

ACTIVATE

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The Newsletter of the Association of CSPE Teachers (ACT)

Supporting Citizenship Education in Ireland

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www.cspeteachers.ie

National Conference and AGM



Our Annual Conference and AGM will take place on Saturday 11th October in Airfield House Dundrum. Brochures and booking forms have been sent to schools are available to download from the News page of our website. Keynote speaker on the day will be Jane-Ann McKenna (pictured) of Médecins Sans Frontières. Workshops include - *It's About Us: Beyond the Millennium Goals – UNICEF* (a.m. and p.m.); *Humanitarian Law and Action Projects* - Red Cross (a.m.); *The Working World - a guide to a CSPE 'Decent Work' Action Project* - Youth Connect/ICTU (a.m.); *Managing Action Projects* (p.m.); *Reporting on Action Projects* (p.m.). Fill in booking forms or email act@esatclear.ie with name, contact details and workshop preferences (one a.m. and one p.m. workshop). Deadline 1st Oct.

Important Survey

The Association is conducting a survey to determine what's happening in schools as regards the future of CSPE. The results will be presented during the Open Forum at our Annual Conference and AGM. We would appreciate it if members would take the survey – your school will not be identifiable.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/8C8GW6C>

Inservice

We have planned regional inservice as follows, dates provisional.

Nov 2014: *Digital Literacy and E-portfolios in CSPE* – Co. Wexford Education Centre Enniscorthy (6th); Waterford Teachers' Centre (13th); Blackrock Education Centre (20th); Cork Teachers' Support Centre (27th).

Feb 2015 *Political Literacy- Key Terms, Concepts, Jargon Busters, Political Jargon* - Blackrock Education Centre, Co. Wexford Education Centre Enniscorthy, Cork Teachers' Support Centre, Waterford Teachers' Centre

April 2015 *Numeracy and CSPE* -Blackrock Education Centre, Co. Wexford Education Centre Enniscorthy, Cork Teachers' Support Centre, Waterford Teachers' Centre

News

Blendspace Courses

While it's not just for CSPE teachers, there's a course in Blendspace coming up in Blackrock Education Centre on Wed 1st October, and in Co. Wexford Education Centre, Enniscorthy, on Thurs 9th Oct. Blendspace is web-based, a free and intuitive lesson-planning and presentation tool, and CSPE teachers will find it hugely useful in their work. The course is hands-on in the centre's computer room and each participant will work at their own pace creating classroom-ready resources, lessons and presentations. Booking for Blackrock is at:

<http://booking.blackrockec.ie/event/view?id=873>. Booking for Enniscorthy is at:

<http://www.ecwexford.ie/post-primary/blendspace-for-second-level-teachers>

CSPE as Gaeilge!

We have received several requests for CSPE materials in Irish. If anyone has resources they could spare or share please let us know at act@esatclear.ie.

EU4Schools

EU4Schools is a new class resource about the EU with Citizenship and Environmental themes (Pollution, Climate Change, Water) designed to support teachers and learners in class using PBL & for making digital media projects. Core materials are free for schools to use, and all images and materials included on the website are available for use in educational projects. For the free material and registration check out: www.eu4schools.com where you can now access the pollution related material. There is an Irish language version also – use the language dropdown menu on the home page. This group is looking for classes to take part in a pilot programme – use contact details on the website.

Equality Training

The Equality Authority is providing training for second-level teachers on guiding discussion and action on equality. The closing date for applications is 24 September 2014. Second-level teachers teaching subjects across the curricula are invited to apply. The training will be delivered in two parts. Part 1 is a full day (7th October 2014, Dublin or 9th October 2014, Limerick. Part 2 is a residential (evening + 1 full day - 1st and 2nd December 2014, Athlone). There is no training fee. Substitution costs and limited travel costs will be provided. The training is co-funded by the PROGRESS Programme of the European Union. It is based on the successful training which was delivered to 78 teachers in 72 schools in 2013-2014. See Equality in Second-level Schools: A Training Manual for Educators and Trainers (available for download at <http://www.equality.ie/en/Equality-in-Second-Level-Schools.html>). For further information contact Geraldine Crowley at (01) 858 3000.

Youth Connect

Youth Connect, an initiative of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions, delivers free workshops to second level students about the working world, rights & responsibilities, inequality in the workplace, issues affecting workers in the other countries, solidarity, and the problem of exploitation in the garment industry. Last year we conducted over 400 school visits to 300 schools across Ireland. Contact: Cliona O'Connell, (01) 8897752, web: www.youth-connect.ie
Youth Connect's 'Decent Work' programme will feature at one of our Annual Conference workshops.

ECO-UNESCO – Bringing Environmental Action into Education

ECO-UNESCO, Ireland's environmental education and youth organisation is calling on all CSPE teachers to get their students involved in an environmental action project and take part in their Young Environmentalists Awards (YEA) 2015! The YEA is Ireland's biggest celebration of youth eco-action and participation in the programme is a great way to engage students (aged 10-18) with environmental issues. Participation in the YEA can be utilised as a recognised CSPE action project connecting to several CSPE concepts including; Stewardship, Interdependence and Rights and Responsibility. Student involvement with the YEA also helps develop key personal skills such as confidence, assertiveness, team work and communication. Participants choose their own topics under a range of themes including, biodiversity, climate change, energy, waste and water to name a few. In this way, projects can be tailored to link in strongly with students' formal studies. For more information visit www.ecounesco.ie

CSPE Campaign

Our campaign to ensure that CSPE continues as a mandatory and externally examined subject in Junior Cycle continues. Recently we wrote to every TD and Senator, and have received many encouraging replies. We will report on this at the Annual Conference Open Forum.

Response to CSPE Paper 2014

Members of the Association met in June to discuss this year's exam paper and the following statement was issued:

We give the paper a broad welcome. It was well balanced and diverse in terms of the concepts involved in CSPE.

The paper was particularly topical this year – e.g. questions on the new Court of Appeal, cyberbullying, Nelson Mandela, and especially on local and European elections.

The question on spoiling votes was unusual and interesting. There were some challenging questions, e.g. Section 1 Part 3, on the new court and by laws. The short questions placed quite an emphasis on knowledge of law and politics.

The picture question in Part 1 was predictable enough but manageable. Those pictured were all Irish politicians. Of course Frances Fitzgerald is no longer Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, but the question does say that the politicians pictured 'are or have been' in these positions.

There was also a discrepancy in Section 1 between the marks allocated for each question (19) and the total indicated on the front of the paper (18).

In Section 3 the question on Road Safety links initially to the concept of law, but the question as it proceeds is more about safety than law.

Membership Matters

Renewals for 2014/2015 are now due. As decided at last October's AGM the membership fee is now €25. Send to Brendan O'Regan, Ticknock Lane, Arklow, Co. Wicklow. Renewal form enclosed.

Transition Units



Many sample 'Transition Units' (45-hour courses) are available online, and quite a few of these are for citizenship education in Transition Year.

Together for Rights: The 'Pamoja-Together for Rights' transition unit helps students to explore development and human rights issues in a global context. It supports a student-centred approach to learning as students examine a human rights issue of interest to them, complete a project and undertake awareness-raising actions. Developed by Trócaire.

Global Development Issues: This transition unit provides an introduction to development issues. It engages students in analysis, reflection and action for local and global citizenship. Teachers can choose to teach from a thematic strands - Poverty, Conflict, Gender Inequality, Sustainable Environments, Trade; Health and HIV/AIDS and Human Rights. Developed by St. Mary's Academy Carlow, Self Help Africa, Combat Diseases of Poverty Consortium.

Debating Development: This TU invites students to explore and debate some of the biggest questions facing our world today. Students will learn how to research, select and evaluate material. They will acquire the skills of speech writing and then through lively and informed debating all students will gain confidence and skills in speaking in front of their peers. Developed by Concern.

Legal Studies: This transition unit introduces students to the study of law and the legal system in Ireland. Developed by Peter Leydon, Wesley College, Dublin.

Setting Up a Green School: Through this TU, students are encouraged to audit, evaluate and change their school environment for the better. It intends to lead to the ultimate prize of being awarded the status of 'GreenSchool' from an Taisce. Developed by Brendan Walsh, Glanmire Community School, Cork.

http://www.ncca.ie/en/Curriculum_and_Assessment/Post-Primary_Education/Senior_Cycle/Transition_Year/Transition_Units/Sample_Transition_Units.html

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