

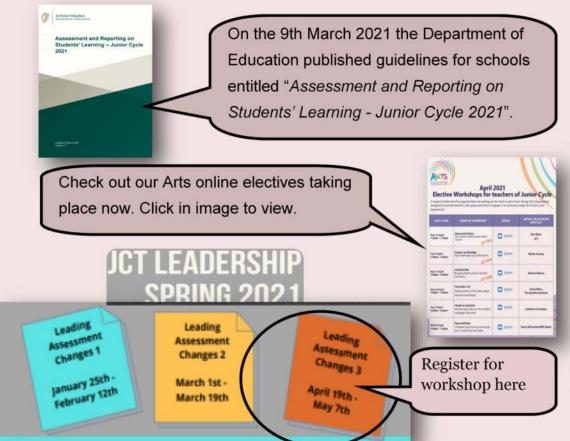
Welcome to the 23rd edition of JCToday

The final term is upon us as we prepare for the last few weeks of the academic year. Thank you to the teachers who have engaged with our online Subject Cluster CPD since January 2021.

We are now pleased to announce details of our Spring 2021 elective Online Learning Event. There are 20 new events to choose from. Workshops are filling up fast so early booking is advised. Check out our full list of events and how to book your place on page 13.

Our CPD is informed by the needs of teachers and school leaders and undergoes a significant quality assurance process. We are confident that you will benefit both personally and professionally from these and future supports in the weeks ahead.

As always, we welcome feedback at info@jct.ie.



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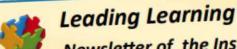
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Newsletter of the Instructional Leadership Programme

Issue 14: March 2021



Issue 14: March 2021



PEAS IN A POD - Junior Cycle and the Instructional Leadership Programme

Dr. Pádraig Kirk and Ms. Mary Lafferty, JCT

'Since we cannot know what knowledge will be needed in the future, it is senseless to try to teach it in advance. Instead, our job must be to turn out young people who love learning so much, and who learn so well, that they will be able to learn whatever needs to be learnt'

John Holt





The introduction of the Education Act (1998) can be regarded as the starting point for a myriad of changes affecting Irish schools. While many of these are reflective of our dynamic society, others are proactive in attempting to future-proof education for our young people. Schleicher (2018a), Education Director at the OECD, provides clarity on this necessity:

A generation ago, teachers could expect that what they taught would last their students a lifetime. Today, because of rapid economic and social change, schools have to prepare students for jobs that have not yet been created, technologies that have not yet been invented and problems that we don't yet know will arise (2018a).

The reform of lower-secondary education in Ireland has been a road with many turns, the latest of which sees a move from the Junior Certificate to the Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement (JCPA). This award documents the broad range of student learning during the first three years of second-level education, while following the curriculum as detailed within the *Framework for Junior Cycle* (2015)¹.

The Framework document has its foundations in international and national research and was further contextualised by engagement with the educational stakeholders. The Framework calls for a 'quality, inclusive and relevant education that will meet the needs of junior cycle students, both now and in the future' (p.8).

The vision for Junior Cycle was first set out in the 2011 NCCA document Towards a Framework for Junior Cycle: Innovation & Identity. It stated that 'Junior cycle education places students at the centre of the educational experience, enabling them to actively participate in their communities and in society and to be resourceful and confident learners in all aspects and stages of their lives' (p.9). While the Framework may have experienced challenges in its early implementation in schools and centres for education, this vision has remained constant throughout.

The curriculum for Junior Cycle is built on a triad of eight principles, twenty-four statements of learning and eight key skills (see Figure 1). Individual schools have autonomy and flexibility in how they choose to enact the curriculum utilising Level 1 Learning Programmes, Level 2 Learning Programmes, Subjects, Wellbeing, Short Courses and Other Areas of Learning. This flexibility also allows for a better balance to be struck 'between school-led change and system-wide change' (NCCA, 2011, p.5).

Mathematics

The JCT Mathematics Team have been delighted to continue to engage with Mathematics teachers since September. We have hosted several online events and have had the opportunity to meet with many of you via webinars, shared learning events, and more recently during online cluster events.



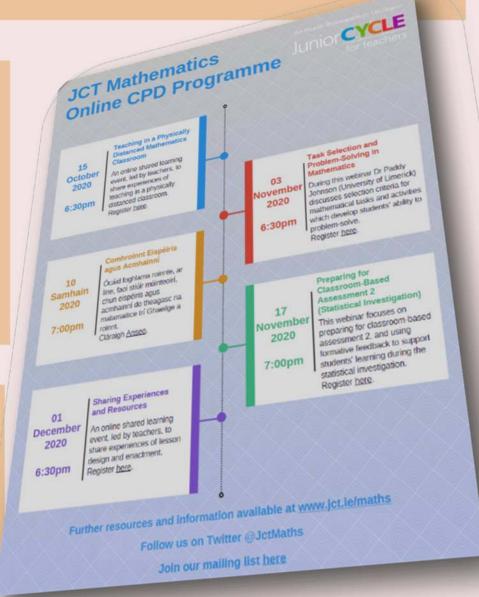
The JCT Mathematics Team hosted several online events throughout the first school term. These online events included shared learning events where teachers came together to share practice and experiences from their classrooms. We also held a shared learning event 'as Gaeilge' where teachers had the opportunity to engage in a community of learning with other Maths teachers teaching through Irish. Our webinars were also successful in sharing insights into several aspects of Junior Cycle Mathematics. A brief description of each of the events are shown below. Recordings of our webinars can be found on the tab for the webinar series here.

Teaching in a Physically Distanced Mathematics Classroom

Led by teachers, this online learning event shared experiences of teaching in a physically distanced classroom. Teachers shared advice and strategies including asking students to record their work with a voice over explanation of their thinking, giving digital feedback and highlighting what was working for maths departments in the current school context.

Task Selection and Problem-Solving in Mathematics

During this webinar Dr Paddy Johnson (University of Limerick) discussed selection criteria for mathematical tasks and activities which develop students' ability to problemsolve.



Preparing for Classroom-Based Assessment 2 (Statistical Investigation)

This webinar focused on preparing for Classroom-Based Assessment 2 and using formative feedback to support students' learning during the statistical investigation.

Sharing Experiences and Resources

An online shared learning event, led by mathematics teachers, to share experiences and reflections on Classroom-Based Assessment

Online Cluster Delivery 2020-2021

We have concluded facilitating the 2021 online cluster day using the Zoom platform. It included: an exploration of assessment items and associated learning outcomes the relationship between learning and assessment further reflection on Classroom-Based Assessment. The afternoon session provided a choice between: "planning inclusive practices and L2LPs" or "question posing".



Second Teaching Subject Supports 2019-2020

We have repurposed the 2019-2020 CPD to make it suitable for online engagement. The booklet, recordings and associated resources are available

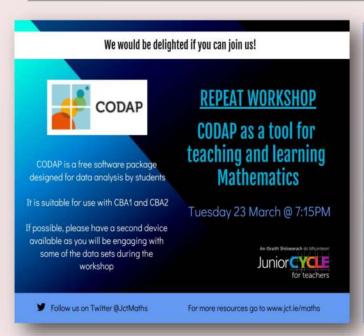


Tangents is a JCT Mathematics Team podcast series that is available on the Junior Cycle Talks podcast channel. The series continues with a conversation with Claire Cooper who works on the Trinity Access Programme (TAP) and Dr Aibhín Bray of Trinity College Dublin (TCD) about active learning pedagogies, technology in the classroom and the Bridge 21 programme.

To be sure you don't miss the next episode, subscribe to the Junior Cycle Talks channel on SoundCloud, Spotify, Apple Podcasts or anywhere you listen to your podcasts and follow us on Twitter!

Tacaíocht le h-aghaidh múineadh trí mhéan na Gaeilge

Tá líon na n-acmhainní Gaeilge ag méadú an t-am ar fad. Tá acmhainní nua á gcur ar ár suíomh gréasáin go leanúnach. Sampla amháin is ea an leabhrán tascanna ina bhfuil raon leathan tascanna saibhre is féidir a úsáid le scólaire. Is féidir leat teacht ar an leabhrán

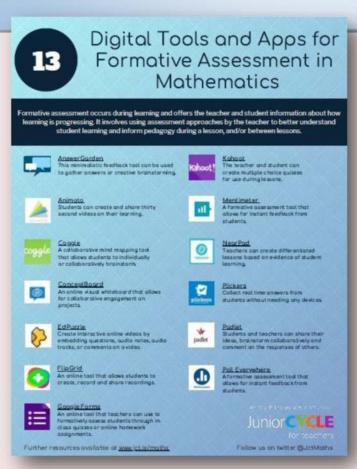


CODAP a free data analysis platform that can be used for the teaching and learning of statistics and other areas of mathematics. CODAP allows students to explore real life data in an intuitive way.

In our online cluster day, one teacher shares how he is using CODAP to engage his students with real-life data and describes how it enables students to develop their understanding of statistics, the relationship between dependent and independent variables and other aspects of data analysis.

If you would like to access CODAP you can click on the icon. A series of screencasts on CODAP have been recorded by the JCT Mathematics Team and can be accessed at www.jct.ie/maths.





Join our mailing list

Follow us on twitter @JctMaths

Visit our webpage www.jct.ie/maths

Our vision is to provide Junior Cycle teachers with rich STE(A)M professional learning experiences, the provision of which will allow for interdisciplinary responses to societal challenges in subject-specific and cross-curricular contexts.



STE(A)M in Junior Cycle 2021 moved online with the theme "Solution Generation".

Nine online interactive events were developed through a collaboration between JCT and 11 education outreach partners from fields of STEM and The Arts.

320 teachers joined the JCT STE(A)M Team and our partners whose logos you can see below.

We were joined by teachers from many subject areas including Applied Technology, CSPE, Engineering, English, Geography, Home Economics, History, Irish, Mathematics, Science, Wood Technology, and Visual Art. Many teachers attended multiple events and joined us and our partner experts to consider some of the concerning issues of our time.

We discussed Big Data, Ethical use of AI, Sustainability, Energy, Biodiversity and Antimicrobial Resistance while all the time considering how creativity, innovation and design thinking can be nurtured.

As well as making connections to their own subject areas, teachers considered the cross curricular opportunities for students to connect with these issues as they engaged in discussions and activities with teachers from multiple subject areas. As the cross curricular opportunities became evident, we moved to thinking about the opportunities for nurturing creativity and STE(A)M thinking in Junior Cycle classrooms. A big thank-you to our partners in moving with us to the online space!

Why not read more about STE(A)M in Junior Cycle and access resources from the workshops by visiting the STE(A)M section of our website?







As part of the range of supports available to schools regarding the Level 1 Learning Programmes (L1LPs) and the Level 2 Learning Programmes (L2LPs), we have designed some self directed CPD modules.

This Implementation module is designed for School Management and members of the SET team within the school. It guides participants through the steps required to implement the L1LPs and/or L2LPs in

This Working Collaboratively module is designed for all teachers in schools where L1LPs and/or L2LPs are currently implemented.

For access to the Revised arrangements for the assessment and reporting of L1LPs and L2LPs for the cohort of students 2018-2021 Click on the image below



Revised arrangements for the assessment and reporting of Level 1 Learning Programmes (L1LPs) and Level 2 Learning Programmes (L2LPs)) for the cohort of students 2018 – 2021 (students in 3rd Year in 2020/2021) September 2020

Students experienced a dirrupted period of learning in 2019/20 because of school obsures introduced to custal the COVID-19 paneteris. Ceptilet the best efforts of tracthest and schools to mitigate the effects of disrupted schooling, the learning experience of students varied. In this contest, schools and this year's third year students could experience an undar and dispreportionate challenge in having to complete LILPs and LILPs, as set out in the LLL's dissideting and LILPs.

This document provides guidance to schools and teachers on the gathering evidence of evidence for PLUs and outlines the revised assessment and reporting of LILPs and LILPs for current 3rd year students (2020–2021).

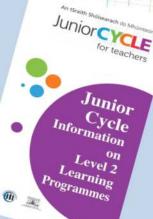




Thank you to all who attended our recent workshops in both the Kildare, Athlone and Laois Education centres.

Each 2 week session consisted of An Introduction to L1LPs & L2LPs and Teaching, Learning, Assessment and Reporting of

L1LPs & L2LPs





The L1LPs/L2LPs **Winter Newsletter** was emailed to all teachers on our mailing lists. We have 2 more newsletters due before the end of the year. We have created a separate newsletter for Gaelcholáistí this term. Join our mailing list here to keep up to date with all our news and events.

Nuacht Gaeilge

An tSraith Shóisearach agus CFL2nna

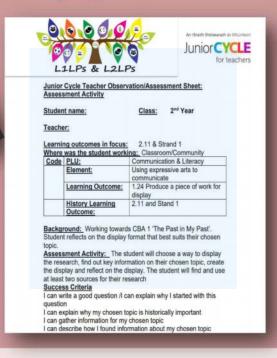
Déanann an taifead seo iniúchadh ar 'Conas Cláir Foghlama ag Leibhéal a Dó a chur i bhfeidhm i Scoileanna Príomhshrutha'. Má theastaíonn tuilleadh tacaíochta uait i ndiaidh duit féachaint ar an taifead, ní mór do bhainisteoirí na scoile ríomhphost a sheoladh chuig info@jct.ie agus is féidir linn freastal ar riachtanais na scoile. Tá súil againn go bhfuil an acmhainn seo cuiditheach duit i do chomhthéacs scoile féin.

Check out this screencast on working with L2LPs in the Home Economics Classroom.





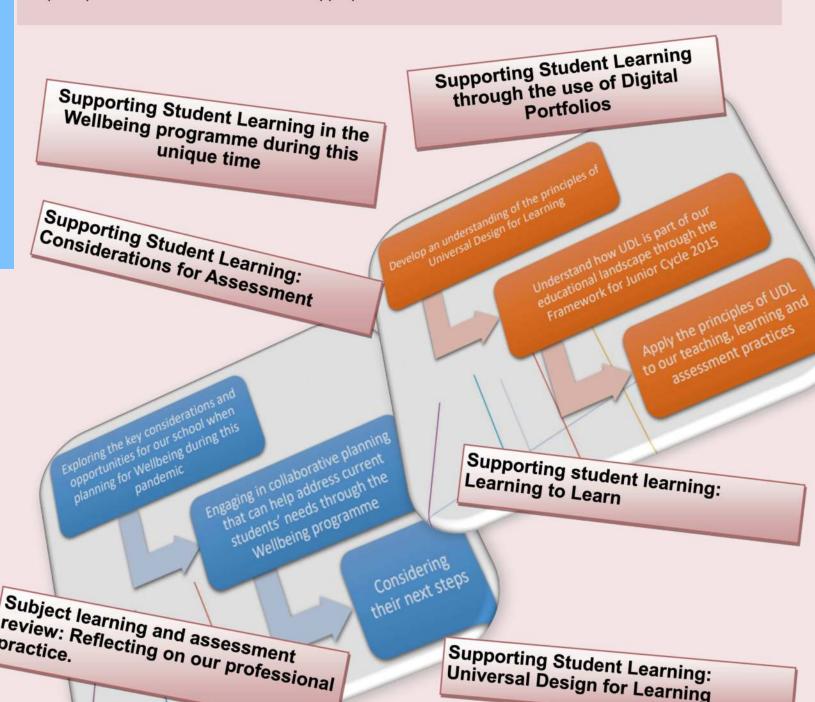
Check out our recent supports located here. Resources include assessment activity sheets, student self assessment activities, planning tools, communicating with parents, reporting strategies and different online learning supports



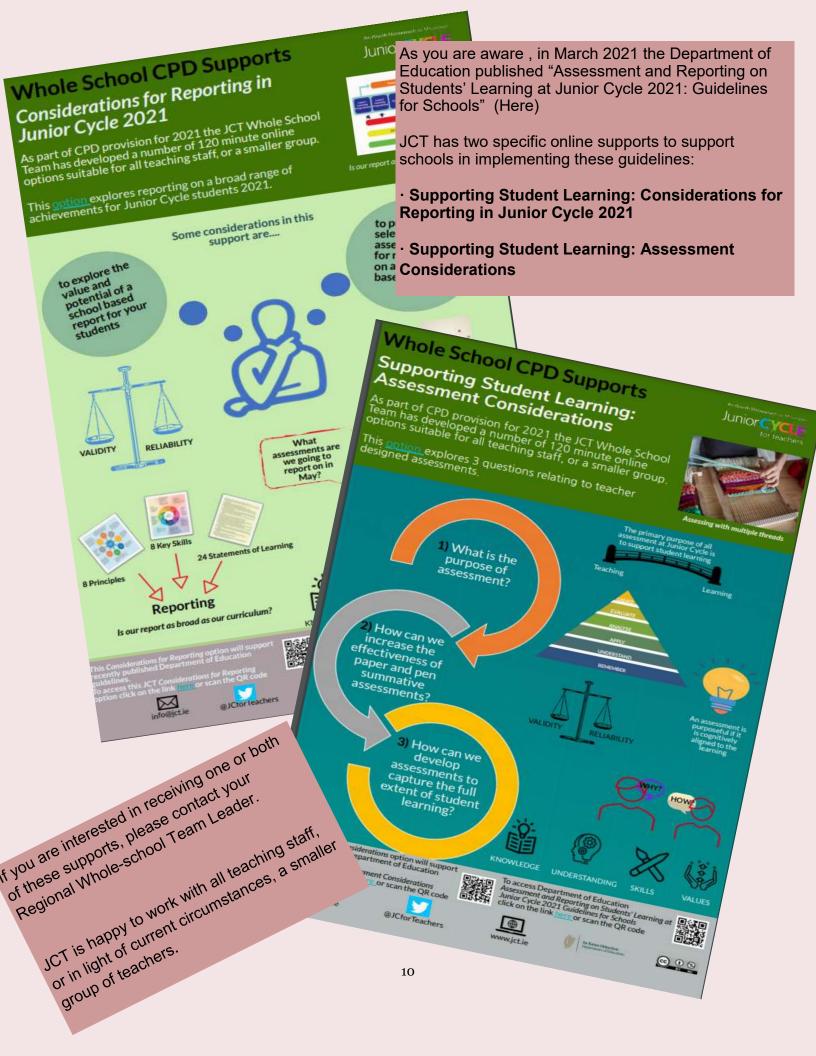
Whole School Supports

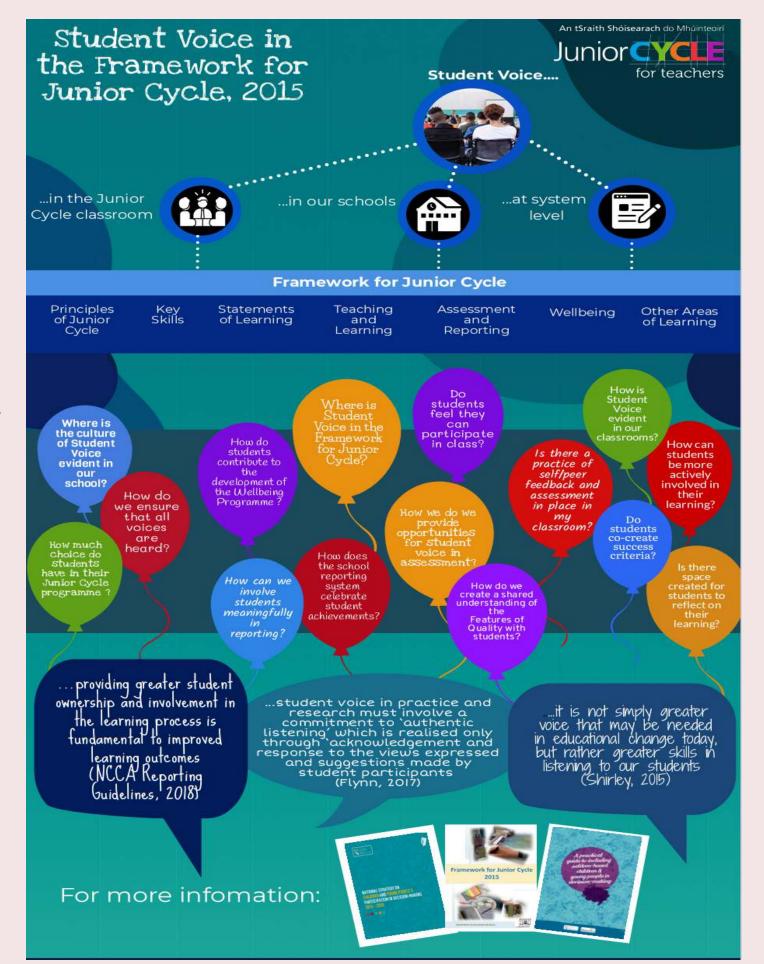
For this school year, 2020/2021, Junior Cycle for Teachers (JCT) plans to continue Whole School CPD support, meeting the needs of schools as appropriate, subject to Public Health Advice. Current supports include several online options that focus on supporting student learning during COVID 19. The thread, 'supporting Student Learning' is at the core of each of the options.

Each option will last approximately 90 –120 minutes. Following communication from the school, the chosen option and a suitable date and time, can be agreed with the Whole School JCT Team. A Zoom meeting will then be set up for you and an email with links to the meeting and any relevant documents will be sent to the principal for dissemination to staff as appropriate.



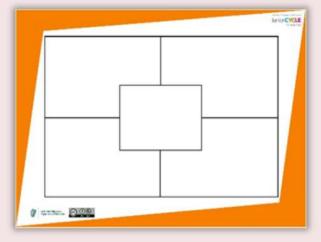
Universal Design for Learning





Modern Foreign Languages

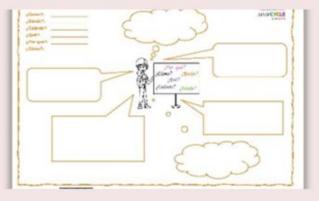
The Modern Foreign Languages team ran their elective workshop **What's Your Story?** *National MFL Digital Story Award* once again this year to huge success. There was an online award ceremony for all of the first, second, and third year students whose digital stories were successful. These can all be viewed here



To support key messages in our CPD Day 2021, we have uploaded PDF

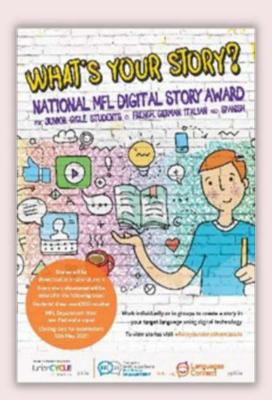
and <u>5WH writing frames</u> to our website for teachers to use online with students.

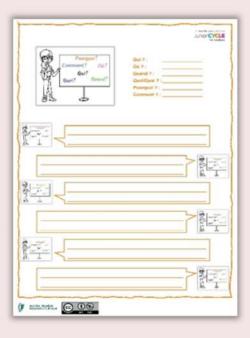
The team has also created warm-up or short energiser supports for teachers as a further spin-off from our work with teachers this year. These are based around short receptive tasks to support student understanding.









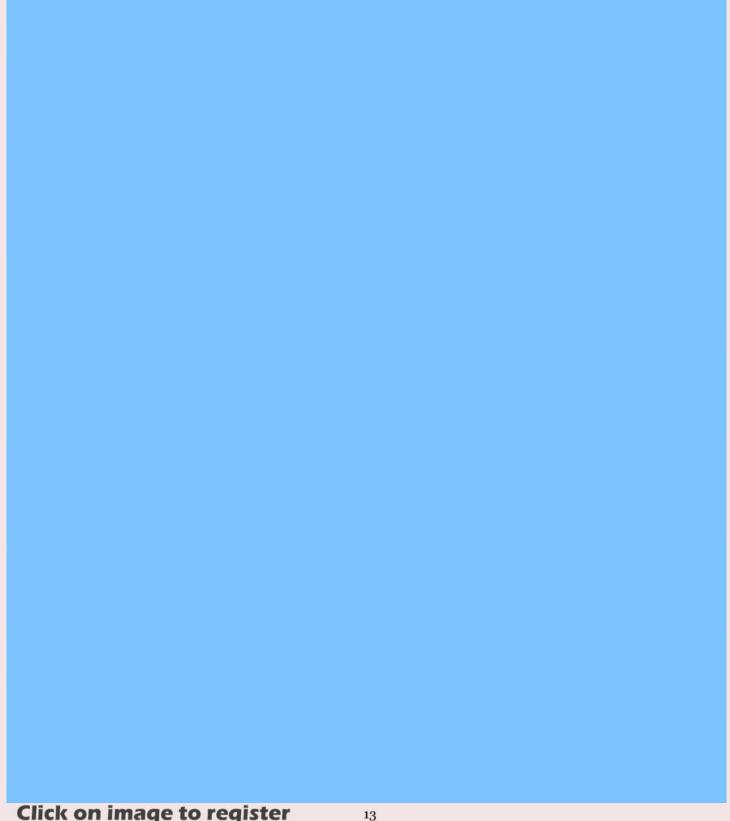


We have also uploaded to our website https://buff.ly/3rHtcNV a portrait and landscape writing frame for the 5WH strategy in all four languages for teachers to download and use in class. They are also available on the Leagan Gaeilge website https://buff.ly/3rDN441.

We have uploaded Fastest Fingers First: Energisers https://buff.ly/3rDN44 for all four languages to our website.

Spring Online Learning Event

Mon—Thur. 12th—15th & 19th—22nd April 2021



Facilitators' Understanding of Subject **Learning Assessment Review Meetings**

Olivia Giltenane Junior Cycle for Teachers

Junior Cycle for Teachers (JCT) explored Post-primary teachers' understanding and ability to facilitate Subject Learning and Assessment Review (SLAR) meetings, within their own school context. Whole-school Advisors and Team Leaders within JCT, delivered SLAR facilitator training in the Autumn/ Winter 2020. A total of twenty-eight workshops were delivered remotely via 22 Education Centres across the country, where 639 teachers attended the training in total. At the end of the training, the participants were invited to participate in a survey. Fifty percent of teachers completed the survey. The information gathered in the survey has been used by JCT, to comprehend facilitators understanding of SLAR meetings. It has also been used to create further training and development in this area.

Emerging Themes



Two global themes, 'SLAR facilitation experience' and 'future support' emerged from the analysis. Within each global theme, subordinate themes were formed. Four subordinate themes emerged from 'SLAR facilitators experience' and three subordinate themes emerged from 'future support' as can be seen in the diagram above. Each of these subordinate themes are discussed in detail in the full report.

SLAR meetings enable teachers to reflect on the assessment process within their own subject and support teachers in providing useful feedback to their students and to improve their learning (DES, 2015). Overall, the training available for SLAR facilitators was valuable and increased facilitators' confidence in their role.

The findings of this study have been presented to members of the JCT Whole-school team, who are currently designing an optional module for schools to choose as CPD for their staff in the future. The findings will support the content that will be created and delivered to schools around the country.

Watch out for the full report in due course.

Wellbeing

To keep up to date with current developments visit the updated Wellbeing section of www.jct.ie. We have resources relating to key documents, workshops, planning and assessment for Civic, Social and Political Education, Physical Education, Social, Personal and Health Education.



Podcasts



Episode 6





In this episode we talk with Niall McCarville, Margaret Barrett & Keith Howley

From the Junior Cycle Talks podcast channel

Junior CYC

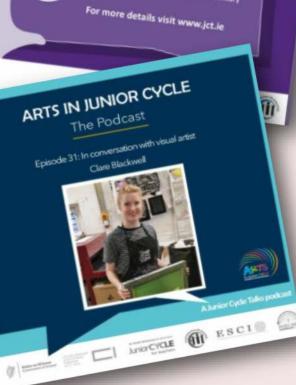
Hands On



JCt4 in conversation Keith Geoghegan, owner of



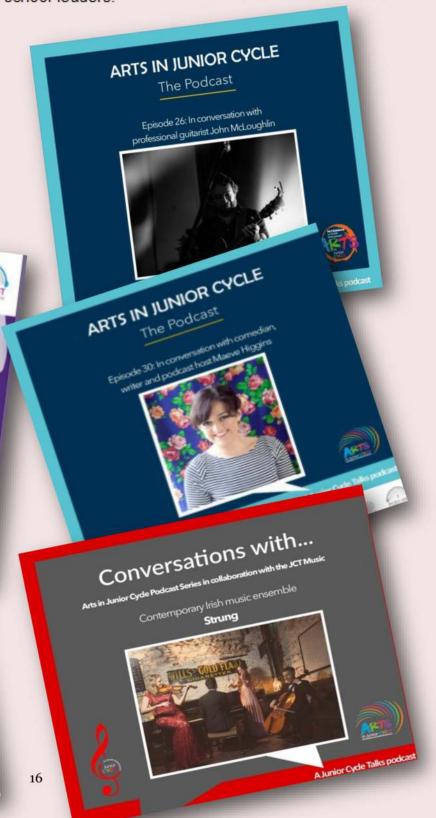
In this Junior Cycle Talks Podcast episode, owner of Glengowla mine in Convenara, Keith Geoghegan, talks about mining technology, principles and the application so talks about the life of the miners and gineers who worked in the 19th century



Junior Cycle Talks is a podcast channel provided by the Junior Cycle for Teachers support service. The podcasts explore a variety of issues, themes and topics that may be of interest to all teachers, students, parents and school leaders.



PODCHRAOLADH

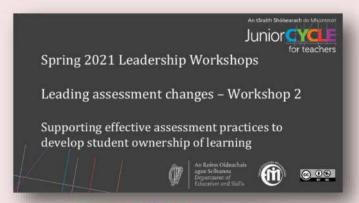


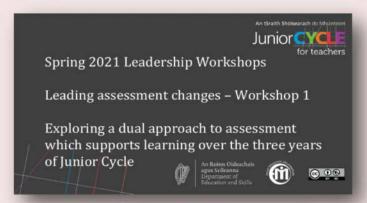
Online Subject CPD Resources January—March 2021

Our online subject CPD school cluster events for 20/21 have concluded. Thank you to the 22,000+ teachers who engaged with us online as part of these clusters since 14th Jan. Schools that were unable to participate will be accommodated at a later date. All CPD resources are now available on www.jct.ie. Click on the link below to access CPD resources for your subject.



Leadership







Leading a Student Centred Approach to Assessment.

Check out the leadership section of www.jct.ie to avail of resources.

LEADING AND MANAGING A STUDENT-CENTRED APPROACH TO ASSESSMENT

JUNIOR CYCLE FOR TRACHES LEADERSHEP SPRING WORKSHOPS SUPPORTING RESOURCES

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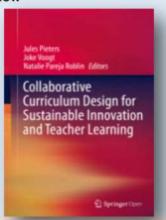
Ag tnúth go mór leis an seimineár gréasáin Corpoideachas... Ag tacú lena chéile chun foghlaim sa chorpoideachas a chothú sa tréimhse seo – 21ú Aibreán – 7.00 i.n. – 8.00 i.n. Tá tuilleadh eolais ar fáil ag



We are delighted to inform you that our #HomeEconomics Spring Online Event 'Supporting students to research and analyse information for CBAs' will take place on Wed 14th of April 5-6:30pm. This is an interactive workshop using Zoom. Click here to register https://buff.ly/2STe94C



Check out Pieters et al. (2020) who provide insights to curriculum planning and design. Click on image to view



Staying In Touch

In the current absence of sustained face-to-face continuing professional development (CPD), we are developing better ways to communicate and collaborate. To ensure that you stay abreast of developments and new resources, sign up to one or more of our subject mailing lists. Click on the image below to get started.



We endeavour to support teachers during these challenging times by continuously updating our resources and challenging ourselves to meet the needs of teachers and school leaders. Our online resources are easily accessible on www.jct.ie. Your suggestions are always welcome, email us at info@jct.ie.

