

Make a Difference!

CSPE 101 NEWSLETTER | SPRING 2019

CHANGING TIMES

Change is all around us: this newsletter explores some of the current topical changes (political, social and environmental) happening in our world today.

BREXIT

A referendum was held across the United Kingdom on Thursday, 23 June 2016, to decide if the UK should leave or remain in the European Union. The referendum results surprised many people at the time: 51.9% voted Leave, while 48.1% voted Remain.

Brexit (**British exit** from the European Union) is, some would argue, one of the most significant events to happen in the United Kingdom since World War II. It will also have major consequences for us in Ireland.

The UK's exit from the EU is scheduled to take place on Friday, 29 March 2019. However, the Westminster Parliament is deeply divided on the issue, so we are still not sure what is going to happen!

RTE's *Brexit for Kids* provides a really useful explanation for students at this [link](#).

For another perspective, try the BBC's *Brexit: Your simple guide to the UK leaving the EU* [here](#).

Also, take a look at PowerPoint 15 on Brexit at *Make a Difference! Resources* on FolensOnline.ie.



Brexit has divided public opinion in the UK and sparked fears about its impact on Northern Ireland.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY: THE CHANGING STATUS OF WOMEN

Every year on **March 8th**, International Women's Day is celebrated. It is a focal point in the movement for women's rights and is marked around the world in the belief that while much has changed for women, there is still a need for more gender balance. The first Women's Day was on 28 February 1909 in New York, and there has been one every year since.

This year, the hashtag for International Women's Day is **#BalanceforBetter**, and it is saying that balance is better for the world. An interesting theme to explore? Discuss? Debate? Re-write?

Lots of information and fun activities specially designed for use with students can be found [here](#).

These include case studies of women who are making a difference, useful posters and a range of cards with a selection of interesting activities – all available to download at the above link (just click the 'Resources' tab).

Two other young women worth including are **Greta Thunberg** (Climate Change) and **Amal Azzudin** (Asylum Seekers/Refugees).

What about a having a discussion, or brainstorm, on the topic: 'What would happen if men and women switched places for a day?'



Greta Thunberg



Amal Azzudin

© Scottish Parliament

CSPE, Make a Difference! 4th Edition – Strand 1: Rights and Responsibilities

CHANGING PERSONNEL: LOCAL ELECTIONS AND EUROPEAN ELECTIONS

Every five years, elections are held to elect representatives to the 31 local authorities across Ireland. These elected representatives, together with full-time officials, make decisions about planning, social services, roads and transport, waste disposal, libraries, etc.

For more information, you can check with your own local authority and by following this [link](#) as the local elections approach.

On the same day, **Friday, 24 May 2019**, elections will be held for Ireland's representation at the European Parliament. On this occasion, Ireland will elect 13 MEPs (two additional MEPs due to Brexit):

- Dublin constituency will elect four MEPs.
- South constituency will elect five MEPs.
- Midlands–North West constituency will elect four MEPs.

Find out more by following this [link](#).



CSPE, Make a Difference! 4th Edition – Strand 3: Exploring Democracy

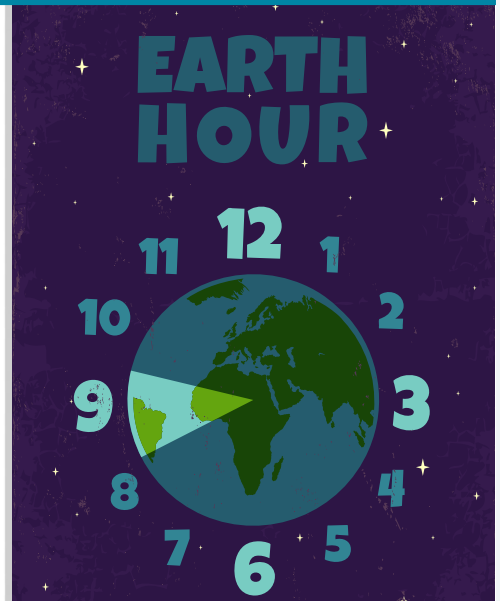
CHANGING EXAMINATIONS

The final CSPE Exam will take place this June.

Be sure to put a real effort into supporting your students' Reports on their Action Projects, and check out www.examinations.ie (the CSPE Marking Scheme) for guidance on how to fill out the RAP or CWAB booklets.

For the written examination, keep up to date with what is happening in the world today. Be sure to tell your students to attempt all parts of every question and to develop their answers beyond short sentences or single-word answers.

For CBAs in CSPE (First and Second Years), getting students to make their own portfolios is a great idea. Why not get them to build up a collection of images and articles capturing 'CSPE in the News'?



VIDEO OF THE MONTH – EARTH HOUR

Click [here](#) to view the **Earth Hour Official Video 2019**.

The Earth Hour message is sent out with beautiful, powerful images from around the world set to Ed Sheeran's song 'All of the Stars'.

CSPE, Make a Difference! 4th Edition – Strand 2: Global Citizenship

FASCINATING FACTS: FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE

Earth Hour asks people everywhere to show support for the planet by switching off lights for just one hour. It will happen between 8.30 and 9.30 p.m. on **30 March 2019**.

In 2018, 188 countries took part and 17,900 landmarks and monuments switched off their lights. Get your students to name 10 of these landmarks and monuments. (Hint: watch the video above!)

Earth Day is on **April 22nd** every year when various events are held to show support for protection of the environment. This year, the theme of Earth Day is '**Protect Our Species**'. It is focusing on six species: bees, elephants, giraffes, insects, whales and coral reefs.

Last year, 'End Plastic Pollution' was the target of Earth Day.

Look at all the **UN Sustainable Development Goals** (SDGs) that focus on the environment:

GOAL 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

GOAL 13: Climate Action

GOAL 7: Affordable and Clean Energy

GOAL 14: Life Below Water

GOAL 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

GOAL 15: Life on Land

CSPE, Make a Difference! 4th Edition – Strand 2: Global Citizenship

SAVE THE DATE (DESIGNATED DAYS)

Perhaps **one** of these days might provide a focal point for students' learning between now and the end of May 2019:

March

- 8** **International Women's Day (see above)**
- 20** International Day of Happiness
- 21** International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
- 21** International Down Syndrome Day
- 30** **Earth Hour (8.30 to 9.30 p.m.) (see above)**
- 31** International Transgender Day

April

- 1–30** National Spring Clean (An Taisce)
- 2** World Autism Awareness Day
- 7** World Health Day
- 22** **World (Mother) Earth Day (see above)**
- 26** Chernobyl Remembrance Day

May

- 1** International Workers' Day
- 3** World Press Freedom Day
- 9** Europe Day
- 15** International Day of Families
- 17** International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia
- 26** **European and Local Elections Day (see above)**
- 29** United Nations Peacekeepers' Day

Please note: These Designated Days often have their very own websites with lots of teaching and learning resources to engage and empower young people!

