

Easter 2019

Our Vision

Junior Cycle for Teachers exists to inspire, support and empower teachers in the implementation of junior cycle Education

(JCT Development Strategy 2018-2021)

Webinars

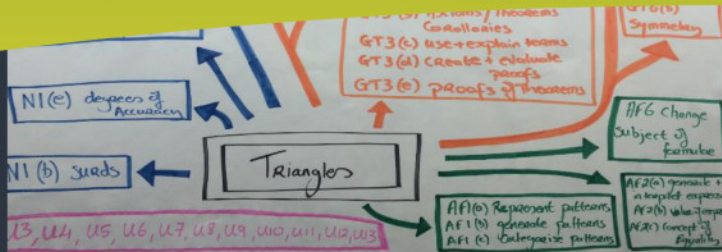
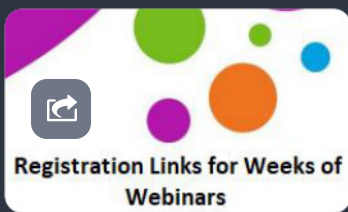
WEEKS OF WEBINARS is back! We are hosting a series of elective webinars over the coming weeks to support teachers across a range of junior cycle areas. Two different webinars each night across three weeks:

Week 1: March 25th-28th;
Week 2: April 1st-4th;
Week 3: April 8th-11th.

Twenty-three Webinars will be facilitated. There is something for everyone.

If you cannot attend on the night, all webinars and linked materials will be available on our website soon after the broadcast date.

Click on the link below for the full list of webinars and registration details.



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Welcome to our new look newsletter, issue 14, Easter 2019.

At this point in the current school year the bulk of our CPD facilitation in schools and education centres has been completed.



So far, in the whole-staff CPD space we have met with 27,596 teachers; 8,760 teachers attended our second teaching subject workshops last September and October, while over 22,000 teachers engaged in our subject CPD school cluster events this year. All of our elective CPD events continue to prove popular, including our STE(A)M and Arts in Junior Cycle workshops. Indeed, at the time of writing some 3,000 teachers have already registered for our 2019 #JCTWOW webinars event. We are indebted to all teachers for their engagement and continued support.

We are now beginning to plan and design our CPD programme of work for the 2019/2020 school year. Teachers can be assured of an even more comprehensive and diverse range of CPD supports next year.

This newsletter provides you with updates on our work across a range of areas, and contains useful links to our website, www.jct.ie, where you will find further information and resources. As always, we welcome feedback, so don't hesitate to contact us by email at info@jct.ie. Our pledge to schools and teachers is that we will continue to support the embedding of junior cycle reform in your school/centre to the highest of standards.

Dr. Pádraig Kirk
Director, CPD for Junior Cycle

Junior Cycle Coding in Action (JCCiA)

The Junior Cycle Coding in Action (JCCiA) National Conference 2019 recently took place in the Hodson Bay Hotel, Athlone. Almost fifty schools involved in this initiative came together to celebrate their achievements at an awards ceremony.

Participants had an opportunity to network with one another, to share experiences and engage in workshops led by our industry and third level coding partners.

Thank you to the schools who have applied to take part in the next phase of JCCiA. JCT will be in touch once the selection process is completed.



Congratulations to Ms. Burke from Athy College and all participating schools who received their certificates for their completion of JCCiA Coding with JCT.

L1 & L2 Short Course Specifications

Level 1

Around the World in eighty days

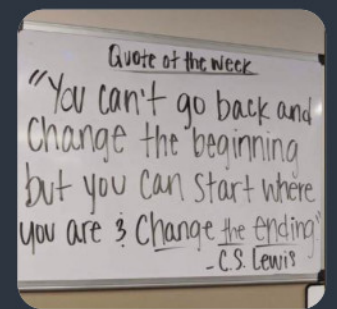
Food, Glorious Food.

Looking Well, Looking Good, Being Great

Level 2

Short Course
A Personal Project: Caring for Animals
 Level 2
 Specification for Junior Cycle Short Course

Short Course
CSI: Exploring Forensic Science
 Level 2
 Specification for Junior Cycle Short Course



Webinar

L2LPs and Inclusive Practices Webinar will take place on Thursday 4th April, 2019, 7.30pm - 8.30pm.

Register [here](#)

Level 1 Level 2 Learning Programmes

LEVEL 2 LEARNING PROGRAMMES

(L2LPs)

CPD FOR SCHOOL LEADERS

Places are limited.
 Invitation is extended to one member of school management

May 2019



The workshop will cover...

- Find out about the Level 2 Learning Programmes
- Explore the implementation journey for L2LPs
- Identify next steps for your SET team and subject teachers
- Work on an action plan for the enactment of L2LPs in your own school context

THIS CPD IS FOR SCHOOL LEADERS WHO ARE NEW TO L2LPs.

THIS IS A REPEAT WORKSHOP.

May 7th 2019
Drumcondra EC

May 8th 2019
Limerick EC

May 9th 2019
Carrick on Shannon EC

May 10th 2019
Cork EC

Start: 9am
Finish: 1pm

Lunch provided

Optional: 2pm - 3pm
Introduction to the L1LPs

Please register on www.jctregistration.ie

https://twitter.com/JCTL1LPs_L2LPs

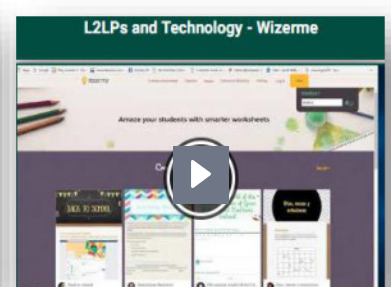
The L1LPs/L2LPs team will continue visiting special and mainstream schools up to the middle of May. If your school would like further information on these programmes let us know and we will contact you. The team will be visiting schools again next year. Schools should register their interest by emailing their school's name, roll number and contact person to sarah.nally@jct.ie

Assessment of Level 2 Learning Programmes is school-based and ongoing. Students create a portfolio of evidence, which demonstrates their achievement of learning outcomes over the three years of Junior Cycle. Evidence can be hard copy, audio, video, blogs, photographs, artefacts and so on; this promotes much more accessible learning and assessment activities. This multi-modal form of assessment provides opportunities to showcase a students strengths, skills and talents.

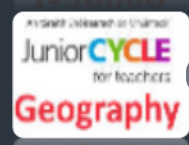
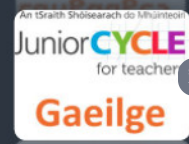
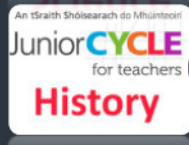
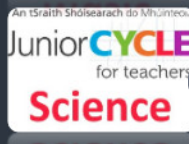
On 1st March, the team held our first Inclusion Conference jointly hosted with the NCCA. The event was a highlight of the year, and we look forward to continuing the work on Universal Design for Learning, Inclusive Teaching, Learning and Assessment as we move into next year's CPD.

Outreach work has seen the team presenting for Down Syndrome Ireland events, NCSE, Short Courses symposium, and going forward IATSE.

Ensure you are up to date with recent developments and materials by visiting our website Follow our twitter feed to get updates and other useful links,



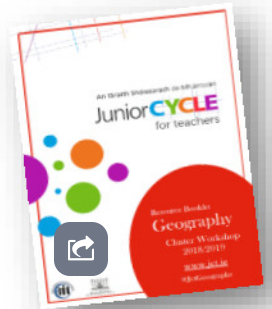
JCT has nineteen twitter handles to provide support to teachers



Subject Updates

The **JCT Geography's** team's PLE (Professional Learning Experience) delivery has come to an end. The presentation and associated teacher's resource booklet can be accessed below and from our website [here](#).

The team are currently in design mode focusing upon developing what teachers defined as their needs for our Professional Learning Experience Day 2019/2020.



This day will focus upon the CBAs, Features of Quality and SLARs within our subject. Currently, our associates are trialing some work for us as a team to ensure it meets the current needs of geography teachers.

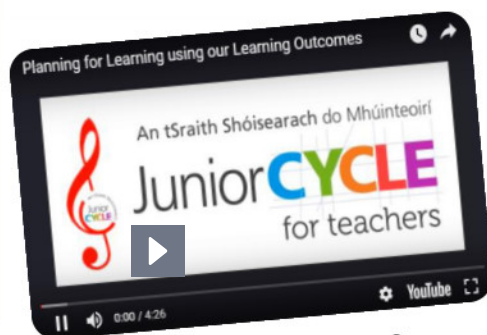
Our upcoming **Geography Webinar** scheduled for Tuesday, April 2nd from 7.30pm to 8.30pm is entitled: "Geography in the News": Suggested approaches to completing CBA 1 in Junior Cycle Geography". We will outline some strategies that teachers can use with their students to help prepare them for their first Geography CBA in second year. We will also be making reference to the element of sustainability through the lens of the sustainable development goals (DES, Action Plan). We are also delighted that Mr. Peter Lydon, President of the Association of Geography Teachers (AGTI), will be a guest speaker during our webinar. Teachers can register by clicking on this [link](#)

The **Inaugural JCT Geography M2M Symposium** will take place on Saturday 30th March. The symposium will focus on themes that relate to teaching Junior Cycle Geography. There will be workshops that will enable teachers to create connections with our landscape and environment.

The team have been creating active links with the Geological Survey of Ireland, Esri's ArcGIS for Schools and the Cool Planet Experience whereupon we have been focusing upon the links between geology, weather and climate change that align to the Junior Cycle Geography Specification's strands, elements and learning outcomes. We hope to bring you more news of this development in September 2019.



Our **Music Webinar** entitled 'Creating and Exploring Junior Cycle Music' will take place on Tuesday, 9th April 2019 from 6.15 -7.15pm. To register for our webinar, please click [here](#)



We have compiled a short survey that will form part of our conversations during this webinar. This survey will provide information and guidance to the JCT Music Team as we continue to support and assist you in engaging with the two Classroom-Based Assessments.

Click on the image to view our presentation on planning and learning using learning outcomes.

Subject Updates

The **JCT History team** facilitated CPD to over 1,500 teachers from November to March at their second workshop, Bringing the Junior Cycle History Specification to Life in the Classroom. The Nature of History strand, the dual approach to assessment, and reflection as a key component of learning were the key themes that underpinned the day.

Teachers enjoyed exploring CBA 1: The Past in my Place, and CBA 2: A Life in Time, and there was a consensus that the CBAs have the potential to ignite students' curiosity about the past and support real student engagement with historical research. Click on the image to view presentation on conducting historical research.



The team is looking forward to meeting another 1,500 colleagues in the Autumn time when the workshop will be delivered in Education Centres around the country. Another CPD opportunity for History teachers is coming up on Wednesday 3rd April between 7.30pm and 8.30pm when the team will deliver their 2019 webinar, which will focus on Working with Evidence in the Classroom. Please click [here](#) or use the QR code below to register.

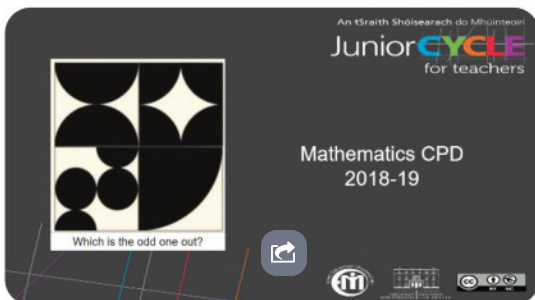


Another significant event coming up is the symposium, which is scheduled to take place on Saturday 11th May in the historic setting of Collins Barracks. The symposium promises to be a hugely exciting event as historians and educationalists come together to explore the possibilities and opportunities presented by the Junior Cycle History specification. To keep up to date with the symposium and other JCT History events, please visit @JctHistory

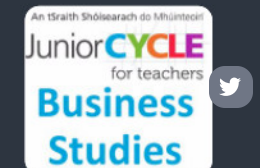
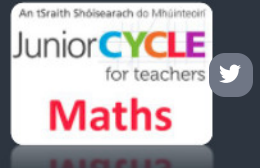
The **Inaugural JCT Mathematics Symposium** took place on Saturday 23rd March. The interactive workshops focused on Rich Tasks for the Classroom, Algebra Through the Lens of Functions, while the Digital Learning workshop explored working in OneNote as a dynamic interactive learning space. Follow us on twitter @jctMaths to keep up to date with news and current information.



The JCT Mathematics team are currently at design stage focusing upon developing what teachers defined as their needs for their Professional Learning Experience (PLE) Day 2019/2020. This year's PLE presentation and Planning for Teaching and Learning presentation can be accessed below.



Our twitter handles to support teachers



Subject Updates

The **Jct4 Team** of advisors are busy facilitating Professional Learning Experience (PLE) workshops across the country. These workshops primarily focus on supporting teachers as they begin to engage with their subject specifications. The turnout of teachers has been overwhelming with very positive feedback received across the three subject PLE workshops. The **Graphics Team** are making final preparations to the design of the PLE day, which will take place the week of 8th April 2019 and the week of 13th May 2019. Schools will have received correspondence from JCT recently requesting that Graphics teachers be registered and assigned to the relevant workshops. If you are a Graphics teacher make sure you are on the list.

Webinars for **Engineering and Wood Technology** will take place on April 1st. The Applied Technology webinar will take place April 8th. These webinars will focus on building on the learning from the recent PLE and on planning for first year in September 2019. Further information including key dates and registration details can be found in our Spring newsletters [here](#).

National Tree Week 2019 runs from 31st March – 7th April. Our Jct4 team is organising a **competition** for students to mark this occasion. Please join our mailing list here and follow us on Twitter @Jct4ed to keep up-to-date with this and other events.

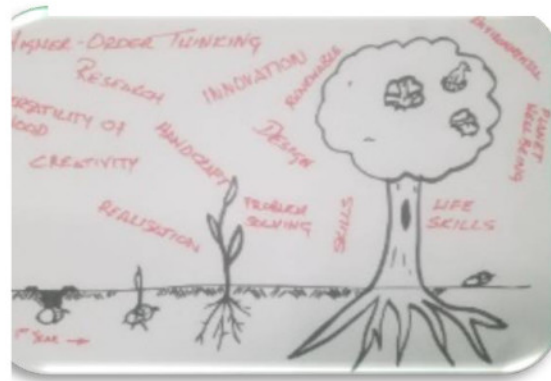
The **JCT Religious Education** team were both honoured and privileged to attend the ‘Holocaust Memorial Day’ ceremony in the Mansion House, Dublin on the evening of Sunday 27th January. The theme for the evening was learning from the past- lessons of today. Organised by the Holocaust Education Trust Ireland, the President of Ireland Michael D. Higgins opened the event as a keynote speaker with an eloquently powerful speech.

Ultimately, the ceremony was a stark reminder of the importance of Religious Education in fostering acceptance and understanding in today’s culturally diverse world.

The JCT RE team are pictured with Tommi Reichental, a Holocaust survivor, who will be speaking at the JCT Religious Education symposium, 6th April in DCU, in conjunction with the Irish Centre for Religious Education.



Applied Technology PLE workshop



Work Technology PLE Day 1



JCT Associate Forum

An important new development for JCT took place in February with the inaugural meeting of the JCT Associate Forum. Team leaders across whole school, L1/L2LP’s, subjects, short courses and leadership teams nominated associate members who would represent the 300 plus associate body now working with JCT.

The new Associate Forum chaired by Lorna Lavelle, Whole School Team Leader for Dublin Wicklow North is comprised of: Aoife Smith (L1L2LP), Brigid Corrigan and Clare Catterson (Whole School), Heather Ni Chathain (Irish), Jennifer Egan (Science), Patrick Kavanagh (CSPE), Trevor Galvin (Technologies) and Olive O’Connell (PE).

Through its work, the Forum will look at how the organisation can support, build professional capacity and gather the associate voice on issues, which support them across the organisation. Associates are an essential part of JCT team and each year we advertise for part time associate positions in subject areas and whole school delivery.

Student Voice: Bridge to Learning

The Student Voice – The BRIDGE to Learning project empowers students to participate meaningfully and collaboratively in improving their experience of school, encouraging their engagement in learning and improving teacher-student relationships.

JCT and NCCA have been working collaboratively with nine schools and over twenty teachers in Cavan / Monaghan ETB and Cork ETB in a three-year Erasmus Plus project, Student Voice – Bridge to Learning.

This project, which aims to develop different models of working in partnership with students in schools and in classrooms, will reach completion this June.

The teachers, students and schools involved have explored learning and teaching approaches that activate and develop students' voices, with a view to enabling students to become more active agents in their own learning.

The project will provide different models of working in partnership with students by giving them a voice and developing their skills and attitudes to become responsible and democratic citizens.



The aim is that young people will benefit in a range of different ways: increased confidence, self-esteem, responsibility, communication skills, qualities of leadership, and quality to listen to others.

Students will become more active learners and consequently develop their self-regulating abilities.



Student Voice – the BRIDGE to learning

Their engagement and motivation will increase by giving them a voice. Students will develop their competencies to become responsible and active citizens.

Teachers will reflect upon their teaching practices in order to optimize the learning of the learners. Thus, they will build commitment and capacity to work in partnership with students. The learning for all partners involved in this project has been immense.

This collaborative work has key learning to share on the experiences of teachers and students pursuing more authentic student voice in the school and in the classroom.

It also illuminates the impact a collaborative approach has on teachers professional development, in addition to the effect this has on students' experiences in the classroom.

Tracing the journey of this project to date, reveals the challenges and opportunities that exist in embedding a culture of student voice in every classroom in every school in Ireland.

JCT would like to thank the schools and teachers involved in this project. Their engagement with young people is truly inspiring and JCT is very excited to be now working on ways of sharing this learning with more schools and teachers across Ireland.

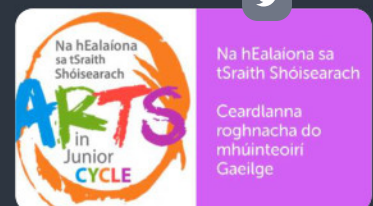


Creative Ireland Programme 2017-2022 and Junior Cycle for Teachers (JCT) are engaged presenting a series of professional development workshops for teachers to support engagement with the arts and learning in Junior Cycle. The workshops embody the principles and key skills, which underpin the new Framework for Junior Cycle and provide teachers with practical, creative methodologies to use in their classroom. The below links provide further information.

[Spring 2019 Elective Workshops of Junior Cycle Visual Arts and Home Economics.](#)

[Me and My Music initiative.](#)

Ar mhaith leat lá a chaitheamh ag obair le file agus scríbhneoir cáiliúil? Gheobhaidh tú moltaí praiticiúla faoi chuir chuige shimplí shultmhara chun cumas cumarsáide scoláirí a fhorbairt tríd an bhfilíocht. Deis den scoth! Iarr ar do Phríomhoide tú a chlárú anois. Féach thíos!



Short Courses

Philosophy

JCT facilitated its inaugural **Philosophy CPD** event on Saturday 2nd March in Blackrock Education Centre. This elective CPD programme is designed to support teachers who are teaching the Philosophy Short Course specification in Junior Cycle or teachers and school leaders who are considering introducing it to their school's curriculum in the future. There will be further CPD events this year in Cork Education Support Centre on Saturday 30th March 2019 and the Maldron Hotel, Galway on Saturday 13th April 2019. Teachers must be registered by their school via www.jctregistration.ie to attend these CPD events.

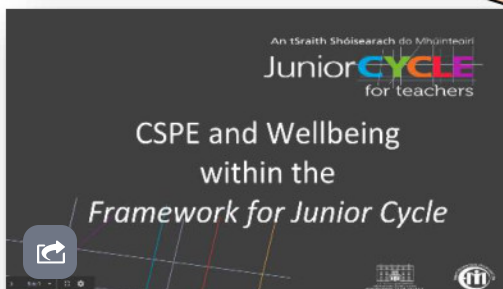
JCT is also facilitating a **Philosophy webinar** as part of our Weeks of Webinars programme. This webinar is titled Junior Cycle Philosophy: An overview of assessment. The webinar will take place on Thursday 11th April 2019, from 6.15pm-7.15pm. Teachers can register to attend this webinar by clicking [here](#).

The Philosophy CPD events are focused on exploring the Philosophy specification. The specification is structured into ten strands, all students must engage with Strand 1, which is the foundational strand. Teachers then select four of the remaining ten strands to engage with, depending on the interests of the students and teacher. The Philosophy specification can be accessed from [here](#). Further information about assessment in the Philosophy Short Course is available from [here](#).

The Philosophy Short Course specification supports a wide variety of approaches to assessment. Some learning outcomes lend themselves to once-off assessment, others to assessment on an ongoing basis as students engage in different learning activities such as questioning, discussing, arguing, explaining, listening, collaborating and presenting. In these contexts, students with their teachers and peers reflect upon and make judgements about their own and others' learning, based on feedback they give and receive. Ongoing assessment can support the student as they develop their skills in philosophy and in preparing for the Classroom-Based Assessment

Short Courses and Wellbeing

When planning a Wellbeing Programme schools should consider the NCCA developed short courses in PE, SPHE and CSPE. These are the result of widespread consultation with education partners to ensure that the courses address important, relevant and meaningful learning for young people in these subjects (Circular letter 0079/2019).



The following links provide easy access to Short Course Specifications

Wellbeing related Short Courses

Civic, Social & Political Education



Physical Education



Social, Personal & Health Education



Click on the presentation below to explore the potential of Short Courses

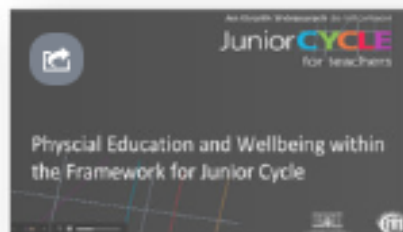


Short Courses

Physical Education

For the very first time in the history of Irish education, the Framework for Junior Cycle (2015) allows students at junior cycle to profile their learning achievement in **PE** on their final certificate, which is now known as the Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement (JCPA).

This is within the wider context of the introduction, on a phased basis, of PE as a Leaving Certificate subject, and the exciting introduction of a new Senior Cycle Framework in PE. PE is also a Wellbeing related short course. The JCT presentation provides further information on PE and Wellbeing within the Framework for Junior Cycle.



At Junior Cycle, students may profile their achievement within the **PE short course** through the Classroom-Based Assessment (CBA). First year students that enter in September 2019 have the potential for the NCCA-developed short course in PE to be reported upon within the Wellbeing section on a student's eventual JCPA. This is in addition to the maximum of 10 subjects or its equivalent.

It will be possible for students who enter first year in September 2019 to undertake one or more of the NCCA Wellbeing short courses as part of a Wellbeing Programme, in addition to a maximum of four other non-wellbeing short courses. (Circular 0079/2018, p.25)

There is an element of choice and flexibility regarding the CBA in PE. Each strand of the short course has an associated assessment. Students should demonstrate their learning in a minimum of two from the six potential physical activity assessments outlined in the Assessment Guidelines (e.g. Personal Physical Activity Programme, Team Orienteering Event, Performance Assessment in Athletics).



The CBA is an integral part of the normal teaching and learning that happens in PE class and are designed to encourage students to strive for overall improvement in the selected physical activity.

Teachers of PE from Scoil Mhuire Gan Smál, Blarney; Glanmire Community College; Cork Educate Together School; Blackwater Community School, Lismore; Carrigwohill Community College and Coláiste Choilm, Ballincollig engage in the SLAR process to support their judgement of student work in CBA in PE

Digital Learning Technology (DLT) related Short Courses

Coding

Short Course Coding

Specification for Junior Cycle

Digital Media Literacy

Short Course Digital Media Literacy

Specification for Junior Cycle

NCCA developed Short Courses

Artistic Performance

Short Course Artistic Performance Engaging with the Arts

Specification for Junior Cycle

Chinese Performance & Culture

Short Course Chinese Language and Culture

Specification for Junior Cycle Short Course

Philosophy

Short Course Philosophy

Specification for Junior Cycle

Leadership Spring Workshop

The Spring Leadership seminar 2019 focuses on 'Student-centred Strategic Planning'. This nationwide engagement with School Leaders commenced in Tralee Education centre on the 19th March. The leadership team will provide 45 workshops nationally running up until the 9th May. This seminar aims to support School Leaders in deepening their understanding of how to plan a Junior Cycle curriculum which is needs and context driven, and student centred in approach. This professional learning experience for Leaders follows three key threads; School Autonomy, Student at the centre and Decision-making processes. This builds on and is supported by the previous professional learning opportunities leaders have engaged in with JCT.

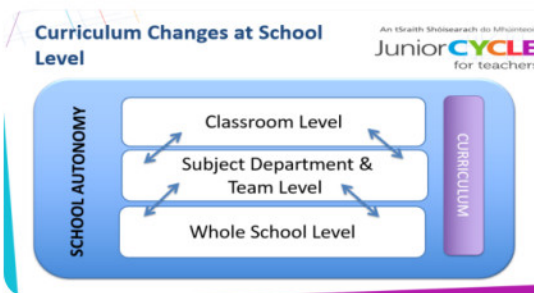
The Framework for Junior Cycle (2015) gives autonomy to schools to create a flexible curriculum responding to the learning needs of all their students and the unique context of their school. *Looking at our School 2016: A Quality Framework for Post Primary Schools* highlights effective and highly effective practice in the Domain, Leading Learning and Teaching, in which School Leaders are tasked with managing the planning and implementation of the school curriculum.

Considering the *Framework for Junior Cycle (2015)*, participants will explore a school scenario which documents how one school reviewed their curricular provision and, how they moved from 300 hours to 400 hours of timetabled wellbeing provision as part of this review. After exploring the scenario, participants reflect on what the Junior Cycle student experience looks like in their school and what process they may need to undertake to ensure that the curriculum offered in their school is student centred in design. During the workshop participants will reflect on the vision for Junior Cycle which places the student at the centre of their own educational experience and explore how the curricular decisions School Leaders make in their schools can put the student at the centre.

This day of professional learning will allow space for discussion with colleagues around effective ways of leading the process of curriculum development in the schools you manage.

As explored in previous workshops, teaching, learning, assessment and the reporting of learning in Junior cycle has changed. These changes are having a significant impact on the learning experience of students in the classroom and on how teachers plan. In the workshop we will take time for School Leaders to reflect on how these changes have been embraced and communicated at a whole school level to ensure consistency and coherency of practice across the school.

During this day participants explore some of the new aspects of the recent Circular 79/2018 and consider what may be the implications for their school curriculum particularly in the area of wellbeing provision, assessment and reporting.

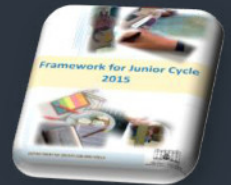


As School Leaders, we need to understand the rich learning for students in the classroom-based assessments and the similarities and differences between them so that we can facilitate a process with teachers that is collaborative, sensitive and flexible in manner. A possible process which could be used to negotiate the school's assessment and reporting calendar for 2019/20 is outlined in the workshop.

We would encourage all School Leaders to log on to www.jctregistration.ie and select one of the 45 workshops happening Nationwide from the 19th of March until the 9th of May.

Click on image to download the following documents

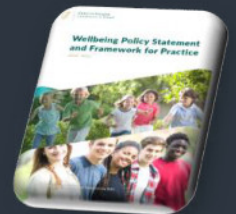
Framework for Junior Cycle 2015



Wellbeing Guidelines



Wellbeing Policy Statement and Framework for Practice



Looking at Our School 2016: A Quality Framework for Post Primary Schools



Download Circular 79/2018

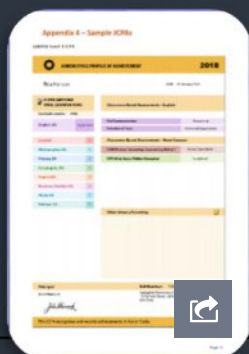


Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement

As part of the Framework for Junior Cycle (2015), the reporting process at junior cycle culminates in the award of the JCPA to students.

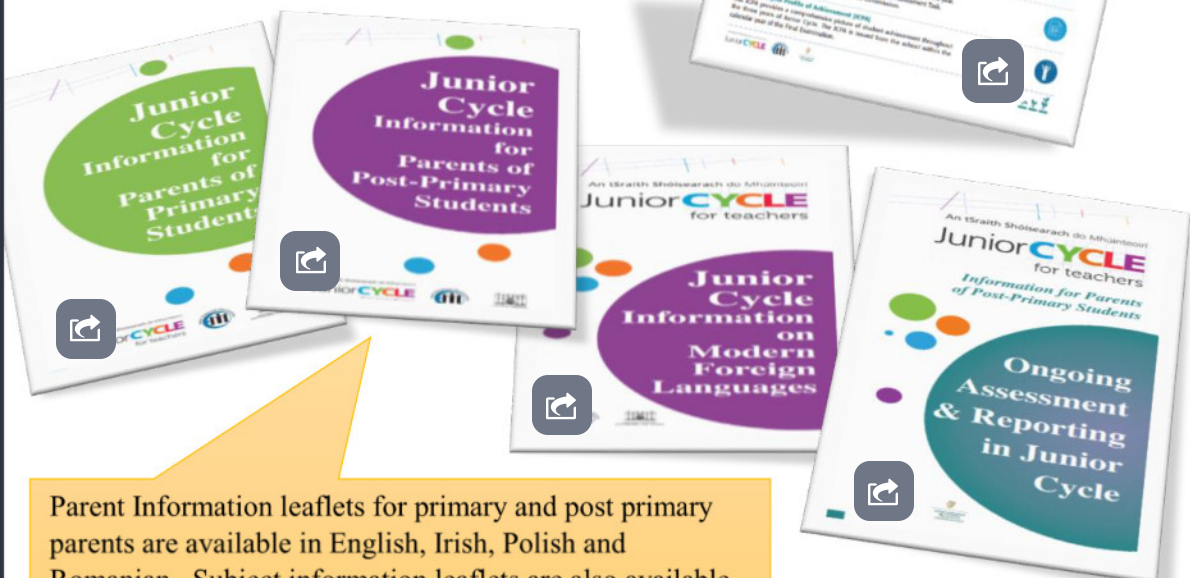
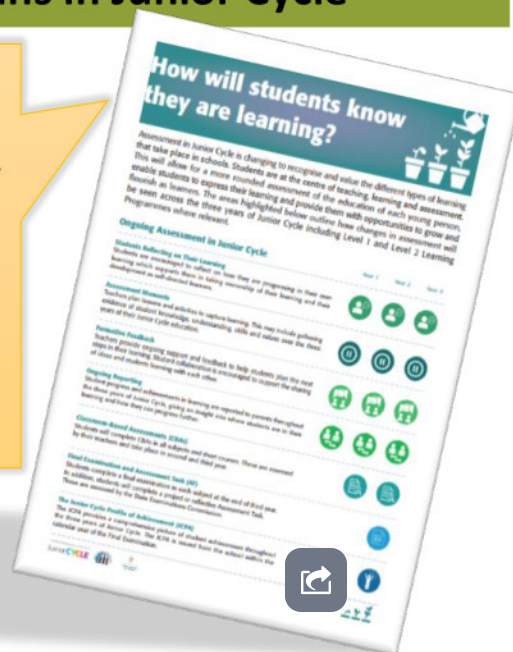
The JCPA captures student achievements in a number of assessment elements undertaken over the three years of junior cycle, including the grades in the state-certified final examinations at the end of the three years. It will also report on students' achievement in Classroom-Based Assessments (CBAs) in subjects and short courses, and in Level 2 Learning Programmes (L2LPs) and, in time, achievements in Level 1 Learning Programmes (L1LPs).

The JCPA provides an opportunity for schools to acknowledge and celebrate their students achievement, participation or progress in other areas of learning that may have been included in the school's junior cycle programme.



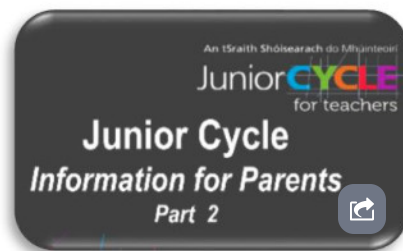
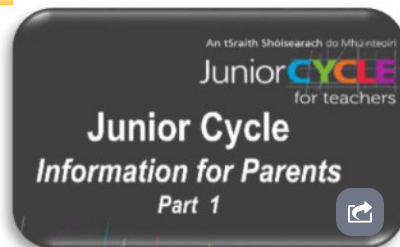
Engaging Parents/Guardians in Junior Cycle

Assessment in Junior Cycle is changing to recognise and value the different types of learning that take place in schools. Students are at the centre of teaching, learning and assessment. This will allow for a more rounded assessment of the education of each young person, enable students to express their learning and provide them with opportunities to grow and flourish as learners. This poster highlights how changes in assessment will be seen across the three years of Junior Cycle including Level 1 and Level 2 Learning Programmes where relevant. Click on the image to download.



Parent Information leaflets for primary and post primary parents are available in English, Irish, Polish and Romanian. Subject information leaflets are also available to download. Click on the image to view.

JCT resources also include PowerPoint presentations and short videos. Presenter notes are also available. These presentations can be downloaded and edited to the specific needs of the school. Click on the image to view.



An tSraith Shóisearach do Mhúinteoirí
JuniorCYCLE
for teachers

Junior Cycle for Teachers (JCT) Support Service

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