

Elective Professional Development Workshops

ARTS IN JUNIOR CYCLE ENGLISH

The Arts Council and Junior Cycle for Teachers (JCT) are delighted to present a series of professional development workshops for teachers which 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 will provide teachers with practical and creative methodologies to use in their classroom.

Four workshops are currently being offered on a pilot basis and it is hoped to offer more subject to demand. These respond to the statements of learning and learning outcomes for English and provide a fresh approach to teaching drama extracts, film, Shakespeare and critical engagement with multimodal texts.

These unique workshops are co-facilitated by JCT Advisors and respected artists/arts facilitators in the world of theatre and film. They combine approaches employed by professionals working in the arts with innovative teaching and learning in Junior Cycle.

SPEAKING SHAKESPEARE

JCT with Andrea Ainsworth – Abbey Theatre.

This workshop focuses on short extracts and key soliloquies from a Shakespearean play on the junior cycle prescribed lists of texts. By approaching the text as a script to be spoken and acted, you will discover new ways to lift Shakespeare's language off the page and make it your own. Detailed practical and imaginative work on the text provokes questions and discussions about the character, relationships and themes within the play.

The workshop will build your confidence as an interpreter of Shakespeare, and will help you to actively engage your students with a Shakespearean text.

FILM IN FOCUS

JCT with Alicia McGivern – Irish Film Institute.

The inclusion of film on the prescribed list of texts is an exciting development in junior cycle.

This workshop will assist you to build on your students' film and media literacy skills in a critical and active English classroom. Teachers will have an opportunity to view excerpts from the prescribed list of films, and to explore the language of film as they assist students in developing their personal response to these texts. Collaborative activities will be used to explore film as a multimodal text and to analyse scenes, themes, characters and genres.

PAGE TO STAGE - DRAMA EXTRACTS

JCT with Veronica Coburn – TENDERFOOT at the Civic Theatre

This workshop focuses on bringing a drama text to life. We will explore the skills and techniques required to bring a text from page to stage or to "embody" a drama text. The workshop will introduce three short extracts from contemporary plays by an established Irish playwright; an international playwright; and a playwright of the same age as the students.

The workshop offers teachers the opportunity to broaden their collection of drama extracts suitable for an adolescent audience and will empower teachers to embrace this form of text in a fresh, creative and exciting way.

YOUNG CRITICS

JCT with Anna Galligan and Alan King – National Association for Youth Drama

Prepare your students to engage critically with a live theatre performance as a "multimodal" text. Through observation exercises, research and discussion, equip your students to describe, analyse and form their own judgement of live theatre and to present their personal response to others.

This workshop draws on the National Association for Youth Drama (NAVYD) Young Critics programme. In accordance with the Specification for English it focuses on developing the students' critical, observational, research, communication and collaboration skills. It encourages students to find their personal voice and express their opinion in an informed and articulate fashion.

Dates & Venues

The day-long programme runs from 10.00 a.m. – 3.30 p.m.
To book a place contact the relevant education centre.

1st March	Laois Education Centre , Block Road, Portlaoise. Phone: 057 8672400 Fax: 057 8661137 Email: info@laoisedcentre.ie Speaking Shakespeare & Page to Stage	Monaghan Education Centre , Knockaconny, Armagh Road, Monaghan. Phone: 047 74000 Fax: 047 74010 Email: info@metc.ie Young Critics & Film in Focus (Workshop in Garage Theatre, Monaghan)
8th March	Kildare Education Centre , Friary Road, Kildare Town, Co. Kildare. Phone: 045 530200 Fax: 045 530237 Email: office@eckildare.ie Speaking Shakespeare & Page to Stage	Wexford Education Centre , Milehouse Rd, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford. Phone: 053 9239100 Email: info@ecwexford.ie Young Critics & Film in Focus
22nd March	Cork Education Centre , The Rectory, Western Road, Cork. Phone: 021 4255600 Fax: 021 4254245 Email: office@cesi.ie Speaking Shakespeare & Page to Stage	Donegal Education Centre , Floor 2/3, Pier 1, Quay Street, Donegal Town, Co. Donegal. Phone: 074 9723487 Fax: 074 9723787 Email: dglec@eircom.net Young Critics & Film in Focus
29th March	Drumcondra Education Centre , Drumcondra, D9 Phone: 01 8576400 Fax: 018576499 Email: info@ecdumcondra.ie Speaking Shakespeare & Page to Stage	Tralee Education Centre , Dromtacker, Tralee, Kerry. Phone: 066 7195000 Email: edcentretralee@eircom.net Young Critics & Film in Focus

Welcome

Welcome to the first edition of our newsletter, JCT Today. Junior Cycle for Teachers, or JCT, was established by the Department of Education and Skills to provide dedicated support to schools, in the context of their implementation of the new Framework for Junior Cycle (FJC). JCT has already begun to roll out our initial CPD workshops for school leaders and teachers of English. CPD workshops on Short Courses and Level 2 Learning Programmes are also in the offing, as are a plethora of elective CPD workshops which will be offered in education centres across the country after school and at weekends. Our website, www.juniorcycle.ie, which is a collaboration between JCT and the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA), contains details of all of our workshops plus much more; just log on and hit the JCT Support Service tab. This newsletter, the first of many, also highlights a range of other JCT support activities.



Dr. Pádraig Kirk

The new Framework commences in schools this September with the introduction of the new JC English specification for first year students. Science will follow in September 2015 with the remaining 19 subjects being introduced in subsequent years. JCT commits to working closely with schools and teachers throughout the implementation phases ensuring that we provide the best support possible. We welcome constructive feedback and commit to acting on it whenever possible.

Junior cycle reform is now widely regarded as one of the most fundamental reforms in Irish post-primary education in recent times. While this reform will present us all with certain challenges; we are all united in striving for enhanced student outcomes in schools. The new Junior Cycle will firmly place the student at the centre of the education process. JCT looks forward to playing a major role in supporting this change process.

With every good wish for success.

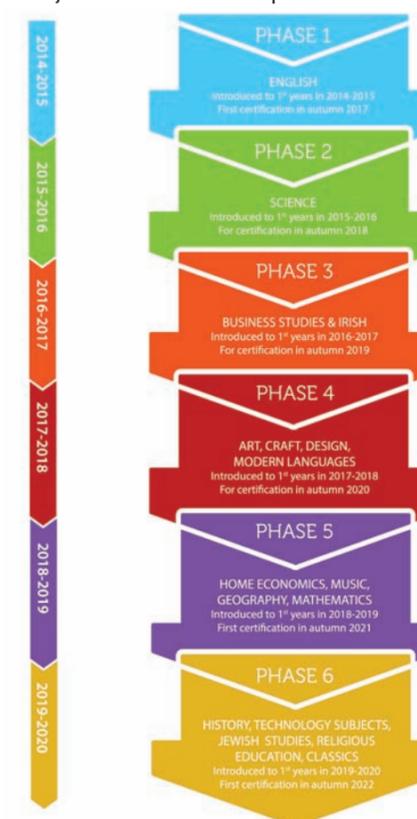
Dr. Pádraig Kirk
Director, CPD for Junior Cycle

ARRANGEMENTS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FRAMEWORK FOR JUNIOR CYCLE

The Department of Education and Skills announced a number of changes to the implementation of the Junior Cycle Student Award (JCSA) on January 17th 2014.

Pace of change:

- English is the only subject which will change in September 2014. Short courses can be introduced from September, but only in schools which want to introduce them. All other subjects remain the same as in the current Junior Certificate.
- The new Science Specification will begin for 1st year students in September 2015; it will be the only new subject introduced that year.
- In September 2016, Irish and Business Studies will be introduced. Standardised testing in English and Maths will take place for 2nd years in the Spring of 2017.
- Other subjects will be rolled out as per the timetable below.



Training for teachers

- English teachers will receive an extra 1.5 days of training or continuous professional development (CPD); this means English teachers will have a minimum of 4.5 days training.
- All other subject teachers will receive a minimum of 4 days in-service training for each subject.
- All schools will have the equivalent of one full day of CPD annually for each year of the roll-out of the JCSA. Schools can close to facilitate this CPD for all teaching staff.

On January 15th 2014 the Minister for Education and Skills, Ruairi Quinn TD, announced that the new name for the reformed Junior Certificate will be the JCSA, or Junior Cycle Student Award.

CPD FOR TEACHERS OF ENGLISH

The first in a series of full CPD days for teachers of English began in November 2013 and will end in March 2014. In this preparatory year, prior to the arrival of the first cohort of students, this initial CPD day focuses on introducing teachers to the new elements in the Specification for English, beginning with the place of English as a subject in the Framework for Junior Cycle. A specially designed resource pack accompanies the day. This pack will be used later in the year for subject department planning meetings and will continue to be expanded during the coming years of in-service.

The full day in-service guides teachers through the content of the new specification, familiarising participants with the learning outcomes in oral language, reading and writing and broadening understanding of formative assessment. As the specification places a strong emphasis on the development of students' oral language, practical examples of promoting oral development in the classroom are explored.

Participants are given an introductory overview of new assessment procedures which begin in the summer term of 2016. They are also familiarised with the specification guidelines for indicative and prescriptive texts, and with the selections of novels, plays, films and documentaries which are proposed for the three years of junior cycle English.

In addition, the new link between students' experience of English in 5th and 6th class and in first year at second level is explained; as is the welcome alignment between Leaving Certificate and junior cycle English. The day includes new approaches to teaching the novel, both in reading for pleasure and the studied text.

Throughout the day, time is given to interaction and discussion so that teachers may benefit from the classroom experience of their colleagues from other schools. Participants also begin the process of designing classroom learning experiences using the new texts, outcomes and assessment, and consider some practical steps that can be taken both individually and in a subject department context, to prepare for the first year of new junior cycle English from September next.

In-school teacher-led CPD

During this academic year, provision is made for teacher-led CPD sessions of planning for students coming into first year English classes in September. **Every school can claim two hours**

substitution in respect of each of their English teachers. It is preferred if schools use this time to allow all English teachers to meet as a subject department. *The Resource Pack for Teachers of English* offers practical resources for this session. This pack is distributed at the CPD full day seminars.

Continuing CPD in coming years

In autumn of 2014, all teachers of English will again be invited to a full CPD day. **The focus for this day will be on assessment**, working with the *Assessment and Moderation Toolkit*. Provision is also made for further in-school teacher-led CPD sessions in the coming years.

Our website is a collaboration between the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA) and JCT, providing a one-stop-shop for all things Junior Cycle. It is an integral part of our support structures and you will find an abundance of useful information and materials on it aimed at supporting the implementation of the reformed Junior Cycle in your school.

www.juniorcycle.ie



You will hear all about CPD for the new Junior Cycle first on Twitter. Why not follow us on @JCFforTeachers

CPD on Short Courses

The JCT team will offer CPD on the introduction of short courses. Pictured below are the team of associates who are currently developing our first seminar. This workshop will include an overview of the eight short courses being developed by the NCCA.



From left to right: Patricia Maguire (JCT English advisor), Conchúr Ó'Muimhneacháin (Coláiste Chríost Rí, Cork), Michael Carey (Glanmire Community College), Gerard Duff (Borrisokane Community College), Olive Byrne (St. Brigid's Special School, Dundalk), Mella Cusack (National College of Art and Design), Matt Kelly (Coláiste Chiaráin, Croom).



Our L2LP CPD Design Team at work in Portlaoise Education Centre recently. CPD on L2LPs will be offered shortly.

(L-R): Sarah-Jane Willis, Sarah Nally, Tommy McCormick, Grainne McCormack, Margaret Flood, Elaine Kelly, Sharon Fay.

Got a query regarding JC CPD? Contact: info@jct.ie

School Leadership Support from JCT

Dedicated and sustained provision of CPD for school leaders was clearly marked on the establishment of JCT. Our Deputy Director for School Leadership, Mr. Paddy Flood, was quickly appointed in early July, followed swiftly by a team of twenty-three Leadership Associates. The JCT roll-out plan incorporates prioritised support for Principals, Deputy Principals and curriculum leaders between now and 2021-2022. Our team of school leadership associates ensures that the support offered is designed and delivered by experienced practitioners with an authentic feel for the needs of students, schools and school leaders.

To date, our school leadership team has already delivered a workshop in every education centre focusing on:

- **Developing a vision for junior cycle**
- **CPD roadmap**
- **Integrating junior cycle with SSE, literacy and numeracy**
- **Leading curriculum change**
- **Curriculum planning**

School leaders who did not have an opportunity to attend one of these workshops can avail of additional workshops offered in the coming weeks. Letters have been sent to schools inviting participation.

GETTING STARTED

A copy of all the relevant resources from this workshop is available on www.juniorcycle.ie under the JCT Support Service tab.

JCT will soon offer a limited number of school leaders the opportunity to attend a workshop for Junior Cycle Programme Planning and Timetabling. This will be run in ten centres nationally. The workshop assists school leaders by:

- **Setting out a framework for planning a junior cycle programme**
- **Exploring strategies for developing a programme**
- **Identifying timetable possibilities to facilitate programme implementation**



Inaugural meeting of JCT Leadership Associates and English Team: Sept. 2013

JCT's plan outlines a model of two core national workshops per annum for all school leaders. Our second workshop for all school leaders will be available later in this school year.

Our School Leader Associates

Mr. John Cronin	Castleknock Community College, Dublin
Mr. Patrick Daly	JCT
Ms. Audrey Doyle	St. Joseph's Secondary School, Lucan, Dublin
An tUas Pádraig Firtéar	Pobalscoil Chorca, Dhuibhne
Mr. Ciaran Folan	Gairmscoil Mhuire, Athenry
Mr. Leo Hogan	St. Mary's Academy CBS, Carlow
Mr. Daniel Hyland	St. Gerald's College, Castlebar
Ms. Mary Keane	Christ King Girls Secondary School, Cork
Ms. Maire-Thérèse Kilmartin	Coláiste Bride, Clondalkin
Ms. Moya Lynch	Ballybay Community College
Mr. Noel Malone	Coláiste Chiaráin, Croom
Ms. Rita McCabe	Coláiste Naomh Mhuire, Naas
Ms. Evelyn McLoughlin	St. Mary's Holy Faith Secondary School, Killester
Ms. Sheila McManamly	JCT
Mr. Alan Mongey	Colaiste Bhaile Chair, Galway
Ms. Máire Ní Bhróithe	Louth Meath ETB
An tUas Dónal Ó Buachalla	Gael Choláiste Mhuire, Corcaigh
An tUas Stiofán Ó Cualáin	Coláiste Na Coiribe, Gaillimh
Ms. Fiona O'Brien	Killarney Community College
Ms. Jacqueline O'Reilly-Dillon	Magh Éne College, Bundoran
Ms. Áine O'Sullivan	Ashbourne Community School
Ms. Clare Ryan	St. Leo's College, Carlow
Mr. Martin Wallace	JCT

**Got a query regarding JC CPD?
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EU Folio Project

JCT is delighted to be working with a number of partners - NCCA, State Examinations Commission, PDST, Microsoft Ireland, and H2 Learning on a European e-portfolio project which is led by the Department of Education and Skills. This European project will see seven countries - Ireland, Slovenia, Austria, Spain, Cyprus, Bulgaria and Lithuania - work concurrently on piloting e-portfolios in classrooms and investigating current e-portfolio practice in teaching and learning. Through a network of pilot schools, the project will design and test potential e-portfolio models for use in teaching, learning and assessment.

In Ireland, twenty-six post-primary schools are involved in the pilot project. The initial phase will run from January to May 2014 with two English teachers from each of the pilot schools involved. The teachers will receive training in the use of the two e-portfolio platforms chosen for the project - Mahara and Microsoft. Our pilot schools will use the portfolio in a variety of ways to support teaching and learning and will work on a number of English assessment tasks throughout the pilot process. Pilot schools will have the support of an e-portfolio mentor and will have the additional supports of an online community of practice and a transnational online peer to peer network.

From our work to date, it is clear that the e-portfolio model will provide teachers of all subjects with a myriad of opportunities for formative assessment and rich student assessment tasks.

The findings of the EU Folio project and the potential for e-portfolios in the Junior Cycle classroom will be disseminated through CPD sessions for teachers and school leaders throughout the Junior Cycle reform process. The JCT contact for the EUFolio project is Sinéad Tuohy (sinead.tuohy@jct.ie) The project can be followed on Twitter @ eufolioirl



Teachers from EUFolio pilot schools training in the Digital Hub Dublin in January 2014.

JCT will be working closely with schools in the provision of whole-school CPD days over the coming years.