

THE BUZZ

NEWSLETTER @ THEINSTITUTEOFEDUCATIONDUBLIN

02.10.2023



STUDENT PAGE

Hi everyone, our theme last month was education. This wonderful (and educational!) essay was written by 4th year Clementine Xu. Clementine artfully gives a comprehensive and thorough breakdown on how your voice, as a student can impact the entire education system in Ireland in an article that is simultaneously engaging, concise and empathetic. Give it a read! Our theme this month is Halloween. Check out the posters for further details and ideas, the deadline is October 25th, please send submissions of 500-800 words max to myself at: klynch132728@instituteofeducation.ie



STUDY SKILLS

A study skills resource page has been set up on Moodle for all students. Orla has uploaded our Study Skills book, a variety of useful blank templates and extra support materials to the page.

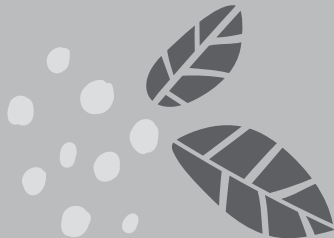
The next Study Skills event is a webinar on Wednesday the 11th of October. It will be online at 4:30pm and as usual the link will be on your Moodle.



HEALTH COLD-BUSTING RECIPE

Ingredients:

- Fresh lemon
- Fresh ginger
- Raw or Manuka honey



Directions:

- Slice lemon into quarters and pack into jar
- Grate ginger and add to lemon (the more the better)
- While stirring, fill jar with honey

To Use:

Add 1 tablespoon of mixture to hot water and stir



HEALTH TIPS FROM BRIAN GREGAN

The cold season is fast approaching and you can already hear coughs and sniffles on your way to school. So keep yourself healthy and stay one step ahead by strengthening your immune systems with this cold-busting recipe.

GUIDANCE

HI STUDENTS



Don't forget no query or question is too big or too small; we will always do our very best to help. For the first term we are supporting you as follows:

Aoife 1-6A – 6th yrs applying to UCAS

Helen 2-6A – Learning Support, RACE, DARE, & all 4th & 5th yrs

John 3-6A – 6th yrs office

UCAS

UCAS

The October deadline fast approaches and by now the final few 6th years applying to Oxford and Cambridge, as well as Medicine, Veterinary and Dentistry all over the UK have registered for and sat admissions tests, filled out their reference forms, fine tuned their personal statements and are ready to press submit. Well done! A reminder that the final deadline to pay and submit to the centre for students applying to the first deadline is Tuesday the 2nd of October. Don't forget that we have drop in tutorials every Friday in room 2-5 for all your UCAS questions.



TUESDAY TALKS

Thank you to everyone who came to our Tuesday Talk on Engineering. Our presenter, Kevin Gaughan, Head of Engineering science at TU Dublin was very impressed by the engagement and the many insightful questions. Next week, we'll be talking about applying to study in Europe. As always, 12.30 in HG1 and for anyone who can't make it, the recording is on Moodle.



OPEN DAYS

Open day season kicks off this Saturday 7th October at University of Galway.



PARENTS - SAVE THE DATE



CAO opens on Monday November 6th. Join our guidance counsellors Dr. John McGinnity and Aoife McArdle for a virtual information evening also on Monday November 6th at 7.30pm - to find out all you need to know about applying to study at Irish universities and colleges.



EXTRACURRICULARS



Debating has moved to Tuesdays - going forward it will always take place:

Tuesdays / 3:30 / Room LG-1



For **this week only** Chess is on Friday.

This Friday October 6th / 3:30 / Room 1-4

The following week and going forward it will revert to its usual Tuesday slot.



MASTERCLASSES



This Thursday, October 5th, we have a Masterclass in Biology with Wesley. **It is for 5th & 6th years** and will be live online at 8:25pm.



REVISION CLASSES



Every Tuesday, we have a revision class in Maths with Aidan. **It is for 6th years** in H1-0 at 3:30. This week's Topic: Quadratic roots, rational, irrational, transformations of graphs.



Student Activists: What you can do to influence education legislation

By Clementine Xu 4th Year

In this world where education is a major part of teenager's life it makes sense that they would want a say in how the system works.

Education laws, those enigmatic regulations that oversee our schools, don't suddenly materialise. Legislators, the real-life superheroes who don capes and work endlessly to produce them, are in the background.

They undergo a laborious process before being implemented. Think of a huge puzzle. A law is represented by each jigsaw piece. When all the parts are collected, policymakers must fit them together in a way that makes sense for education, through talking, debating, and compromising. But, lawmakers can't read minds. They need to know what students want and need. That's where you come in! Your ideas, experiences, stories can become part of those puzzle pieces, helping to make laws that improve education for everyone. Did you know students have been at the front of big societal changes throughout history? From the US Civil Rights Movement to recent climate protests students have shown their voices can move mountains (or at least Capitol Hill).

During the US Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 60s, young students took to the streets, marched, and gave speeches to demand an end to racial segregation in schools. Their courage and drive led to the historic Brown V. Board of Education case

which said segregation in public schools was unconstitutional. Nowadays, young activists are involved in movements like The Irish Second-Level Students Union (ISSU), a nationwide representative organisation administered exclusively by students. When it comes to promoting student rights and reforms to the educational system, the ISSU has always been at the forefront. To address concerns including curriculum reform, mental health support, and student well-being, they have conducted surveys, hosted conferences, and worked with lawmakers. These efforts have had a considerable impact on discussions of educational policy as well as effecting beneficial changes that aid students all over Ireland. These stories tell us that students have the power to be change-makers, history-makers. They tell us that your voice matters, and when you speak up, you can make a difference.

Now, let's equip you with the coolest tools in the student activist toolbox (the practice part). We're talking petitions that can go viral faster than a cat video, letter-writing campaigns that make lawmakers rethink their life choices, and social media tactics that'll have you trending worldwide. It's time to learn how to amplify your voice in the digital age. If you have a brilliant idea for an education law. Maybe it's about adding more holidays, improving school policies, or increasing funding for art programs or any areas you feel needs improving on. You can start a petition online and get people to sign it. When thousands, or even millions, of people sign your petition, it sends a powerful message to lawmakers: "Hey, we really care about this issue!"

We're in the age of the internet, and social media is your megaphone. Share your ideas, stories, and concerns with the world.

Use hashtags to make your posts easily discoverable. Join a student union, start online campaigns, share educational movies, and even make memes to raise awareness of educational concerns. When something becomes popular online, media outlets and decision-makers take notice.

In the world of advocacy, these resources are invaluable. They assist you in expanding your audience and amplifying your message. Don't be afraid to start lobbying; just pick up a pen and click your mouse. It is easy to think that you need to come up with a groundbreaking idea to get you involved in shaping your education. For the people who control the legislative throne, despite their unapproachable appearance are just ordinary folks with fancy titles. Lawmakers, whether they're in your county council or the halls of Leinster house, are there to represent you—their constituents. That means you have the right to talk to them, ask questions, and share your thoughts and concerns. They're public servants, and you're the public they serve.

Speak up for your beliefs without fear. 'What can I, actually change, as a single student?' It's easy to think. You're never alone in your opinions, though. In fact, there may be hundreds or even thousands of other students who share your sentiments. By speaking up, you not only strengthen your own voice but also join a chorus of people who support your cause. Your personal viewpoint might be the final piece of the puzzle required to bring about the necessary transformation in education. Every opinion counts, maybe it's just the catalyst needed for something amazing.

In the realm of education advocacy, every voice matters.