access to a scribe, or additional time in the examinations.

Up-to-date evidence, including test scores as outlined above, of the student's special educational needs is required by the SEC in order to make application for R.A. Some students in Third Year who have a diagnosis of a special educational need, and for whom we have psychological reports, have already been tested in this current academic year in order to make applications for Reasonable Accommodations. There may also be a very small number of additional students in Third Year who require testing as outlined above, conducted here in the school, in order to make an application for Reasonable Accommodation.

The closing date for the State Examinations to receive R.A. application forms / from schools for students in Third Year is **21<sup>st</sup> December 2018**.

If you have good reason to believe that your son / daughter requires testing here in school in order to make application for R.A. please consult, in the first instance, our school website, [www.presentationcollegecarlow.com](http://www.presentationcollegecarlow.com) and access the summary document on Reasonable Accommodation provided (click on the Parents Tab). The documents

*'Reasonable Accommodations at the 2019 Certificate Examinations: Instructions for Schools'* and Circular Letter M10/94 re Exemption from the Study of Irish are also available on our website.

Having read the documentation on our website if you have a strong reason for believing that your son/daughter should be tested soon, and an application for R.A. submitted, please email your request to [info@presentationcollegecarlow.com](mailto:info@presentationcollegecarlow.com) **by 26<sup>th</sup> October at the latest**, and in the Subject Line please mark your email **for the attention of Mr. Murray and Mr. McDermott**. If your son/daughter has been tested for R.A. in the school during this current academic year there is no need to send us an email as we already intend to make an application for R.A. for your child if he/she has met the relevant criteria.

**Please note that applications can only be made where students meet the criteria specified by the State Examinations Commission – please consult the documents mentioned on our website if you are unsure about the criteria.** We are not in a position to test most students in Third Year – indeed it would not be necessary to do so - so we will need to consult teachers and the students' past academic attainment, performance and scores in order to help us determine if a student is within the range of marks that could provide grounds for making an application for Reasonable Accommodation.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. R. Murray  
Principal