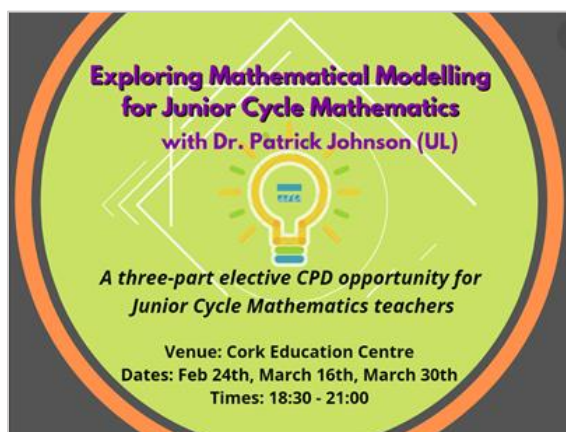


Welcome

Welcome to the latest issue of the JCT Mathematics Newsletter. Since the last issue we have had the opportunity to meet with over 1500 teachers in second subject workshops between September and October 2019. Close to 3400 teachers across the country engaged in cluster CPD days from November 2019 to March 2020. In this newsletter we would like to share some of the highlights of the year including a series of mathematical modelling workshops, three webinars, Podcast series, and our participation in the JCT STE(A)M initiative.

Mathematical Modelling



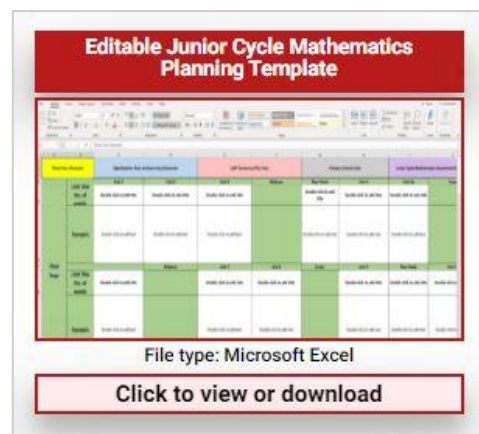
This three-part elective CPD opportunity was developed and led by Dr Patrick Johnson, lecturer in Mathematics Education in the School of Education at the University of Limerick, in partnership with the JCT Mathematics Team. Over three sessions, it was hoped that participants would explore the potential of mathematical modelling of real-world phenomena to support the teaching and learning of problem-solving in Junior Cycle Mathematics.

The first workshop, held on the 24th of February 2020 in Cork Education Centre, focused on problem solving and aims to enhance participants' ability to analyse problems, recognise appropriate mathematical tools and develop and solve models for the problems. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic the second and third workshops were postponed. We will update you on this elective as soon as possible.

Webinars

Our first webinar of the academic year, 'Preparing for Classroom Based Assessment 1 (CBA 1): Mathematical Investigation & Subject Learning and Assessment Review Meeting (SLAR)', took place on the 4th of December 2019. This webinar provided an overview of timelines for CBA 1 and explored how teachers can support student learning before and during the CBA as well as preparing for, and participating in, a SLAR meeting.

Our second webinar, 'Planning for Teaching, Learning and Assessment: One School's Approach' took place on the 13th of March 2020. The purpose of this webinar was to share how one school, ETSS Wicklow, have created their three-year plan and to understand how they have developed



units of learning within this plan. There are many resources available on the JCT Maths website to support schools with their planning for the upcoming year.

Our third webinar “Mathematics and Being Creative” took place under very different circumstances as we were in the midst of “lockdown”. This webinar offered teachers the opportunity to interact *live on air* with Advisors and other teachers, and to share and discuss ideas on creativity and how to foster creativity within the classroom.

As with all the JCT Mathematics webinars, a recording of the webinar and the resources shared on the evening are available [here](#) in the Webinar Series section of the JCT Maths website.



Podcast Series

Tangents is a JCT Mathematics Team podcast series available on the *Junior Cycle Talks* podcast channel. In this first series we spoke with a number of people working in different areas of education about creativity in the context of a mathematics classroom. To date four episodes have been published.

Episode one features maths teacher, Peter Fitton (Bishopstown Community School, Cork), discussing creativity in his classroom. Peter shares his approach to collaborative and independent learning and how room layout, classroom norms and how a productive atmosphere can support student learning.

Recorded as *Gaeilge*, episode two features maths teacher, Clíodhna Ní Dhaibhéid, who teaches in Coláiste Eoin. Clíodhna seeks to create a classroom where students own their own learning, particularly through the practice of reflection.

In episode three, Dr Thérèse Dooley, a retired primary teacher, and educator with DCU explores how creativity and mathematical curiosity can be encouraged in students and suggests new ways to think about how students' develop their understanding of mathematics.

In the final episode of the series, Dr Aoibhinn Ní Shúilleabháin, Associate Professor of Mathematics in UCD discusses initial teacher education, pedagogical content knowledge and mathematical creativity.

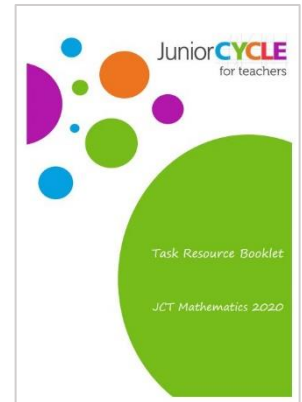
To hear more podcasts from the *Junior Cycle Talks* channel click [here](#) or search for *Junior Cycle Talks: Tangents* on SoundCloud, Spotify, Apple Podcasts or anywhere you listen to your podcasts. Don't forget to subscribe to our channel for the next series!



Task Resource Booklet

A document called Task Resource Booklet containing a selection of mathematical tasks and activities that are suitable for junior cycle mathematics students has been shared via the JCT Maths website. Teachers should use their professional judgement when selecting a task or activity and should adapt the task to the context of their students. The tasks in this booklet have been designed to be accessible, challenging and extendable.

The Task Resource Booklet can be accessed [here](#).



STE(A)M

The JCT Mathematics Team were delighted to be involved in this year's JCT STE(A)M elective CPD programme 'Solution Generation'.

Workshops were delivered across the county bringing teachers together with STE(A)M partners. Together they considered how we can empower our young people to think, choose and innovate in ways that will enhance and sustain our lives, communities and the world by focusing on interdisciplinary responses to societal challenges for solution generation.



To learn more about STE(A)M in Junior Cycle and our partners visit the STE(A)M section of our website [here](#).

We will continue our involvement with upcoming STE(A)M events throughout the next academic year. Keep an eye out for upcoming STE(A)M events in 2020-2021 and be sure to follow @JCTSteAm on twitter.

Tacaíocht le h-aghaidh múineadh trí mhéan na Gaeilge

Tá acmhainní i nGaeilge ar fáil [anseo](#).

Keep in Touch

There are numerous ways to keep in touch with the JCT Mathematics team:

1. Join our [mailing list](#)
2. Follow us on twitter [@jctmaths](#)
3. Visit our webpage www.jct.ie/maths



Kind regards,

The JCT Mathematics Team.