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Representing, Uplifting and Defending Student Voice!



Coiste Gnó Updates

Uachtarán:

- Oireachtas Submission on Leaving Certificate Reform:
 - I was invited by the Joint Committee on Education, Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science to send a 5 page submission on Leaving Certificate Reform, highlighting six key areas of:
 - Assessment Options.
 - Key Subject Areas and Digital Learning.
 - Access, Equality and Wellbeing Supports.
 - Higher and Further Education Requirements, Vocational Options and Career Paths.
 - Irish Language and Irish Medium Education.
 - International Evidence and Best Practice.
 - The **DRAFT** submission can be viewed <u>here</u> and is due for submission on the 6th of October.
 - Following this invitation, I was invited to present to the Committee on Tuesday,
 October 5th. The opening statement of the ISSU can be viewed here.
- IBSA Helpline Trigger Warning:
 - I met with a representative from Kerry Rape Crisis Centre to discuss collaboration on the helpline and collaborating on student council resources.
 - Confirmation was given that we will present the idea of the helpline to the national group of RCCs in November, date TBD.
- I met with the Sinn Féin spokesperson for education, Donnchadh Ó' Laoghaire to discuss our shared goals for education and to propose meeting bi-monthly alongside the Leas-Uachtarán, Education Officer and Uachtarán Oinigh.
- I spoke at the Mayo Tusla Youth Committee conference on 'Youth Participation' alongside the RLSO.
- Department of the Taoiseach Shared Island Dialogue on Education:
 - I was invited by the Department of the Taoiseach to speak on a panel at the Shared Island Dialogue on Education event: 'Learning From Each Other: The Future of Education on a Shared Island'
 - The panel was titled 'In-Depth View: Innovative Connections on a Shared Island' and consisted of a discussion with younger representatives from across the island on their expectations of education and other opportunities for connection with each other on an all-island basis and was opened by Minister Norma Foley.

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- Panellists included: Joe McBride (Teacher in Loreto Community School, Milford, Donegal), Morgan Shuttleworth (President, Secondary Schools Union of Northern Ireland) and myself.
- I was appointed a seat on the SUSI Grant Advisory Group.
- I met with Brendan Tangney from Trinity College Dublin and Eoin Murphy to discuss creating a more student centered CAO process.
- I attended TY Expo (our first in-person ISSU event since 2020!) alongside the Leas-Uachtarán and Education Officer.
- I attended the Climate Strike in Dublin on behalf of ISSU with the ECMA changemakers and several other Coiste Gnó and Regional Officers.
- Continued work with the Global Student Forum Working Group on Communications.
- I worked on the ISSU submission for the Charity Impact Awards with the RLSO, Communications Officer and Regional Officers: Caitlin-Faye Maniti (Donegal), Denis Lynch (Louth-Meath) and Ondine Travers (Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown).
- I attended a Department of Education engagement meeting with post-primary stakeholders with the Leas-Uachtarán.
- I was invited to give a video address at the ICTU Biennial Delegate Conference 2021.
- School Mail Out:
 - I wrote a letter to the member schools of the ISSU signed by myself as Uachtarán and the relevant Regional Officer/RLSO thanking them for their support, encouraging them to avail of the ISIC Card and attend ISSU events.
 - A second letter was also drafted for non-member schools with the same features as above but also encouraging them to join the ISSU.
- I reviewed RSE materials for the HSE Advisory Group and also attended the HSE Advisory Group meeting with Leas-Uachtarán.
- I Attended a meeting in Athlone with the Department of Education alongside the SVDM and Less-Uachtarán in regards to funding.
- I represented ISSU on the Virgin Media Tonight Show following the release of the CAO results.
- I met with the Executive of the Secondary Students Union of Northern Ireland alongside the Coiste Gnó to discuss collaborations going forward.
- I met with the Joint Managerial Body (JMB) alongside the Leas-Uachtarán.
- I assisted with Skills Academy and Extraordinary Assembly planning.
- General CG and union management.
- I gave student council training as a member of the ISSU pool of trainers.
- Met with USI for introductions and discussing the Submission on LC reform

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Leas-Uachtarán:

- attended the HSE Advisory Group meeting with the Uachtarán.
- attended the SUSI Advisory Group meeting
- I Attended a meeting in Athlone with the Department of Education alongside the SVDM and Uachtarán in regards to funding.
- General CG and union management
- I met with the Executive of the Secondary Students Union of Northern Ireland alongside the Coiste Gnó to discuss collaborations going forward.
- I attended a Department of Education engagement meeting with post-primary stakeholders with the Uachtarán.
- I met with the Sinn Féin spokesperson for education, Donnchadh Ó' Laoghaire to discuss our shared goals for education and to propose meeting bi-monthly alongside the Uachtarán, Education Officer and Uachtarán Oinigh.
- I attended the Climate Strike in Dublin on behalf of ISSU with the ECMA changemakers and several other Coiste Gnó and Regional Officers.
- I met with the Joint Managerial Body (JMB) alongside the Uachtarán.
- Met with the NPCPP regarding the Student and Parent Charter.
- Met with USI for introductions and discussing the Submission on LC reform
- Worked on the Opening Statement, executive summary and the LC reform submission alongside the Uachtarán
- Attended a Civic education training by JEF in Berlin on behalf of the ISSU and OBESSU
- Attended the TY Expo with the Uachtarán and Education Officer to promote the ISSU
- Assisted in CG meeting planning and Skills and EA planning
- Organised a Vote @ 16 event in collaboration with NYCI that resulted in the creation of a Vote at 16 network of youth organisations.
- Led an Internal prep team working on amendments to the student and parent charter bill

Education Officer:

• Oireachtas Submission on Leaving Certificate Reform:

The Uachtarán was invited by the Joint Committee on Education, Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science to send a 5 page submission on Leaving Certificate Reform, highlighting six key areas of: Assessment Options, Key Subject Areas and Digital Learning, Access Equality and Wellbeing Supports, Higher and Further Education Requirements, Vocational Options and Career Paths, Irish Language and Irish

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Medium Education, & International Evidence and Best Practice. The submission is due for submission on the 6th of October.

LCA Survey:

The group working on the LCA survey has completed the survey questions and it will be approved by the CG, and put onto SurveyMonkey this week. We will launch it shortly and will be doing in-person town hall consultations in schools, so if your school does LCA please, please do let me know!!

• Senior Cycle Reform Report Academic Paper with the ESRI:

We have made progress on the SCR Report Academic Paper on our end, we are just waiting for a response from the ESRI to progress to the next stages. If you'd like to be involved in the writing of the paper please do let me know!

• Launched the ISSU Education Team 21/22:

I'm delighted to have launched the ISSU Education Team 21/22 this week. This being how I got involved in the ISSU I'm very excited to see what this team can achieve. I encourage everyone that has an interest to sign up!

CBA Handbook:

The Donegal ROs, a Dun Laoghaire - Rathdown RO, the Communications Officer and I started the CBA Handbook. The CBA Handbook will be a guide to understanding what CBAs are, what is expected of a CBA and tips and tricks to making a good CBA! As always, if you'd like to be involved please do let me know!

RSE HSE

I reviewed RSE materials for the HSE Advisory Group and also attended the HSE Advisory Group meeting with the Uachtarán

SSUNI

I met with the Executive of the Secondary Students Union of Northern Ireland alongside the Coiste Gnó to discuss collaborations going forward.

TY Expo

I attended TY Expo (our first in-person ISSU event since 2020!) alongside the Uachtarán and Leas-Uachtarán.

ECMA Event

I attended the Climate Strike in Dublin on behalf of ISSU with the ECMA changemakers and several other Coiste Gnó and Regional Officers.

Meeting w/ Sinn Féin Spokesperson

I met with the Sinn Féin spokesperson for education, Donnchadh Ó' Laoghaire to discuss our shared goals for education and to propose meeting bi-monthly alongside the Uachtarán, Leas-Uachtarán, and Uachtarán Oinigh.

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Rúnaí:

- SSUNI Meetings: Organised meetings between the Coiste Gnó and the SSUNI Executive
- Skills Academy: Leading Skills Academy planning
- Extraordinary Assembly: Leading EA planning

Oifigeach na Gaeilge:

- Irish language & Irish Medium Education section of the LC Reform submission.
- Planning for Traenáil na nOifigeach.
- Social media and website translations.
- Planning and launch of the Imeacht Eolas Fé T1 agus T2 October 6th.
- Continuous implementation of the scéim teanga.
- Met with Conradh na Gaeilge and the Grúpa Oibre don Oideachas.

Communications Officer:

- Skills Academy
 - Promotional Material
 - Research
 - Quotations
 - Designs
 - Suppliers
 - Approval and Finance Budgeting
 - Skills Merch
 - Research
 - Quotations
 - Designs
 - Suppliers
 - Approval and Finance Budgeting
 - Skills Branding
 - o Online Social Media Posts
 - Website Page
- ISSU Coiste Gnó & Secretariat Jackets
 - Research
 - Quotations

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- Designs
- o Suppliers
- o Forms and Orders
- Approval and Finance Budgeting

• ExitEntry Collaboration

- Public Launch
- First Posts

TY Expo

- Promotional Material and Merch
 - Research
 - Quotations
 - Designs
 - Suppliers
 - Approval and Finance Budgeting

• A Student Guide To Problem Solving:

- Design/Graphics
- Publication to website

• Student council training videos

- Script Review
- Meetings and Planning (w/Mohammad, RLSO & Emma, SETL)

• Education for Sustainable Development Working Group

- Graphics
- Website Page
- Social Media Content

Social Media Strategy/Policy

- o Review
- o Redesign
- Proposal at Coiste Gnó Meeting
- Approval

Newsletters

- Monthly Updates Newsletter
- Working Group Updates Newsletter

• Education Team Working Group

- o Graphics
- Website Page
- Social Media Content

• Disability Delegation Working Group

Graphics

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- Website Page
- Social Media Content

• Social Media Graphics/Posts

- ESD Working Group
- Student Council Training
- Leaving Cert Dates
- Best of Luck, LC Results Day
- o ISIC x ISSU
- ExitEntry
- Regional Councils
- o Become a member school
- Education Team Working Group
- Disability Delegation Working Group

Website

- Introduced Search Bar feature
- Rearrange sections
- Updated banners
- Updated and modified home page
- General Updates and Changes

• ISIC Student Card

- Public Launch
- o Graphics
- Website Page
- Online Branding
- Online Campaign
- Social Media Posts
- Physical Promotional Materials

Regional Councils

- Each Region Graphics
- Website Page
- Website Events Creation
- Redesign of region map
- Redesign of new regions
- Social Media Posts

• EA:

- o Graphics
- o Website Page
- Online branding

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• Cosite Gnó Meeting Minutes:

Website Publishing

Constitution Reform:

- Leading Constitution Reform Internal Group
- First draft of changes made

• Charity Impact Awards:

- Helped with ISSU submission for the Charity Impact Awards with LC Submission.
- Video Submission and Video Editing

• LC Submission

o Inputted on the digital literacy section of the submission

• Logo Redesign:

- All logo options designed
- Presentation of changes underway

• Wexford Region Bonding:

- Consulted and meet with Wexford Regional Officers
 - Regional Council Planning
 - Cluster Meeting Event October 5th

ISSU Wexford Head-Quarters

- Spoke with the National Coordinator of ICTU and One Movement, out discuss ISSU's relationship/access to resources with local trade unions in Wexford.
- I discussed our position beforehand with the Uacharán and ran through our draft relations document.
- Met with Chairperson of the Wexford Trade Union Council (SIPTU), Secretary of Council (FORSA) and Assistant Secretary (SIPTU) following my discussions with ICTU alongside Wexford Regional Officer Ellen in the SIPTU Wexford Trade Union Office.
- Outlined the work of the ISSU and our position. We presented the contents of the document to the trade union council:
 - Long-term standing relationship,
 - Training and Mentorship,
 - Use of Office space,
 - Lobbying,
 - Resources / Translation,
 - What we can also bring to the relationship,
- The meeting ended tremendously successfully with the launch of the second ISSU offices, The ISSU Wexford Regional Office.
- Meeting Outcomes:

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- Plan in the future to hold a form Wexford Skills Academy and have access to the office hub.
- Wexford Trade Unions (SIPTU, FORSA, ICTU) all willing to attend and give workshops at any Wexford ISSU events held.
- The Wexford ISSU Regional Officers and Wexford Coiste Gnó/MAC members are able to utilise these spaces for meetings and events.
- Wexford Regional Officers and Coiste Gnó officers and other relevant officers are able to use a space in this office to complete their work.
- The space can be available to us 24/7, 365 days of the year with prior notice given.
- The Wexford ISSU Regional Officers can sit on the Wexford regional Trade Union Council.

Equality Officer:

• Student Council Resources

- Worked beside the Disability and RLSO officers to continue the development of student council resources
- Made contact with Anytime of the Month and Active* Consent to request the use of their second-level resources in the publication of our resources

• Herstory.ie Engagement

- Am currently in the process of gathering a list of young, female activists from across Ireland to display at Herstory's Brigid's Day Festival
- Am planning to look further into the logistics of creating a potential book or online collection of the stories of these women for awareness-raising and potentially profit for the union
- Have yet to hear back about the status of their funding, but ISSU will have the opportunity to shape Herstory's second-level resources

Skills Academy

 The Disability Officer and I are planning Accessibility Training for the upcoming Skills Academy

• BeLongTo Engagement

- The Disability Officer and I met with BeLongTo to discuss their future campaigns and our involvement in November's StandUp Week
- Continued to represent ISSU at BeLongTo's Education Sector Advisory Group Meetings

National Homeless and Housing Coalition

Continued my representation of the union at coalition meetings

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 Am planning to bring up concerns regarding minimal youth engagement in campaigns

Vote at 16

Liaised with various speakers for our initial event in conjunction with NYCI

Equality Legislation Review

- Continued my work on the review alongside an tUachtarán Oinigh, an Rúnaí and the Disability Officer
- Engaged with BeLongTo on their plans for a submission
- Attended the ECMA study trip
- Presented at Empowering Generations: Youth panel with Community Foundation Ireland
- Preparation to present at the upcoming Coastal Communities Adapting Together:
 Exchanging Knowledge and Best Practice Across borders 2021 conference on behalf of ISSU
- Attended IHERC's Young People's Focus Group on behalf of ISSU to feed into their strategy and prioritise the issues of young people over the next couple of years
- Engaged with SSUNI Equality Officer on potential cross-border projects
- Letter to the Irish Traveller Movement on Traveller Engagement in the union

Disability Officer:

• External Communications

- BelonaTo
- SSUNI
 - The Coiste Gnó met with the SSUNI executives to discuss cross-border relations, remit projects, and future collaborations.
- Direct student engagement and communication

• Written Submissions

- The Leaving Certificate Reform Oireachtas Submission
- The Consultation on the Review of the Equality Acts

Working Groups

- LCA
 - Invited by the Education Officer to the LCA Working Group.
 - Assisting with the formatting and logistics of report writing.
- Disability Delegation
 - Launched the Disability Delegation Working Group as mandated by directive policy WEL29.
 - Applications are currently open, you can find more information here.

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• Event Preparation

- Skills Academy
 - Alongside the Equality Officer, we are planning the Accessibility to Activism workshop for Skills Academy.
- Regional Councils
 - Attending Cork County and Cork City Regional Councils.

Accessibility

- The Easy-to-Read ISSU documents have now been published on our website alongside the other ISSU documentation.
- Additionally, you can find them <u>here</u>.
- As mandated, I have also conducted my monthly review of the Accessibility Guidelines.

International Officer:

- Direct student engagement and communication.
- Working with Dermot (International Officer, Secondary Students Union of Northern Ireland) on cross-border relations.
- Meeting with the executive of SSUNI.
- Working with OBESSU on making SSUNI a member-organisation.
- Working on Leaving Certificate Reform Submission.

Regional Liaison & Support Officer:

Regional Councils

- o Planning Regional Councils alongside the Regional Officers, all dates have been provisionally confirmed and times. Working on finding venues for certain locations with Emma.
- Supporting Regional Officers with setting an agenda
- Officially launched Regional Councils on the 27th of September, went on the ISSU Instagram story to launch them. More details can be found here">here.
- Going to attend as many Regional Councils as possible for myself.

• Regional Projects

- Helping Regional Officers with their Regional Projects.
- Meeting with some Regions again to check up on how they are doing within their role and to check if I can assist in any.

Regional Updates

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 Myself and the Regional Officers have introduced monthly ROB updates to keep different bodies within ISSU updated on the excellent work they are doing with their Regional Councils and Regional Projects.

• Student Council Resources

- "A Student's Guide to Problem Solving" was launched on the website and can be viewed here.
- Working on student council resource video script

• Charity Impact Awards

o I led on the ISSU submission for the Charity Impact Awards the Uachtáran, Uachtáran Oinigh, Communications Officer and Regional Officers: Caitlin-Faye Maniti (Donegal), Denis Lynch (Louth-Meath) and Ondine Travers (Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown) helped me with it.

School Mail-Out

- Worked with the Uachtarán on drafting letters for the mailout and getting the relevant ROs to sign the letter for their region.
- Working on developing a training alongside Emma for Student Council Liaison Teachers and Student Council Chairpersons.
- I spoke at the Mayo Tusla Youth Committee conference on 'Youth Participation' alongside the Uachtarán
- I spoke at the launch event of *Digital Voices: Progressing children and young* people's right to be heard through social and digital a report undertaken by the Ombudsman for children Dr Niall Muldoon.
- I attended the ECMA event in Dublin on behalf of ISSU with the ECMA changemakers and ISSU Officers.

Sustainability Officer:

- Dept. of Education ESD Advisory Group meeting
- Gave workshop at EYP Ireland Roundtable event
- Opened and closed ESD WG applications
- Organising Sept. 24th strikes with FFF
- Started work on Clean Air Week campaign