



Higher Education Access Route highlighted

MOHILL BASED Councillor Gerry Kilrane has highlighted the potential benefits to students in Roscommon and Leitrim of the Higher Education Access Route (HEAR).

The scheme is a third level admissions scheme for school leavers from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds. Councillor Kilrane outlined that "there is clear evidence which shows that socio-economic disadvantage has a negative impact on educational attainment at school and on progression to higher education. It is in an effort to tackle this statistic that HEAR has been set up in conjunction with several Third Level Institutions".

The scheme provides for a quota of places to be set aside on certain courses for qualifying students on a reduced points basis. "Many families may not have access to the resources which give their children an edge in the CAO points race. The HEAR scheme has a built in mech-

anism to level the playing field by allowing a set number of students access to Third Level courses with reduced points".

School leavers who wish to be considered for the HEAR scheme must apply online at www.cao.ie as part of the CAO application process by February 1st, 2010. They should indicate their wish to be considered for HEAR in the appropriate section of the application form. Applicants will then be directed to a separate online HEAR application form. They must complete a number of additional questions relating to his/her family's financial situation. All supporting documentation must be submitted by April 1st, 2010.

Councillor Kilrane concluded that intending applicants should be aware that applications for HEAR could only be made online and the closing dates will be strictly adhered to and cannot be extended.