

# Muinín Catalyst Sustainable STEAM Newsletter

April 2024



## Welcome to Our Spring Newsletter!

We have had a busy start of the Spring term! We have continued working with external experts to bring some exciting upcoming micro-modules and conducting research with teachers and learners who have used our resources over the past two years.

In this edition, we have an insight on the Reimagine Education conference which our [MCSS Programme](#) Co-Lead, Rebecca White, presented at and also accepted an award through her work with The Ocean Race. For our other articles we focus on our content development process and participation experience through a series of interviews. We interviewed one of our external experts Dr. Tara O'Neil who developed two micro-modules for our Future of Innovation and Enterprise programme. In our other interviews, we introduce you to our informal learning programmes within MCSS through the experience of two participants, Dan, who took part in our Space Messengers programme and Sofia on her experience with our First Lego League weekly sessions.

### Navigating the Future of Education: Insights from Reimagine Education Conference at Khalifa University, Abu Dhabi

The [QS Reimagine Education](#) conference at Khalifa University, Abu Dhabi is considered the ultimate gathering for a global community of 'Reimagers'... [Read](#)

### Space Messengers International From A Learner's Perspective

Since October, Future Focus21c has been working with Agnes Chavez, [STEMarts Lab](#) in New Mexico, as an international partner on the STEMarts Youth Space Programme... [Read](#)

### Step into the Future(s): Introducing Tara O'Neil

As a part of our External Expertise interview series, we are delighted to introduce [Dr. Tara O'Neil](#). Tara has developed two micro-modules in our new Transition Year programme... [Read](#)

### First Lego League : From A Participant's Perspective

Since October, SMARTlab Skelligs Future Focus21c has been working with Olha Bardo, to co-deliver [First Lego League's Challenge](#) programme... [Read](#)



## NAVIGATING THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION: INSIGHTS FROM REIMAGINE EDUCATION CONFERENCE AT KHALIFA UNIVERSITY, ABU DHABI

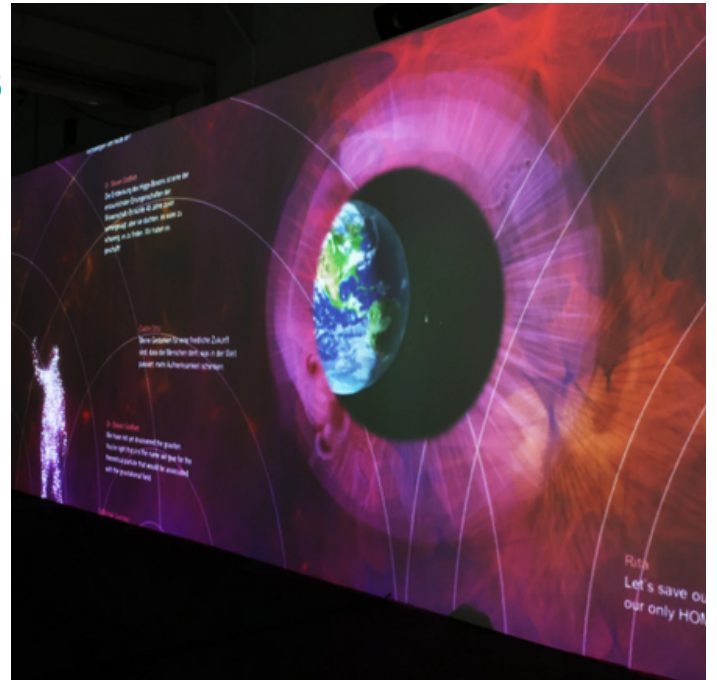
The QS Reimagine Education conference at Khalifa University, Abu Dhabi is considered the ultimate gathering for a global community of 'Reimagers'— university leaders, faculty and educators, innovators, investors, startups, employers, and policymakers, who are pioneering the transformation of education, including K12, higher education, business education and lifelong learning...

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## SPACE MESSENGERS INTERNATIONAL FROM A LEARNER'S PERSPECTIVE

Since October, Future Focus21c has been working with Agnes Chavez, STEMarts Lab in New Mexico, as an international partner on the STEMarts Youth Space Programme, developing aspects of the Space Messengers International (SMI) education programme, for the Irish classroom. This partnership is a result of a long-term collaboration, on-going since 2011, between Dr Anita McKeown, and artist Agnes Chavez, and aligns with the development of our SMARTlab Skelligs / SMARTLab IDRC, UCD Muinín Catalyst Sustainable STEAM, Future of Space programme...

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## Latest News

- Featured Monthly Resource - We launched our featured monthly resource in April 2023. Check out our March 2024 featured resource 'Sacred Trees of Ireland' and visit the archive to see more.
- New Platform: Access our new platform here.
- MCSS Programme co-lead, Dr Anita McKeown, FRSA FIPM presented Muinín Catalyst Sustainable STEAM to UCD's School of Education as part of their Research Seminar Series.
- Our First Lego League teams took away Best Robot Design and Best Innovation project at the Galway Regional Finals Read more here.
- Our Future of the Ocean programme was selected to be part of the ECOP Programme's Ocean Literacy Series and featured at the 2024 UN Ocean Decade Conference in Barcelona.
- We attended the Transition Year Teachers' Participation Network conference in Athlone, and got the chance to talk with teachers about the upcoming changes to Transition Year.



## STEP INTO THE FUTURE(S): INTRODUCING TARA O'NEIL

As a part of our External Expertise interview series, we are delighted to introduce Dr. Tara O'Neil. Tara has developed two micro-modules in our new Transition Year programme, The Future of Innovation and Enterprise.

The Future of Innovation and Enterprise is a values-driven programme tailored for 15 / 16 year olds and Transition Year learners introducing Circular Design Thinking. Our programme merges circular economic principles, social, emotional, digital and environmental literacies with Design Thinking, a powerful framework for creative problem solving...

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## FIRST LEGO LEAGUE : FROM A PARTICIPANT'S PERSPECTIVE

Since October, SMARTlab Skelligs Future Focus21c has been working with Olha Bardo, to co-deliver First Lego League's Challenge programme. Last year, we partnered with Olha and Foróige to deliver our first experience of FLL followed by a summer camp, Aug.2023. This gave us a chance to explore the programme which aligns with our INCLUDE Learning Labs programme - promoting 21st century sustainable mindsets, with SMARTlab Skelligs / SMARTLab IDRC, UCD and Living Iveragh, and the Muinín Catalyst Sustainable STEAM programme.

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## In our next issue

Subscribe to our newsletters and media channels to see exciting content and developments. In our next newsletter we will have updates on:

- In the final newsletter of our Science Foundation Ireland and Department of Education-funded Muinín Catalyst Sustainable STEAM programme, we'll be reflecting on the project and sharing news about our legacy work.
- Announcing our new Future of Space programme with an insight into our STEAM Day in April with Virtual Visit to CERN's Hadron Collider.
- Hear about our exciting transatlantic partnership with STEMarts Lab as part of the legacy work from Muinín Catalyst Sustainable STEAM.



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**Future Focus21c**  
Tooling up education for the 21c

