

Adult Learners' Festival Lobby for Learning

Friday 24th February 2012

About

In a time of cutbacks, a public sector recruitment embargo and a severely under resourced adult education service, AONTAS is encouraging adult and community education groups nationwide to lobby local and national politicians for a better resourced adult and community education sector. AONTAS will host a policy focused event to mark the end of the Adult Learners' Festival 2012.

Event & Activity Ideas

I'm a Politician, Get Me Outta Here!

A key aim of the Adult Learners' Festival 2012 is to keep adult learning on the political agenda. Why not invite local politicians to take part in a panel discussion, question and answer session or to meet learners face to face to listen to their concerns.

LobbyOnline

Hold a 'Learn to E-mail' session. Participants can set up an e-mail address and learn how to use e-mail. For *Lobby for Learning Day* why not encourage participants to e-mail local politicians with their concerns about the adult and community education sector?

Oireachtas Games courtesy of www.oireachtas.ie

Learn about the Oireachtas and the world of parliamentary politics in a fun way with the three online games. Visit www.oireachtas.ie

Beat the Bell

Answer each question before your time runs out - if you hear the Ceann Comhairle's bell you've been too slow.

Parliament Pairs

Find pairs of images of famous politicians before the time runs out. If you are quick enough you may get on the leader board.

Lobby for Learning Petition

Have there been severe cut backs in your organisation? Are you trying to do more with less resources? Let politicians and decision makers know! Decide on three key changes that need to be made to ensure that the adult and community sector in your area continues to be supported. Ask learners and members of the public to sign your petition. Why not hold an event and present the petition to your local politicians.

The Adult Learners' Festival 2012 is kindly sponsored by:



Get to Know Your Local Politicians!

Can you name all your local politicians? Would you recognise them? Why not, put up photos of your local politicians in the centre along with their party and contact details and encourage staff and learners to view the board and contact their local representatives. You can combine this with a lobbying skills workshop.

Political history – past and present

Why not mark *Lobby for Learning* day by organizing a visit to Leinster house. You could gain a historical and educational knowledge of both the building itself and the workings of the two Houses. Visit www.oireachtas.ie for more information.

Quick Fixes

- Organise a behind the scenes....at the Dáil / at the university / at the library
- Launch adult learning research, statistics, booklets or exhibitions
- E-mail your local and national politicians about your concerns for the adult learning sector
- Write a letter to the national and local papers about your concerns for the the Adult Education Sector
- If you can't hold an event why not distribute the AONTAS FREE information booklet What Next? Contact us at mail@aontas.com for some copies

Useful Organisations

Visit the Oireachtas site which includes political party contacts and information on the Seanad (www.oireachtas.ie)

AONTAS Can Help!

We understand that it's often difficult to find the time to hold an event or run an activity so AONTAS have put a number of resources in place to make it as easy as possible for your organisation to become involved in the Adult Learners' Festival 2012.

An Event in a Bag jampacked with everything you need to promote your event

A local contact in each area to share their knowledge and experience

Activity and Event ideas on www.adultlearnersfestival.com

Calendar of Events at www.adultlearnersfestival.com

AONTAS staff on hand for any guidance and assistance you might need

Don't have the time to organise an event or activity from scratch? You can still be part of the Adult Learners' Festival by scheduling an existing event during the festival week.

Don't forget to keep AONTAS up to date on events or activities you have planned. Register your event to take part at www.adultlearnersfestival.com



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