



# Aiste an Oireachtais



# Oireachtas Essay Competition

10<sup>th</sup> September, 2024

Dear Principal,

Greetings from the Houses of the Oireachtas. We invite your school, staff and students to take part in our third **Oireachtas Essay Competition** which takes its inspiration this year from the forthcoming 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the birth of ‘The Liberator’, Daniel O’Connell.

We are asking Transition Year, 5th Year and 6th Year students in the Leaving Cert cycle and AS/A Level students across the island of Ireland to send us essays on the topic:

### *‘Parliamentary Politics Liberates’*

This year, we welcome PTSB as our Principal Sponsors and welcome back CJ Fallon as Associate Sponsor. We have a prize fund of €6,000 for winning students and schools. Our National and Regional winners, their parents and teachers will be invited to the Awards Ceremony in Leinster House in Spring 2025. Students whose essays are ‘Highly Commended’ will receive cash prizes and presentations in their schools.

Please see [www.oireachtasessay.ie](http://www.oireachtasessay.ie) or [www.aisteanoireachtais.ie](http://www.aisteanoireachtais.ie) for more information about entering the Oireachtas Essay Competition – as well as photos and footage of last year’s Award Ceremony and winning essays from previous years.

To enter the Competition, students must register on either of the above websites by **8<sup>th</sup> November 2024**. Essays must be submitted by **22<sup>nd</sup> November 2024**.

The work of the Oireachtas, NI Assembly, UK Parliament and other assemblies needs the interest and input of young people concerned about the future of democracy and the successful resolution of conflicts at home and abroad. It is vital that our young people are encouraged to reflect on politics and to consider their connection with the institutions that shape all our lives.

**Would you mind having the enclosed posters displayed and sharing this invitation with Department Heads (e.g. English, Irish, History, Politics and Society, Religion etc)? We realise that you have a large in-tray and a busy timetable so we greatly appreciate anything you and your staff can do to promote this Competition.**

With best wishes and thanks,

Seán Ó Fearghaíl, TD  
*Ceann Comhairle, Dáil Éireann*

Senator Ronán Mullen  
*Competition Convenor*