

Dates for Classroom-Based Assessments

In English, science and business studies, two structured Classroom-Based Assessments have been introduced which will contribute to and build on the use of formative assessment in the classroom. One of these Classroom-Based Assessments will take place in second year, and the other during third year. Each assessment is based on specific learning outcomes and offers a variety of modes of assessment, which might include projects, oral language tasks, investigations, practical or designing and making tasks, field studies and artistic performance. This academic year will see Classroom-Based Assessments in English, business studies and science. Relevant dates for the completion of Classroom-Based Assessments and the Assessment Task in English are provided below.

ENGLISH

Schools must opt for one of the two windows for all of their **current Third year** students
 Window 1: Winter - the timeline the school follows for the Collection of the Student's Texts and related Assessment Task for student cohort 2015 - 2018 Completion of The Collection of Student's Texts and Assessment Task

Latest date for student completion of The Collection of the Student's Texts	Friday 15th December 2017
Window for completion of the Assessment Task	Monday 18th – Friday 22nd December 2017
Latest date for award of provisional descriptors by the teacher	Friday 12th January 2018
Latest date for completion of Subject Learning and Assessment Review and for award of final descriptors by the teacher	Friday 19th January 2018

OR

Window 2: Spring – the timeline the school follows for the Collection of the Student's Texts and related Assessment Task for student cohort 2015 – 2018 Completion of The Collection of Student's Texts and Assessment Task

Latest date for student completion of The Collection of the Student's Texts	Friday 20th April 2018
Window for completion of the Assessment Task	Monday 23rd – Friday 27th April 2018
Latest date for award of provisional descriptors by the teacher	Friday 4th May 2018
Latest date for completion of Subject Learning and Assessment Review and for award of final descriptors by the teacher	Friday 11th May 2018

Junior Cycle English Classroom-Based Assessment 1 The timeline the school follows for Oral Communication classroom-based assessment in 2018 for **Current Second Years**

Period for work on and completion of Oral Communication	Friday 27th April to Friday 18th May, 2018
Latest date for provisional award of Descriptors by the teacher	Wednesday 23rd May 2018
Latest date for completion of Subject Learning and Assessment Review and for award of final descriptors by the teacher	Friday 25th May 2018

BUSINESS STUDIES

Junior Cycle Business Classroom-Based Assessment 1 The timeline the school follows for Business in Action classroom-based assessment in 2018 for **current second years**

Period during which students spend four weeks completing Business in Action	Monday 12th March to Friday 20th April, 2018
Latest date for provisional award of Descriptors by the teacher	Friday 27th April 2018
Latest date for completion of Subject Learning and Assessment Review and for award of final descriptors by the teacher	Friday 4th May 2018

SCIENCE

Junior Cycle Science Classroom-Based Assessment 1 The timeline the school follows for Extended Experimental Investigation (EEI) classroom-based assessment in 2018 for **current second years**

Period during which students spend three weeks completing the Extended Experimental Investigation	Friday 20th April to Friday 18th May, 2018
Latest date for provisional award of Descriptors by the teacher	Thursday 24th May 2018
Latest date for completion of Subject Learning and Assessment Review and for award of final descriptors by the teacher	Monday 28th May 2018



Dr. Pádraig Kirk

Welcome to the tenth edition of our newsletter, JCT Today. As 2017 draws to a close we reached another milestone in the junior cycle reform journey when on 12th December 2017 the Minister for Education and Skills presented the first ever Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement to students in Grange Community College in Dublin. This was a momentous day for the students, the school, teachers and parents involved. It was also, however, a momentous day for JCT as the presentation of the JCPA saw the culmination of much of our efforts to date. That said, there remains a lot of work to do and I am delighted that 2017/2018 has seen us working with every post-primary school and centre for education nationwide. I want to thank all of the teachers who have engaged so enthusiastically with our CPD to date, and of course to the entire JCT team for their boundless efforts in bringing CPD of the highest quality to school leaders and teachers. We are currently all part of something significant and I am confident that JCT is fully playing its part in helping to shape a new education system for the benefit of all current and future students.

Dr. Pádraig Kirk
Director

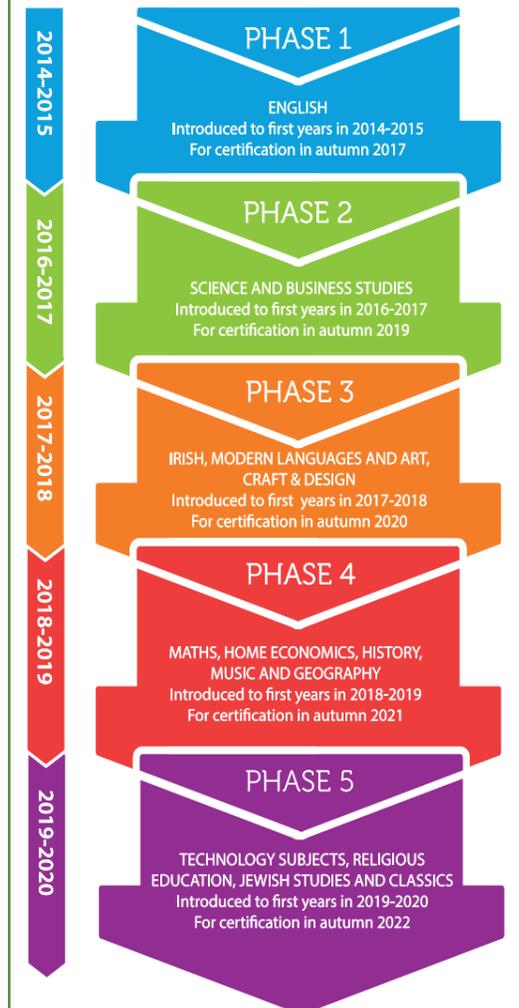


Minister for Education and Skills, Richard Bruton, presents the first ever JCPAs to students in Grange Community College, Donaghmede, Dublin on 12th December 2017.



Website...
Junior Cycle for Teachers
www.jct.ie
Check it out today!

Subject Specifications - Phases



Thank You to our School Cluster Hosts

JCT wishes to thank all of the schools and education centres that are hosting our Cluster CPD events up and down the country. Your hospitality and the quality of your facilities and resources are second to none. The provision of CPD in authentic classroom settings is proving to be really popular with teachers.



On Saturday, 18th of November, JCT Science launched an exciting new elective CPD initiative – STE(A)M in Junior Cycle. The vision for this initiative is “to provide junior cycle teachers with rich STE(A)M CPD experiences in keeping with national and international best standards; this provision will allow for interdisciplinary responses to societal challenges in subject-specific and cross-curricular contexts”. JCT Science is working with elective partners in the STEM/Arts fields to deliver ten exciting workshops, across six Saturdays, between November 2017 and March 2018. Our inaugural STE(A)M partners are:

- Science Gallery Dublin
- Science Foundation Ireland/European Space Education Resource Office (ESERO)
- Amgen Biotech Experience
- Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland
- British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums

Whilst this initiative has started out in the subject space of science, we intend to bring other subjects on board in the future. This interdisciplinary approach to STE(A)M CPD will bring “the scientist, engineer, entrepreneur, artist and designer into dialogue to offer the widest range of opportunity and academic and societal insight for experimentation and innovation” (Science Education for Responsible Global Citizenship, EU Commission, 2015, p.21). It will also help to support the realisation of the recent STEM Education Policy Statement, which encourages cross discipline approaches to STEM education and partnerships with the arts.

Teachers across the country have become excited about STE(A)M. Addressing areas such as sustainability, the work of scientists and scientific innovation, they have considered the interplay between science and society through rich debate about the nature of the human condition. Through this dialogue, science teachers have collaborated to develop rich ideas for student learning that engage with the learning outcomes of junior cycle science, but are also located in a broader STE(A)M agenda, allowing for opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration with other subject teachers.

STE(A)M workshops are taking place on Saturdays in education centres and in bespoke venues such as Tayto Park and Galway Atlantaquarium. After Christmas, we will continue with a mix of education centre workshops and venues such as: Fota Wildlife Park and the Science Gallery Dublin. As we come to a close for the Christmas holiday, the STE(A)M Team would like to say a huge THANK YOU to all of the science teachers who committed their time and expertise to this exciting initiative.



Teachers learning about Space Data and its impact on our lives with SFI/ESERO.



Teachers engaging with the work of molecular biologists and debating the ethics of bioinformatics.



Collaboration matters – sharing ideas around Global Goals and Sustainability.

Management Resource Hours and SLAR Workshops

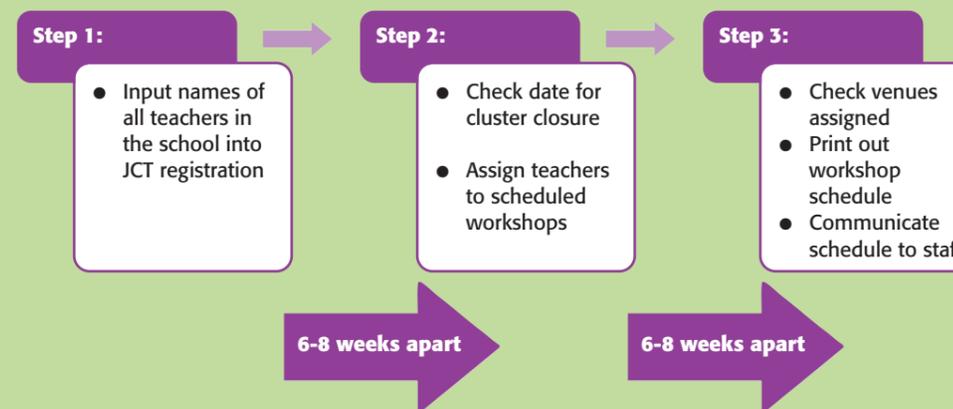
Our team of Whole School CPD regional leaders and associates, recently supported the network of local education centres in providing an elective CPD session for teachers allocated with management resource hours for the implementation of Junior Cycle as per circular 0015/2017. These workshops rolled out nationally in the evening time and were organised by local education centres. They provided a great space for sharing of ideas and deepening understanding of the possibilities for using management resource hours to support the further embedding of all aspects of the reform within a school's junior cycle curriculum. The imminent production and distribution of each school's first ever Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement (JCPA) this December made for many thought provoking conversations. In the new year JCT will be rolling out a further evening elective session around facilitating Subject Learning and Assessment Review (SLAR) meetings. This workshop will be aimed at SLAR facilitators in the subject areas of English, business studies and science. Full details will be available early in the new year on www.jct.ie



LEADERSHIP

Autumn Leadership workshop: The JCT leadership team, have just completed forty five workshops which took place nationwide in November 2017. The resources for this workshop can be downloaded at: JCT.ie/Leadership/CPD (day 4) **Leading teaching, learning and assessment.** This resource, as with other presentations on the JCT website, can be downloaded to your own device and used, in part or full, to inform staff meetings or BOM meetings on Junior Cycle Reform.

Registering teachers for subject CPD: below is a diagram of the steps to follow in using jctregistration.ie to register teachers for subject specific CPD.



Communicating with parents: A new Parents' Presentation has been created for use by schools to communicate the key messages of Junior Cycle. This may be accessed at: JCT.ie/leadership/section/resources. Scroll down to the tab *Supporting Parents* and the presentation is in two parts. The first part focuses on the student and the curriculum and the second section examines the changes to assessment and reporting. There is a lot of information in the presentation and the relevant parts may be communicated to parents of different year groups as the school deems appropriate.

Management resource hours workshop and presentation: Our Whole School CPD team leaders have delivered twenty three workshops focussing on supporting schools in their utilisation of management resource hours. These workshops have been very well attended and received. The presentation is available to download at: JCT.ie/whole school/elective CPD



Minister Bruton speaking at the presentation of the first ever JCPAs to students in Grange Community College on 12th December 2017. The presentation of the JCPA to students heralded yet another milestone in the implementation of Junior Cycle reform in schools.

#ATS2020

Our ATS2020 project is now in the final year of the three-year programme, where the focus is on analysing and evaluating both the qualitative and quantitative findings of the in-school pilot. Plans are at an advanced stage for an international conference in Brussels in early 2018, where three Irish schools: Borrisokane Community College, Portlaoise College and St Wolstan's School will showcase their experience as project schools.

JCT are also planning a national conference to be held in the Killashee House Hotel on February 6th 2018. This conference will focus on the links between the ATS2020 project and Junior

Cycle reform and will explore how the findings from the project exemplify key tenets of Junior Cycle.

We are delighted to welcome international ePortfolio expert Dr Helen Barrett as a keynote speaker for the conference, which will also feature Prof Deirdre Butler, of DCU, a leading

exponent of the development of key skills in education.

An online portal hosting materials to support the development of key skills and the use of ePortfolios to support teaching, assessment and learning, will be launched on the day.



Pictured at a recent international partner meeting in Santiago de Compostela, Spain are Sinéad Tuohy (JCT), María Luz Fandino (Xunta Galicia), Dr Pádraig Kirk (JCT), Manuel Corredoria López (Director General de Education) Anastasia Economou (CPI Cyprus) and Milagros Trigo (School Principal).