

ACTIVATE

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The Newsletter of the Association of CSPE Teachers (ACT)

Supporting Citizenship Education in Ireland

act@esatclear.ie

www.cspeteachers.ie

CSPE Teachers on Facebook



**Don't forget to sign up and join our Facebook group.
See page 2**

CSPE Timetabling - Survey

As noted last newsletter CSPE in its current form is will be examined externally for one more year – i.e. June 2017 (see Dept. Circular 0020/2014). We would be interested in hearing from members about what is happening in their schools re CSPE for the incoming first years September. Please contact us at act@esatclear.ie

We are hoping to conduct a more widespread survey when schools return in Autumn.

Elections

In our last issue we suggested the potential of the May elections for an Action Project. We would be interested in hearing from teachers who undertook such a project. For general class work now or in Autumn it would be useful to keep a record of the voting. Polling stations may also be willing to let CSPE teachers have the enlarged mock ballot papers they use in the centers – these will be most useful on classroom walls next year as a teaching resource.

CSPE Exam and Meeting

This year's CSPE Exam is on Mon 9th June at 2 pm. As usual our meeting to assess and respond to the paper will take place in Blackrock Education Centre that evening from 3.45 pm. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

UNICEF Resource

It's About Us! is a set of new interactive CSPE resources from UNICEF to inform young people about the world we live in and inspire them to create their vision for the future. The workshops have been designed to inform and inspire young people to take part in discussions about the world they want, particularly in the context of the closing stages of the Millennium Development Goals. The ten workshops are available online at www.unicef.ie/itsaboutus and are designed to cover the core concepts of the CSPE curriculum. Students will be introduced to children from around the world who are suffering the worst effects of poverty, conflict and disaster. Students will explore how, together, young people can build a new vision for the future.

Membership Matters

If you have received this newsletter you are a fully paid up member of the Association for 2013/2014. Renewals will be due in the Autumn.

News

Conference 2014

Our 2014 Conference is currently being planned. Provisionally we have in mind Saturday 11 October in Dublin. As soon as details become firmed up we will post them on the website at www.cspeteachers.ie/news.html Full details will be sent to schools in late August/early September.



Amnesty Resources

Amnesty Ireland provides a range of resources for schools. The resources for second level schools are listed at <http://amnesty.ie/resources/education#SECONDARY> and include the pack 'A is for Action'. This CSPE Action Project resource is intended to assist teachers in guiding students through the steps of deciding on and planning a human rights **action project**. The 'A is for Action' resource is available to download at the weblink above or to order a hard copy please contact hre@amnesty.ie

Solidarity Award

An idea for the next school year: Trócaire's Solidarity Award scheme aims to recognise the effort, energy and commitment that post primary students and their schools give to help Trócaire alleviate poverty and injustice amongst the world's poorest people. There are two categories – Individual Student and Whole School. To qualify for a SILVER award students must complete at least 1 activity to promote Trócaire's annual Lenten Campaign. Examples may include – delivering a Lenten themed assembly, creating a Trócaire display, writing an article for schools website/magazine or organising a fundraising event (raising at least £50). To be awarded a GOLD award students must complete a minimum of 2 activities and organise a fundraising event to raise a minimum of 100. Trócaire also recognises collective school achievements in addition to, or instead of nominating individuals. Teachers are asked to nominate their school if they think they've gone that extra mile to support Trócaire's work. Example's amongst others could include exceptional promotion of Trócaire's work in their school over a number of years or innovative Lenten fundraising activities. Entries should be supported by evidence of activities for example, newspaper articles, photographs, video recordings, posters, flyers etc. Contact Trócaire: 01-6293333.

Facebook Group Reminder

Earlier in the year we set up a Facebook group called 'CSPE Teachers' for the members of the Association. Hopefully this will help communication and get news to everybody even faster. The email updates and this newsletter will continue as well. To join the group, please send an email request to act@esatclear.ie.

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, Ticknock Lane, Arklow, Co. Wicklow, or emailed to act@esatclear.ie