

Annual Conference and AGM



Our Annual Conference for 2012 will be held for the first time in Cork. Details are as follows - venue will be the Gresham Metropole Hotel, Cork City (MacCurtain St), on Saturday 13th October. We will have workshops on Environmental Action Projects (Leit Barry), Changing the World from the Classroom

(Amnesty), Development Education - The Millennium Development Goals (presented by Trócaire and Studio Globo from Belgium), the Referendum and the Constitution (Pat Cahill), Reporting on Action Projects (Michael Domoney), Co-Ordination and Inspection (Bill Doherty), CSPE and IT (Brendan O'Regan). Mr Simon Coveney T.D. (left above), Minister for Agriculture, Food & the Marine will be the guest speaker at the Open Forum on Saturday morning. Further information and booking forms will be sent to schools in early September.

Brochure and booking forms have been sent to schools and are available for download from our website's news page – www.cspeteachers.ie/news.html

Referendum

The Children's Right Referendum will be held on Saturday 10th November. There is a guide to tackling a referendum as an Action Project or a class activity in CSPE class on our website:

(<http://www.cspeteachers.ie/referendum.html>), there is information on www.refcom.ie, which has plenty of background information on referenda. Judging by past experience there will probably be a dedicated website at www.referendum2012.ie.

There is also the likelihood of a referendum on the abolition of Seanad Éireann in the current school year.

CSPE Opportunities

2012/2013: Opportunity for teachers to join the PDST Local Facilitator panel. Nominate yourself after downloading and completing the required form from www.pdst.ie.

The PDST website features links to many useful resources and courses, some of which will be relevant to CSPE teachers.

The Life Centre in Cork is looking for volunteers for the 2012/2013 academic year to work with our young people. We are a voluntary organisation offering an alternative educational setting to early school leavers between the ages of 12-18 years. Volunteers are needed to offer 1:1 tuition in core subjects-English, Maths, History, **CSPE**, Art, Home Economics, Woodwork. Programme runs from 2.30-4.30pm Mon-Thurs. Minimum commitment of one afternoon weekly. Contact (021)4304391

Membership Matters

Membership for 2012/2013 is now due for renewal – this is necessary if you wish to keep receiving our newsletters and email alerts. Please send €20 to Brendan O'Regan, Ticknock Lane, Arklow, Co. Wicklow.

News

Focus Ireland

A letter has been sent to schools from Focus Ireland, offering guest speakers on the issue of homelessness. Focus Ireland has previously sent their CSPE Resource pack, "Without Your Home Your Life Develops Differently", to schools, but if you do not have a copy you can still get one by contacting Natasha McAvinney on 01-8815942. The resource can also be accessed and downloaded from here: <http://www.focusireland.ie/files/publications/Without%20Your%20Home.pdf>

Eco-Unesco

Material has been sent to schools about this year *Young Environmentalist's Awards*. ECO-UNESCO's Young Environmentalist Awards is an all-Ireland environmental awards programme that recognises and rewards young people who raise environmental awareness and improve the environment. There are Senior and Junior Awards, as well as many award categories, including biodiversity, water, climate change, energy and waste. Awards Timeline: **End of November** Project registration deadline; **End of February** Project submission deadline; **March & April** Judging - including regional ECO-Dens!; **May** ECO-UNESCO Young Environmentalist Awards Showcase & Awards Ceremony. For more information contact: **ECO-UNESCO**, The Greenhouse, 17 St Andrew Street, Dublin 2, tel. +353 1 6625491, fax. +353 1 6625493, email. info@ecounesco.ie, web: www.ecounesco.ie.

Concern

In early September Concern sent to schools a booklet featuring their many school based activities for 2012/2013. These include the *Act Now 2015* campaign based on the Millennium Development Goals (www.actnow2015.ie); Concern's Campaign Academy, which aims to help students take action for a better world by giving them the skills and knowledge to run their own successful campaigns and events (the first workshop takes place in mid October); the 1000 Days-Food Right Now Campaign which includes a video competition; and the usual Concern Fast and Concern Debates. For more info contact active.citizenship@concern.net.

Yellow Flag Programme

The Yellow Flag programme is an initiative of the Irish Traveller Movement to promote interculturalism and anti-racism in Irish schools through an 8-step programme. See www.yellowflag.ie for more info. From this site you can download the programme manual which includes various programme activities and a useful glossary of relevant terms.

Seanad Competition

The Communications Unit of the Houses of the Oireachtas, on behalf of Seanad Eireann, is organising a National Speech Writing/Video Essay Competition. The competition, which is aimed at Transition Year students, will be launched in September and the closing date will be early November, 2012. Students will be invited to write a speech of no less than 500 and no more than 750 words on a selected theme. Alternatively, the student may produce a video essay of not less than 90 seconds and not more than 120 seconds on the selected theme. The speech should be prepared as if the student is addressing the Seanad on the topic. Competition details will be sent to all schools in September.

Scoilnet

There is a wide variety of CSPE resources (around 150 separate resources) at Scoilnet.ie. Go to the Teachers/Second Level section and use the Resource Finder to navigate to the CSPE area. There are worksheets, quizzes, word searches, web links and more. Topics include global warming, Government of Ireland, Fair Trade, democracy, human rights and much more. A few of the resources are in Irish. Under the "Topic" search box you can search for resources linked to the seven concepts of CSPE.

CSPE Position

Job Title: Substitute Teacher (1) of Economics, Business, Maths, LCVP & CSPE

Newbridge College is looking for a Substitute Teacher of Economics & Business to Leaving Certificate Higher Level, LCVP, Maths, Business & **CSPE** to Junior Certificate from 22 October 2012 to June 2013 (Maternity Cover). Applications accepted by: Fax 045-487234, email: info@newbridge-college.ie or Mail to: The Principal, Newbridge College, Newbridge, Co. Kildare. Applications to forward CV including contact details of 2 referees. Application by 25th Sept.

Exam

Response of Association of CSPE Teachers to Junior Cert Exam 2012:

The Association gives a broad welcome to the paper. We found it well-balanced between the different elements of the CSPE course, and manageable for broad range of students.

On *Section 1* for the first time interiors of significant buildings were shown in the picture question that usually involves famous political figures, though exteriors of such buildings were given previously. Visual clues were helpful, e.g. flags in each chamber. Prompts were also given - i.e. the names of the chambers were given in random order. *Section 1* had strong political content, so students needed to have studied the political system well to be able to answer - knowledge of the coalition parties, the register of electors, and what a referendum is. There was an interesting question on recognising what Government Departments do. Again the verbal clues were helpful in this case.

In *Section 2, Question 1* there was an interesting question on gardai carrying arms, whether it was a good or bad idea.

Question 2 on Charity Shops was weak - e.g. asking why they were so successful. This was not closely related to CSPE - didn't make the connection to, say, the CSPE concept of community.

Question 3 was a topical question on the voting age, though it would have been preferable if one of the questions had given the students the option of listing the pros and cons or saying whether they agreed with the idea of lowering the voting age.

Question 4 was a good question on the environment - specifically the question on battery recycling, an issue relevant to young people .

Section 3: Question 1 - Good to have a question on human rights, and topical as it dealt with children's rights as there is a referendum coming up on the issue. This question lent itself to a poster but there was no poster option.

Question 2 - was primarily a fund raising question and not explicitly linked to a CSPE concept.

Question 3 - Community based , and a good question on a Youth Centre.

Question 4 - Question on Fair Trade. It was too narrowly focused on a survey only There could be better questions on the Fair Trade issue - e.g. the interdependence aspect could have been explored more.

Note: The exam paper can be accessed at www.examinations.ie by following the link to Archived Exam Material.

Inservice

A series of one day regional cluster in-service events has been organised specifically for teachers *new* to CSPE.

These in-service events will introduce teachers to the seven course concepts and to the four course Units of Study.

Some active learning methodologies and the development of citizenship skills will also be explored. The in-service will help teachers to develop an understanding of Action Projects. An overview of the three assessment instruments (The Report on an Action Project, The Course-Work Assessment Book and the written Examination Paper) associated with CSPE will also be provided. All participants will receive a CSPE CD-Rom Starter Pack.

Please Note: Due to the availability of substitution cover for teachers attending this course, the Booking Form for this course requires the Principal's signature and agreement for the teacher to attend. No substitution payment can be made through the Department's online claims system for teachers employed as substitute teachers or teachers on part-time hours.

Date	Time	Venue
Mon, 15th October	9:15 am to 4:00 pm	Athlone Education Centre
Thurs, 18th October	9:15 am to 4:00 pm	Cork Education Support Centre
Tues, 23rd October	9:15 am to 4:00 pm	Drumcondra Education Centre
Tues, 23rd October	9:15 am to 4:00 pm	Limerick Education Centre
Wed, 24th October	9:15 am to 4:00 pm	Dublin West Education Centre
Thurs, 25th October	9:15 am to 4:00 pm	Sligo Education Centre

EU Presidency



Ireland will hold the Presidency of the EU in the first half of 2013. The logo (left) was chosen by the public in an online poll that received more than 14,000 votes from 30 Nov to 31 Dec 2011.

Watch out for suitable resources at www.eu2013.ie

A video interview with Minister Lucinda Creighton on the EU Presidency is featured here:

<http://www.merriestreet.ie/index.php/2012/07/minister-creighton-briefing-on-irelands-2013-presidency-of-the-eu/>

Activate is published once per school term by the Association of CSPE Teachers—supporting citizenship education in Ireland. Articles and letters for publication should be sent to the editor, Brendan O'Regan, Arklow CBS, Co. Wicklow, or emailed to act@esatclear.ie