



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála
Baile Átha Cliath 2

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Dublin 2

28 January 2015

Dear Principal,

I am writing to you regarding the Global Horizons Youth Initiative, which was launched by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade in September 2014, with a view to engaging Irish students in both international affairs, and the work of his Department in promoting Ireland's interests and values around the globe.

The Global Horizons Youth Initiative encompasses three core strands. One of these is the 'Diplomats in the Classroom' programme, which aims to create discussion and debate amongst second-level students on the work of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and on Ireland's place in a changing world.

As part of the initiative, officials from the Department will visit schools across Ireland between February and May 2015 to pilot the 'Diplomats in the Classroom' programme. They will hold interactive workshops in which students will discuss and debate three key elements of Irish Foreign Policy: *Our People, Our Interests and Values, and Ireland's Prosperity*. Workshops will be approximately 40 to 80 minutes in duration and will be targeted at Senior Cycle, and in particular Transition Year students.

The main workshop activity will help to build three of the five key skills of senior cycle: Critical and creative thinking, working with others and communicating. For transition year students, workshops will build on knowledge gained from Civic, Social and Political Education (CSPE) during the Junior Cycle. Workshops will also touch on areas of the curriculum including the History and Geography courses of the Established Leaving Certificate, and on elements of the Social Education curriculum in the Leaving Certificate Applied.

If you would be interested in officials from the Department visiting your school to host a workshop, please register by email by close of business on **13 February 2015**. A member of staff from the Department will be in touch soon with further information about this initiative.

Yours sincerely,

Niall Burgess
Secretary General
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade