

ADULT LEARNERS FESTIVAL

Lobby for Learning

Friday, 26 February 2010

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 2010.

Event & Activity Ideas

I'm a Politician, Get Me Outta Here!

A key aim of the Adult Learners' Festival 2010 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.

Lobby Online

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.

Word Scramble

Unscramble as many words as you can, and try to get on the high score table.

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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. Ask learners and members of the public to sign your petition. Why not hold an event and present the petition to your local politicians.

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 up in the centre along with their party and contact details and encourage staff and learners to view the board. You can combine this with a lobbying skills workshop!

Quick Fixes

- **Hold a workshop on job seeking skills in partnership with local organisations**
- **'Meet the Tutors' Set up an information stand in your local shopping centre or canteen to attract potential adult learners**
- **Include a crossword or information on learning opportunities with staff payslips**
- **Organise a taster class or demonstration for potential learners**
- **Behind the scenes....at the museum / at the university / at the library / at the art gallery**
- **Launch adult learning research or statistics**
- **E-mail your local and national politicians about your concerns for the adult learning sector**

Useful Organisations

- Oireachtas (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 2010.

- An Event in a Bag jam-packed 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 at www.adultlearnersfestival.com

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