

## Step Up Project

The DES Inspectorate and Junior Cycle for Teachers (JCT) are delighted to launch, as part of the School Excellence Fund (SEF) initiative, a project entitled 'Step Up'. The overarching aim of the SEF Step Up Project is to support schools already at an effective level of practice to move to a highly effective level of implementation of the Framework for Junior Cycle (2015) with a view to improving learner outcomes. Schools participating in the project will be required to take a school self-evaluation approach to reviewing their current implementation of the Framework in one or more of three specific subject areas: English, Business Studies and Science. Support for the project will be provided by the Inspectorate and JCT. Inspectors and JCT personnel will work collaboratively to provide support and advice to the selected schools throughout the project. Application forms and further details about the project are available on the Announcements section of [www.jct.ie](http://www.jct.ie)  
 Applications must be submitted by 14:00pm on Friday, 15th June 2018.

## CPD Workshops for Principals and Deputy Principals

Moving beyond marks and grades  
 - a new way of reporting learning

Reporting on learning at Junior Cycle is changing. Reporting is an important way of sharing progress between students, teachers and parents/guardians. Our Spring leadership workshop focussed on the NCCA guidelines, *Ongoing reporting for effective teaching and learning* (March 2018) to support school leaders in implementing changes in their schools.

Subject Specifications and their associated Assessment Guidelines, *the Framework for Junior Cycle (2015)* and *Looking at Our School (2016)*. A quality framework for Post-Primary Schools all highlight a new language to communicate learning. The workshop focused on how schools can use their School Self-Evaluation process to support teachers in embedding this language in their classroom practice. Changing reporting practices in school must be meaningful and sustainable for all stakeholders and schools are advised to engage in the process at a pace that suits them.

Understanding how to report learning effectively, and reflecting on the eight *Guiding Principles of Reporting*, is a complex process. Therefore, the topic will be continued in the workshop for principals and deputy principals to be delivered during November 2018 to support school leaders in leading these changes in their schools.

The new reporting templates will also be addressed at the Autumn workshop. School leaders will be invited to register for this workshop in September 2018.

Follow us on twitter @JCforTeachers - We currently have over 12,000 followers and growing.

## Fáilte



Dr. Pádraig Kirk

This year was a milestone year for JCT. We got to meet practically every teacher engaging in Junior Cycle this year, some for the first time. Across our whole-school CPD days in schools we engaged with some 27,854 teachers, while in our subject specific CPD school cluster days we had an attendance of 26,162 teachers. We are confident that our CPD programme is of the highest standard and continually strive to make it even better. This year we embarked on facilitating an ambitious programme of elective CPD workshops for teachers. We offered workshops for teachers with management resource hours, and those who were facilitating SLAR meetings in their schools. Our Arts in Junior Cycle, STE(A)M and #JCTWOW (weeks of webinars) events were a major success story and we aim to run these events again next year. We continue to work with teachers, the Inspectorate, NCCA, the Teaching Council and a wide range of partner organisations to develop high quality, cutting edge professional learning opportunities for school leaders and teachers and we thank everybody involved for their valuable input. I also want to sincerely thank all of our own staff, full-time and part-time, for an absolutely tremendous job done in 2017/2018. Junior cycle reform will take time, JCT will walk with schools as they enact the Framework.

Dr. Pádraig Kirk,  
 Director



**Samhradh, Samhradh: scíth, suaimhneas, sult!**

## Junior Cycle CPD Plan 2018 / 2019

An tSraith Shóisearach do Mhúinteoirí  
**JuniorCYCLE**  
 for teachers

	2018/2019	September 2018	October 2018	November 2018	December 2018	January 2019	February 2019	March 2019	April 2019	May 2019
Registration of new teachers for Junior Cycle CPD / Update register	Register teachers at <a href="http://www.jctregistration.ie">www.jctregistration.ie</a>									
Workshops for Principals and Deputy Principals				Focus on ongoing Reporting (part 2)					Focus to be determined based on feedback from school leaders	
Whole-school CPD	Book your day with your relevant Regional Team Leader									
Workshops for teachers with a second teaching subject	Second / Other teaching subject CPD workshops in Education Centres nationwide									
School cluster events - subject CPD workshop	School Cluster CPD events involving 16 - 17 different subject specific workshops									
Elective CPD opportunities	Elective CPD opportunities will be offered year-round, e.g., STE(A)M in Junior Cycle, Arts in Junior Cycle, SLAR workshops, Management Resource hours and Weeks of Webinars (#JCTWOW)									
Level 1/Level 2 Learning Programmes (L1/L2LPs) supports in mainstream and special schools	Book your CPD requirements by contacting our L1 / L2LP Team at: <a href="mailto:specialschoolsupport@jct.ie">specialschoolsupport@jct.ie</a>									
Online supports	Visit our website at <a href="http://www.jct.ie">www.jct.ie</a> . Webinars will be provided at different times across the school year.									

[www.jct.ie](http://www.jct.ie)



# Arts in Junior Cycle

## Na hEalaíona sa tSraith Shóisearach



The Creative Ireland Programme (2017-2022) and JCT are delighted to present 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 Framework (2015) for Junior Cycle and provide teachers with practical, creative methodologies to use in their classrooms. This initiative is guided by the principles expressed in the *Arts in Education Charter*.

### Hugely successful launch of Arts in Junior Cycle Spring 2018

In Spring of this year, JCT English Advisors and respected artists/arts facilitators from the world of theatre and film facilitated teachers in an immersive, creative professional learning experience through elective workshops that provided a fresh approach to teaching drama extracts, film, Shakespeare and critical engagement with multi-modal texts. The workshops took place on Saturdays in April and May 2018 in a number of Education Centres and it is intended to expand the variety and

geographical reach of these workshops in the autumn.

### Elective summer workshops for teachers of Junior Cycle Visual Art

The JCT Visual Art team, in collaboration with the Design and Crafts Council of Ireland (DCCoI), look forward to facilitating a summer CPD programme for teachers of Visual Art. This elective two-day programme will provide teachers with opportunities to engage with learning outcomes in the new Junior Cycle Visual Art specification. Using a hands-on approach, teachers will experience a range of methodologies and techniques to support the investigation and exploration of the five visual art elements.

The DCCoI will draw on their education panel of trained designers/makers for this summer school. These designers/makers will model the ideation process, working from a stimulus, exploring possibilities, problem solving and developing ideas to assist in the realisation of an artistic output. Through a combination of site visits, conversation-based and practical workshops this programme will provide visual art

teachers with space and time to engage with their own practice and to support understanding of Junior Cycle Visual Art. To register, please go to: [www.jctregistration.ie](http://www.jctregistration.ie)

### Coming in Autumn 2018

In Autumn 2018, as part of the Arts in Junior Cycle initiative, JCT look forward to communicating details of elective workshops for teachers in both **Music** and **Gaeilge**. I réimse na Gaeilge, táthar ag súil le ceardlanna roghnacha ar ghnéithe éagsúla de na healaíona, idir na taibh-ealaíona agus na healaíona scríofa, a chur ar fáil in ionaid oideachais éagsúla ar fud na tíre. Seolfar a thuilleadh eolais faoi seo chuig múinteoirí Gaeilge sa bhfómhar.

Also in the Autumn, JCT and DCCoI are excited to announce a further initiative for teachers of Visual Art and their students to collaborate directly with practicing designers/makers on a project that will focus on the front-end of the artistic process. Further details on this initiative will be sent to schools at the start of the 2018/2019 academic year.



## STE(A)M in Junior Cycle CPD 2017/18

In conjunction with our STE(A)M partners, JCT Science developed five elective CPD days for Science teachers. These workshops ran across 10 Saturdays, beginning in November 2017 and concluding in March 2018. With CPD offerings in Dublin, Meath, Cork, Wexford, Carrick-On-Shannon, Galway, Limerick and Athlone, this was a nationwide initiative. The titles of the workshops offered were:

**Scientists at Work**  
**The Scientists' Dilemma**

**Sustainability**  
**The 'H' Factor**

**"One small step..."**

Across these workshops, teachers were invited to consider the interplay between STEM and societal advancement, using creative and critical dialogue as a lens through which to consider the consequences of the choices we make, and the role of Science in informing those choices. Issues that teachers engaged with included bioethics, sustainability in terms of energy, plastics and ecosystems, and the ethics of space technologies providing greater and better data on Earth and its inhabitants. All workshops were developed to align with the learning outcomes of Junior Cycle Science, with an overarching focus in all workshops on Nature of Science Learning Outcomes 1 and 10. As teachers considered the role our humanity plays in advancing society through STEM, it led to a deeper appreciation of how scientists work, and the personal, social and global importance of the role of science in society.

Resources for STE(A)M in Junior Cycle workshops are available on the JCT website [www.jct.ie](http://www.jct.ie)

### The future

STE(A)M in Junior Cycle workshops will continue in the 2018/19 academic year, with an exciting new approach - **all of our workshops will be interdisciplinary in nature.**

Teachers of subjects like Science, Geography, History, Maths and Home Economics will be invited to the same CPD day, where they will be invited to collaborate within and across their subject disciplines to engage with societal issues and challenges. We look forward to working with our teacher colleagues as we move full STE(A)M ahead in the new year!

Teachers at STE(A)M in Junior Cycle workshops around Ireland – doing Science work and having Science fun!!



## Key Skills in Action in the 21st Century Classroom

On the 6th February 2018 in the Killashee Hotel, Naas, JCT organised a joint seminar with the NCCA entitled **Leadership for Learning: Key Skills in Action in the 21st Century Classroom**.

This was part of a series of JCT/NCCA joint seminars under the banner of 'Leadership for Learning'. The primary purpose of February's seminar was to share and discuss the learning from two EU projects, the *ATS 2020* (Assessment of Transversal Skills) project co-ordinated by JCT, and the *Co-Lab* project, co-ordinated by NCCA. The *ATS 2020* project was a 3-year **Erasmus +** research project exploring the development of key skills and the use of technology to enhance and support teaching, assessment and learning.

Dr. Helen Barrett, formerly of the College of Education at the University of Alaska, Anchorage, provided the key note address: 'Know Thyself: ePortfolios and Reflective Stories of Deep Learning'. Dr. Barrett, a pioneer in the area of ePortfolios, provided the audience with practical insights regarding their use and application for teaching, assessment, learning and reporting in the Junior Cycle classroom.

Professor Deirdre Butler from DCU's Institute of Education facilitated a workshop focusing on collaboration and the development of collaborative tasks. The afternoon of the conference was a shared learning session, with students and teachers from the two European projects exploring their experience in

dialogue with attendees.

As with all previous JCT/NCCA joint seminars, the day provided an opportunity to reflect on the presentations and consider how teaching, assessment and learning can be supported and developed in the 21st century classroom.



Dr Helen Barrett (USA), John Hurley, H2\_Learning, Sinéad Tuohy, JCT and Dr. Pádraig Kirk, JCT Director



Most subject teams in JCT send out either a subject newsletter, or a mailshot with relevant subject information, approximately once a term. With the introduction of the new EU rules governing data protection (General Data Protection Regulation or GDPR), JCT are obliged to ask teachers to sign up to join

a **new newsletter/mailshot list** in their relevant subject area(s).

**If you were already on a subject team's newsletter or mailshot list** you will receive a request by e-mail to **re-register** if you wish to continue to receive information from that subject team via mailshot or subject newsletter. Please ensure you click on the link provided in the e-mail, fill in the details (it will take less than a minute) and click on the 'Submit' button. Subject newsletters/mailshots are

a valuable way of keeping up to date with important or useful information within your subject area. You will **NOT** receive another newsletter/mailshot communication UNLESS you re-register.

**If you were not on such a list prior to this**, and you would like to receive information from the relevant subject team, please visit the relevant subject section of [www.jct.ie](http://www.jct.ie) and click on the tab 'Join the mailing list' to fill in the required contact details.

## Whole School Visits

The whole-school team have had a busy year working with all post-primary schools around the country. In the earlier part of the year, ETB schools engaged with the new area of learning called "Wellbeing". Schools were asked to listen to and capture the voice of students in the teaching, assessment and learning cycle happening in their classrooms. School staff examined the "Looking at our School" (LAOS) quality framework from the DES inspectorate and explored how it could help them improve both the learning experience of, and outcomes for, all students. Methods to explore these were looked at in both teacher individual and collective practice. This work will continue with ETB schools in the new school year 2018/2019 when the areas of teaching, learning, assessment and reporting will be further explored.

Schools engaging in JCT CPD for the first time this year, spent a full day exploring the Framework, Context and Rationale of Junior Cycle reform and developments in the approach to teaching, learning, assessment and reporting. An important focus was on experiencing how working with learning outcomes in subject specifications will change the learning experience and outcomes for our students in the classroom. The quality framework, LAOS, will enable schools to embed this new focus. This emphasis was further backed up at the subject cluster days provided for all teachers. The whole-school team have had the support of Associates - practising teachers who work with JCT on a part-time basis, and who assisted in the facilitation on our CPD days.

Schools were also supported this year by a series of workshops held in local Education Centres looking at the role of

teachers with responsibility for management resource hours. These were backed up by a webinar held in March 2018 where teachers had a chance to have their questions answered. If you missed this webinar you can find it on [www.jct.ie](http://www.jct.ie)

The whole-school team also fulfilled responsibilities across the following areas; web-design, technologies support, short course support, translations, FGL do na Gael Choláistí, wellbeing, Student Voice and Associate CPD.

The whole-school team are currently visiting schools to assist them with their work with Junior Cycle. Issues being discussed include: use of Professional time, wellbeing curriculum, other areas of learning for the JCPA, short courses, CBAs and SLARs.

Please contact your relevant regional team leader should you require a school visit.