

The headline for this article deliberately echoes the title of a bleak series of books by **French philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre**.

But that's where the similarity ends – this column won't be an outpouring of existential angst.

Instead it's a celebration:
A celebration of the fact that each year my IEA colleagues and I – principally Editorial Director Philip Booth, Education Director Steve Davies and Deputy Editorial Director Richard Wellings – travel thousands of miles espousing the free market cause to thousands of students.

Of course it's not the journeys that give pleasure (far from it, standing on a windswept rail platform hundreds of miles from home is never likely to engender excitement!); it's the outcome that delivers immense satisfaction.

At schools and universities – from Edinburgh to Exeter and beyond – I'm **staggered by the welcome** we receive. Or, more accurately, **the welcome our ideas receive**.

It's truly gratifying to see so many students embrace our credo of a smaller state, much lower taxes and much greater economic freedoms.

And it **bodes well for the future** of our country that so many students see this as the way forward.

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If you're running a student society and would like a speaker – or if you're involved in a student debating society - we'd be **delighted to put forward the case for free markets and liberty**. In the first instance, contact Steve Davies: sdavies@iea.org.uk.

Wherever we can, we'll readily accept – knowing we'll be taking further steps on the roads to freedom•

Mark Littlewood IEA Director General mlittlewood@iea.org.uk



@iealondon