

# The Irish Second Level Students Union (ISSU)



## Report by Aoibhin Ni Gleasain

The Irish Second Level Student's Union (ISSU) was founded in 2008 and is the national representative body of students in Ireland 'led *by* students, *for* students.' The union allows the voices and opinions of young people to be uplifted and brought to the decision-making table.

This year Loreto Wexford's Student Council elected me, Aoibhin Ni Gleasain, to be our student representative. My role as student representative is to make our student body aware of the union, its work and to try get you involved! As well as that, I engage with the union to relay what's happening in Loreto, and occasionally am called to participate in events of behalf of our student body. One of these events is Annual Assembly which occurred on Sunday, May 9<sup>th</sup>. Annual Assembly is when once a year (typically) all member schools of the union are called to meet and through their representatives elect new leadership.

Within our union there is a chain of command, we have the national student executive (NSE), this is what the group of young people who were elected to various positions of power within the union are called. The positions they can be elected to are Uachtaran or President, then the Leas Uachtaran or Deputy, Runai, Disability Officer, Education Officer, Communications Officer, Equality Officer, Welfare Officer, International Officer, Sustainability Officer, Regional Liaison & Support Officer, Oifigeach na Gaeilge and Honorary President.

As well as this, to make sure that those in power are staying to task and using their position for the benefit of all, we have the Monitoring & Advisory Committee (MAC). However, electing leadership is only one part of Annual Assembly, we also made amendments to our constitution, saw an overview of the work done throughout the last year, voted on positions we take as a union on social issues and got to see what is happening throughout the union.