

ACTIVATE

No. 48 May 2011

The Newsletter of the Association of CSPE Teachers (ACT)
Supporting Citizenship Education in Ireland

act@esatclear.ie

www.cspeteachers.ie



Government News Service

MerrionStreet.ie is a new service that should be useful to CSPE teachers. The website provides resources like video clips, photos, documents relating to the business of government and more. Videos include clips from Oireachtas debates and visitors to the Oireachtas. The "Issues" section includes an item on the Green Schools programme and the Irish Defence Forces. You can also sign up for an email newsletter.



Election Resource

The CSPE Support Service has compiled a chart of this year's general election results. It might be useful as a reference work or as the basis for a question in a CSPE test. Check it out at:

<http://cspe.slss.ie/resources/c/3/40/GE2011ResultsCH.xls>

CSPE Exam

This year's CSPE Exam will take place on Monday 13th June 1.30 pm to 3 pm

There will a meeting to discuss the paper and feed back to the State Examinations Commission in the Blackrock Education Centre, Kill Avenue, Dublin from 3.30 pm that afternoon. All members are encouraged to attend.

New Edition of CSPE Textbook

Now available from Folens, the 2011 edition of *Make a Difference*. This comes with a workbook and is supported by online resources, which are also available on CD-Rom for teachers/schools adopting the text. Folens reps have been distributing these in schools, but sample pages and detailed information are available on the Folens website here:

<http://www.folens.ie/catalog/make-a-difference.php?catid=118&level=2>



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

News

Eco-Unesco News

ECO-UNESCO's Introduction to Environmental Education: Tues 23rd August 2011, 10 am – 4 pm | Tues 22th November 2011, 10 am – 4 pm

ECO-UNESCO's Leadership & Strategic Sustainable Development: Tuesday 31st May 2011, 10 am – 4 pm | 6th December, 10 am – 4 pm

ECO-UNESCO Junior ECO-Watchers Training Week: (EPV Accredited training for teachers) July 4th – July 8th.

ECO-UNESCO's Introduction to Sustainable Development (FETAC Accredited Module - L5)

Intensive Course: Fri 29th & Sat 30th ; July 2011 | Fri 26th & Sat 27th August 2011 | Fri 28th & Sat 29th October 2011 | Fri 25th & Sat 26th November 2011

B) Opportunities at ECO-UNESCO

ECO-UNESCO currently has a number of volunteering opportunities available including:

ECO-YOUTH CHOICES Outdoor Education Programme Volunteers; Green Kids Volunteers

Environmental Youth Events Volunteers

Events & Programmes for Young People:

Green Kids (Second Saturday of each month) 11th Jun, 10th Sep, 8th Oct, 12th Nov, 10th Dec.

On the second Saturday of each month, ECO-UNESCO is offering a morning and afternoon workshop for children where they get active and involved in fun environmental workshops which include creating waste islands, making recycled paper, creating bird feeders, designing ECO-bags and much more.

More info: 'the greenhouse', 17 St., Andrew St., Dublin 2; T: +353 (0) 1 6625491; F: +353 (0) 1 6625493; E: interns@ecounesco.ie; W: www.ecounesco.ie

Politics for Idiots

This is a new site that doesn't contain much of use to CSPE teachers except for one gem – a repackaged version of the National Adult Literacy Agency's *Plain English Guide to Political Terms*. This is a very useful resource for CSPE and having this electronic version allows the teacher to edit the material – e.g. producing a slimmed down version for CSPE classes, or using some of the political terms for CSPE assessments. The resource is available here:

http://www.irishpoliticsforidiots.com/?page_id=116

New Resources

There are quite a few CSPE Resources available for download on a blog by Peter Barry of NUIM. Peter's blog is at: <http://edtech.nuim.ie/users/pbarry/search/?q=pbarry&fields=lastModifiedAuthor#> Resources include Powerpoint presentations on Law, Stewardship and Development. There are some pdf files as well, along with some "pez" files. These are presentations made with Prezi, a promising presentation tool that allows greater freedom and special effects for your presentations. There is a free option with Prezi, and for teachers and students there's an educational version that allows access to some advanced features. Check it out at www.prezi.com

Film Clip Resources

Wingclips.com is a website that provides readymade film clips on a variety of themes. While it is mainly aimed at Religious Education, many of the clips highlights themes associated with CSPE, such as law, activism, homelessness, disability etc. You can subscribe to the free version of Wingclips and get access to many of the clips, which can be streamed from the site and/or downloaded. The paid version offers higher resolution video and access to recent hit films.