

ARTS IN JUNIOR CYCLE ENGLISH

Arts in Junior Cycle is a joint pilot initiative of JCT and the Arts Council. This partnership is guided by the principles which underpin the **Framework for Junior Cycle** and the **Arts in Education Charter**.

Arts in Junior Cycle is an endeavour to marry the world of the arts with reform in junior cycle education. JCT understands the need for the presence of arts in young people's lives and the fundamental role that it can play in their education. The arts are not a frill or something fun to tack on to students' learning; they have the power to help us shape our identity, challenge our intellect and ignite our imaginations. They are an intrinsic part of what it is to be human and they need to be nurtured and nourished in each of us. That is why, with our partners in the Arts Council, we created a series of CPD workshops to support teachers in their teaching of Shakespeare, drama, theatre and film. Over four Saturdays in March 2014, arts professionals and JCT advisors delivered twenty-four workshops in a number of education centres across Ireland.

The response from participants was very positive, for example:

- More than 90% of attendees 'agreed' or 'strongly agreed' that they gained a better understanding of how to develop students' key skills
- 89% of attendees 'agreed' or 'strongly agreed' that they felt better prepared to teach Junior Cycle English
- More than 90% of attendees said they would 'definitely' or 'most likely' apply what they learned in each workshop to Junior Cycle English

Teachers listed a variety of other year groups and subjects they teach and when asked if they intended to apply what they learned to these areas and year groups, the majority answered 'definitely'. The workshops adopted an experiential approach to learning. You can view further information about the pilot and access resources at www.artsinjuniorcycle.ie. The outcomes of this initial partnership are currently being evaluated, and the potential for future collaborations is being explored.

JCT wishes to thank the following: Andrea Ainsworth of the Abbey Theatre, Alicia McGivern of the Irish Film Institute, Alan King and Anna Galligan of The National Association of Youth Drama, Veronica Coburn of Tenderfoot in the Civic Theatre and Seóna Ní Bhriain based in the Arts Council. A big thank you also to all of the teachers who attended.



All ready for our workshops "Film in Focus" & "Young Critics" with teachers of English in Drumcondra Ed Centre. Alicia McGivern I.F.I. and Alan King, The Abbey Theatre.



Teachers of English throwing shapes in the Young Critics workshop in Monaghan with Anna Galligan & JCT.

JCT is planning to host a national conference in early 2015. Watch this space!

Level 2 Learning Programmes (L2LPs)

The Level 2 Learning Programme (or L2LP for short) is a new programme specifically designed for students with low mild to high moderate general learning difficulties. Developed to meet a gap in the existing junior cycle, it is designed around five Priority Learning Units (PLUs), namely (1) Communicating and Literacy, (2) Numeracy, (3) Personal Care, (4) Preparation for Work, and (5) Living in the Community. These PLUs can be taught independently or integrated into mainstream subjects' learning goals. In order to be awarded a full L2LP certificate students must also cover two short courses at level 2. Schools can design their own short courses or use exemplars provided by the NCCA (e.g., Caring for Animals, Forensic Science). Approximately 250 hours will be allocated for each of the PLUs, while approximately 100 hours is allocated for each of the short courses. The NCCA will provide schools with sample materials for the assessment of the PLUs and short courses. Assessment and evidence of learning, in the form of written work such as project work, charts and diagrams, videos, photographs, recordings, etc., will be an ongoing process where the learning goals have been identified and next steps agreed.

The JCT L2LP Team is finalising the design of a first CPD day to be offered to teachers shortly. This day will give an overview of L2LPs, for example what they look like, terminology and getting started. Subsequent CPD days will address topics such as planning, assessment, gathering evidence and moderation.



Finalising our first CPD day on Level 2 Learning Programmes in Laois Education Centre recently.

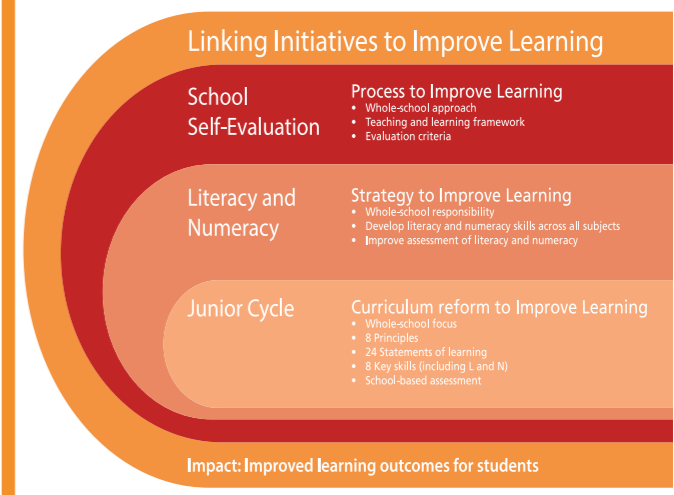
Check out our website
www.juniorcycle.ie

CIRCULAR LETTER 0020/2014

The Department of Education and Skills issued Circular Letter 0020/2014 to schools and centres for education on March 10th 2014. This circular outlines the revised arrangements for the implementation of the Junior Cycle Student Award (JCSA) in the academic year 2014/2015. The circular provides clarification on a range of issues including the phasing of junior cycle reform, short courses including CSPE, Level 2 Learning Programmes, the maximum number of subjects and short courses for certification, the JCSP and CPD, including English and whole school CPD. The circular can be accessed at www.education.ie, under the circulars and forms section.

LINKING SSE, LITERACY AND NUMERACY AND JUNIOR CYCLE REFORM

The National Literacy and Numeracy Strategy, School Self-Evaluation and the Junior Cycle framework are closely related and work together. At the heart of each is a desire to improve teaching, learning and assessment. The diagram below illustrates how school self-evaluation as a **process** to improve learning helps schools to implement changes outlined in the **strategy** to improve literacy and numeracy and to prepare for and implement a reformed junior cycle **curriculum**. Interlinking the three aspects of reform will assist in changing not only *what* we teach and assess but also *how* we teach and assess in order to improve learning outcomes.



Registration of Science Teachers

The new Science subject specification will be introduced in schools in September 2015. JCT is requesting all schools to register their Science teachers with us so that we can invite them to participate in our CPD programme for Science teachers. CPD for Science will commence in the next academic year. Teachers can be registered with us online at www.jctregistration.ie. We have written to all schools explaining how teachers can be registered. If you are a Science teacher, make sure you are registered!

SHORT COURSES

Schools have the option of introducing short courses for their first year students in September 2014. A short course should be delivered over approximately one hundred hours. Short courses can be timetabled across a student's junior cycle programme as his/her school sees fit, however, as is the case with all of the new junior cycle subjects, only student work undertaken in second and third year can be submitted for certification purposes.

For students starting their junior cycle programme in September 2014, schools may choose to incorporate short courses into their junior cycle either for certification purposes, or not for certification purposes. Alternatively, schools may choose not to offer any new short courses at all for this cohort and may choose instead to continue to offer the existing syllabuses in SPHE, CSPE and PE. (Circular 0020/2014 provides more information about CSPE).

Short courses, developed by the NCCA, will be available from September 2014. If a school chooses to introduce short courses they may choose one of these 'off the shelf' short courses, or they may design their own. A template and guidelines are provided for this purpose and may be accessed at <http://www.juniorcycle.ie/curriculum/short-courses>

The JCT Short Courses team has developed an introductory CPD day for schools on short courses. This will explain the elements of a short course and explore reasons to include short courses in your junior cycle programme. It will also look at the NCCA short courses and offer guidance to schools on how to develop their own.

www.juniorcycle.ie

Our website is a collaboration between the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment and JCT, providing a comprehensive resource and support for all things Junior Cycle.

Our section **JCT Support Service** contains everything you need in relation to CPD for the new Framework. It is updated regularly with information, resources and details of upcoming events.

As English is the only subject which will change in September 2014 we have been busy developing the English section of the website.

- In the **Latest News** section you can download the full **English Specification** and the **List of Texts** for JC English. The online specification for JC English can be viewed on www.curriculumonline.ie
- In the **Core Workshops** section you can access all the materials from the *Day One Workshop* including the presentation used and a PDF of the **Teachers' Resource Pack**
- In the **Planning Materials** section you can view and download resources to assist in subject department planning for first year English, including sample plans, templates and how JC English links with the primary English curriculum
- The **Assessment Materials** section contains details of both formative and summative assessment in JC English
- The **Useful Resources & Links** section has a section with suggestions for before, during and after reading, and learning strategies
- The specification for JC English has a strong focus on the oral dimension of language, including the vital importance

of learning through oral language. Our website has an **Oral Language Resources** section which includes a teacher's resource pack on **DocOnOne** and a guide to using fishbowl discussions with JC English classes



- On our YouTube Channel (www.youtube.com/user/juniorcycle4teachers) we have created an English YouTube Playlist featuring video clips used in our first teachers' workshop, as well as several others to support teachers of JC English



ASSESSMENT AND MODERATION TOOLKIT

The first sections of the *Assessment and Moderation Toolkit* have recently been published on www.juniorcycle.ie

The **Ongoing Assessment** section focuses on how to plan, design and undertake different assessment approaches and activities as part of ongoing learning and teaching. It includes reading and video materials, presentations and worksheets, along with links to other reference material.

The **Moderation for Certification** section introduces the area of moderation and its relationship with assessment and certification at junior cycle. The approach to moderation set out here is designed to support teachers as they work with Junior Cycle English.

Our website is an integral part of our support structures. We will continue to update all sections of the website with materials aimed at supporting the implementation of the new JC in your school.

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

School Leadership CPD

JCT support for school leaders has continued apace over the past months. All school leaders who were unable to attend Workshop 1 prior to Christmas were given a further opportunity to attend in February and March this year. Feedback from the workshop has been most positive. A second workshop for school leaders has been developed and delivered in a number of education centres. JCT will contact school leaders in due course regarding the further roll-out of this workshop. This workshop aims to prepare school leaders for the in-school CPD and planning activities that schools will engage in over the next school year and includes:

- **Subject Planning for Teachers of English**
- **SSE and Junior Cycle**
- **Formative Assessment**
- **Introducing Key Skills**
- **Planning a Junior Cycle Programme**

School leaders will be invited to attend a number of key supports after the summer break. In addition to an invitation to attend our second workshop, there will also be elective seminars organised locally to assist school leaders in planning and timetabling their junior cycle programme. Specific provision will be made for leaders in special schools to attend workshops on the leadership and introduction of Level 2 Learning Programmes (L2LPs).



Follow us on twitter @JCforTeachers - We currently have over 1,550 followers and growing.

JCT Collaborations

As a new support service, we made a great start during the 2013/2014 school year. At this point we have forged strong working relationships with numerous education partners, addressing various conferences and gatherings and establishing ongoing projects of mutual benefit. Some of the organisations we have engaged with to date include:

The Arts Council
Association of Community and Comprehensive Schools (ACCS)
Association of Teachers' Education Centres in Ireland (ATECI)
Bridge 21, TCD
Chief Executive and Education Officers Association (CEEEOA)
DES Inspectorate
Education and Training Boards Ireland (ETBI), and all constituent ETBs
Institute of Guidance Counsellors (IGC)
Irish National Organisation for Teachers of English (iNote)
Joint Managerial Body (JMB)
National Association of Principals and Deputy Principals (NAPD)
National Behaviour Support Service (NBSS)
National Centre for Guidance in Education (NCGE)
National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA)
National Induction Programme for Teachers (NIPT)
Network of School Planners Ireland (NSPI)
Professional Development Service for Teachers (PDST)
Project Maths Development Team
Special Education Support Service (SESS)
State Examinations Commission (SEC)

Thank you to all our partners for their engagement.

Whole School CPD

JCT was delighted to support an initiative of six Cork city schools that came together in March 2014 for CPD on the Junior Cycle Framework. We provided three workshops on the day which all 270 participants attended in rotation. These included:

1. **Overview and Statements of Learning: Paddy Flood (Deputy Director JCT)**
2. **Key Skills: Clare Ryan and Niamh Broderick (JCT Associates)**
3. **Introducing Short Courses: Mike Carey and Conchúr Ó Muimhneacháin**

This event was most successful thanks to the initiative of the school leaders in all six schools and afforded all staff members an opportunity for meaningful engagement with the new Framework. As we plan for the next school year, JCT will be in a position to offer all schools the opportunity to avail of facilitated in-school, whole-staff CPD. A design team of practicing school leaders and teachers have advanced plans and materials to support this development. Schools are entitled to close for one day's CPD (or its equivalent) for Junior Cycle in the next school year. Schools not availing of this day in the current school year, may carry it forward to next year, provided that the day is taken by the end of 2014. JCT looks forward to supporting teachers as they engage with the new Framework.

DID YOU KNOW?

- A limit of ten full subjects or their equivalent, for certification purposes, will be in place for first year students entering post-primary schools in September 2015
- new Science subject specification will be introduced in schools in September 2015
- Schools can close, subject to Board of Management approval, for one day, or its equivalent, each year for whole-school CPD on Junior Cycle reform
- After English, Science is the next subject to be introduced under the phased implementation of the Junior Cycle. The 2017 will be the final year for which SEC will administer the current CSPE examination

As the new Framework for Junior Cycle is phased in JCT looks forward to liaising with a wider range of partners.