

Business Studies

The JCT Business Studies team is committed to supporting Business Studies teachers throughout the introduction of the new Specification for Junior Cycle Business Studies. Our new team has embarked on the development of supports and resources that will equip students with understanding, knowledge and skills, while also exploring student-centred approaches to planning, teaching and learning. The team will also put in place a suite of face-to-face and online supports tailored to the needs of teachers of Business Studies teaching through the medium of Irish. Teaching resources will focus on all three strands of the Specification for Business Studies and will support teachers in collaborating and sharing best practice. We will work with a team of trained associate teachers currently in the classroom to ensure that all materials and resources produced will be of the highest quality and will maximize the teaching and learning opportunities within our classrooms.



Emer Morrissey
Advisor,
Business Studies



Róisín NicLeoid
Advisor,
Business Studies



Sinéad Tuohy
Advisor,
Business Studies

Short Courses

Short courses are a new curriculum component which may be included within a school's Junior Cycle programme and which require approximately 100 hours of student engagement over the three years of junior cycle.

The Short Course team has a full-time team leader and a number of associates who are practicing classroom teachers. JCT is delighted to assist schools and teachers of short courses by facilitating CPD activities to support their introduction. These activities will include core workshops which will focus initially on supporting schools in their consideration of introducing short courses. JCT will also be involved in the delivery of various elective workshops and carefully designed online supports to assist teachers in the coming months and years. As an additional support, an informative short course newsletter 'Short Courses in the Spotlight' is available each month.

Further information is available at www.jct.ie



Michael Carey
Team Leader
Short Courses

Science

The Science team has developed an initial CPD Day for teachers and the delivery of our training days will commence in the coming months. The broadened vision for Science in the Framework for Junior Cycle (2015) embraces exciting new pedagogies which will enhance the learning opportunities for all students. Science becomes a more holistic enterprise in which learners engage in a variety of science practices, including the continuum of inquiry. 'The Nature of Science' is now central. Learners will develop as more informed citizens, equipped to evaluate arguments related to critical, technical, ethical and environmental issues.

Subject knowledge remains a cornerstone but will be bolstered by the skills and values developed through inclusive and collaborative learning activities designed by teachers.

The new Junior Cycle Science specification will be introduced in schools from September 2016. Along with our initial CPD day which will be delivered this school year, we also have a suite of other supports which are currently being developed including online supports and electives.



John Hennessy
Team Leader, Science



Áine Woods
Advisor, Science



David King
Advisor, Science



Dónal Ó Laoire
Advisor, Science



Eadaoin Norris
Advisor, Science



An tSraith Shóisearach do Mhúinteoirí
JuniorCYCLE
for teachers

All you need to know

Introduction to JCT

Junior Cycle for Teachers (JCT) is a dedicated continuing professional development support service of the Department of Education and Skills. The main function of JCT is to provide effective support to schools in the context of their implementation of the new Framework for Junior Cycle (2015). To this end, we aim to provide high quality continuing professional development (CPD) for school leaders and teachers, and provide effective teaching and learning resources which will maximise the learning opportunities for all students. CPD will be provided using a variety of different methods to ensure minimum disruption for schools but maximum learning supports for teachers. Our models of support will include:

- Seminars and workshops
- Teacher-led CPD, supported by JCT
- School-based support on an individual or cluster basis with whole staff, subject departments or individual teachers
- Development and facilitation of communities of practice
- Provision of on-line materials and resources on www.jct.ie
- Working with a range of partners in education to develop and deliver high quality CPD, e.g., NCCA, SEC, NAPD, Inspectorate, The Arts Council, SFI, RTE, iNote, ISTA, Science Gallery, NCGE, IGC, JMB, ACCS, NPCpp, NABMSE, CTAI and ETBI
- Collaboration with Teacher Professional Networks and other education partners on identified projects
- Sharing models of current best practice in schools
- E-mail, telephone and other supports

We look forward to working with you and your school over the coming years.



Dr. Pádraig Kirk
Director,
CPD for Junior Cycle



Paddy Flood
Deputy Director,
School Leadership

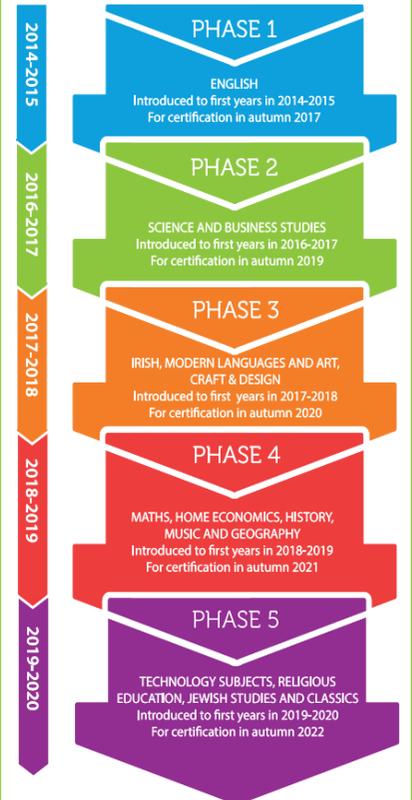


Karol Sadleir
Deputy Director,
Assessment

Phased Implementation of Junior Cycle

An tSraith Shóisearach do Mhúinteoirí
JuniorCYCLE
for teachers

Subject Specifications - Phases



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

www.jct.ie



WHOLE SCHOOL CPD

JCT underpins its commitment to teachers through a network of Regional Leaders and Associates, who are predominantly practicing teachers. They will work directly with you in your school, helping you and your colleagues and building capacity in your school to deliver the Junior Cycle using comprehensive pedagogical strategies. They will highlight and support the need for fundamental changes in our approach to learning, teaching, assessment and curricular planning as envisaged in the Framework (2015). Our whole school team will work to improve the quality of students' learning experiences and outcomes. "Building on good practice already taking place in many classrooms, it is envisaged that lesson content and format in the new Junior Cycle will facilitate deeper learning" (Framework for Junior Cycle 2015, p. 30)

As per Circular 0020/2014, approval is granted for schools to close, subject to Board of Management approval, for one day, or its equivalent, each year for professional activities on Junior Cycle reform. JCT is delighted to support schools by facilitating whole staff CPD. The service provided will be tailored to the needs of each school. Schools may register by logging on to www.jctregistration.ie with their username and password (for schools already registered). Alternatively, schools may contact Paula Granaghan in Monaghan Education Centre at paula.granaghan@jct.ie or by phone at 047 74008.

School Leadership

School leaders have a pivotal role to play in leading the process of curriculum change. JCT underpins its commitment to school leaders through a post of Deputy Director with specific responsibility for supporting school leadership, and through the establishment of a team of Associates who are current, or recently retired, school leaders. This team provides two workshops per annum to all school leaders as well as offering further elective CPD. JCT also provides direct Whole School support to schools.

Region 1 North East



Donal O'Mahony
Regional Leader
Whole School Support
& CPD

Region 2 East



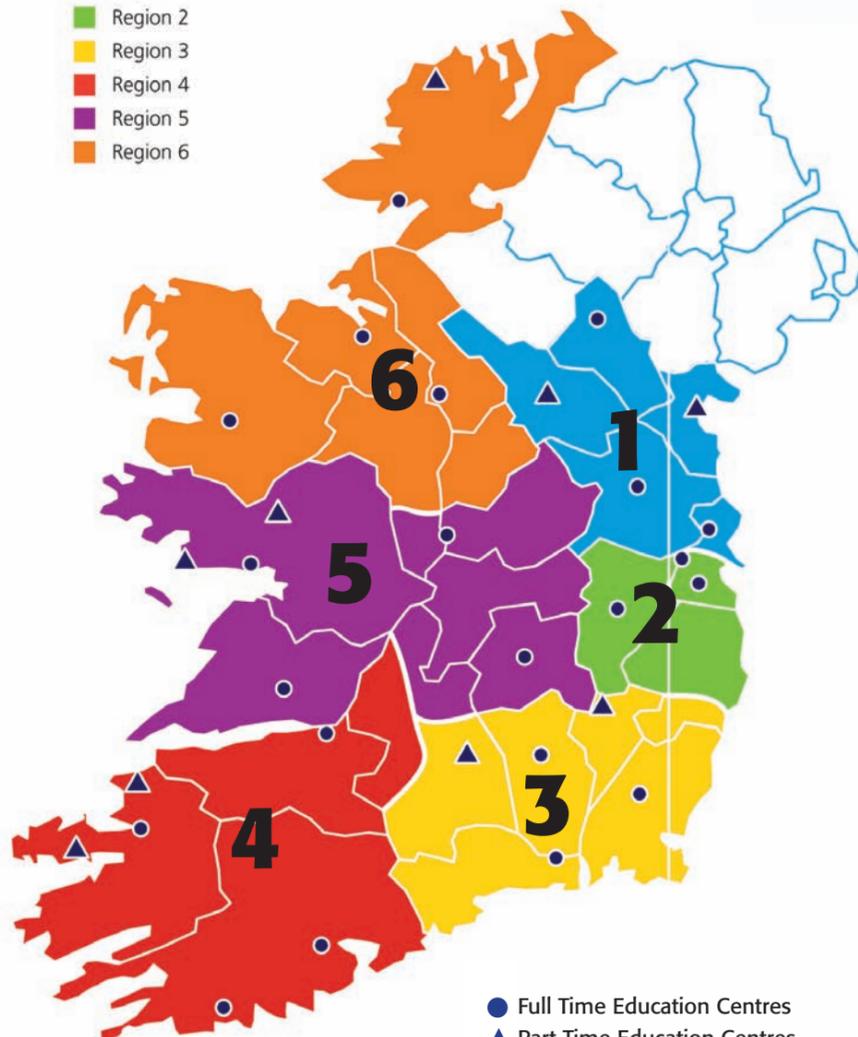
Lorna Lavelle
Regional Leader
Whole School Support
& CPD

Region 3 South East



Enda Byrne
Regional Leader
Whole School Support
& CPD

- Region 1
- Region 2
- Region 3
- Region 4
- Region 5
- Region 6



- Full Time Education Centres
- ▲ Part Time Education Centres

Region 4 South West



Gerard Duff
Regional Leader
Whole School Support
& CPD

Region 5 West



Ursula Diamond
Regional Leader
Whole School Support
& CPD

Region 6 North West



Anthony Doogan
Regional Leader
Whole School Support
& CPD

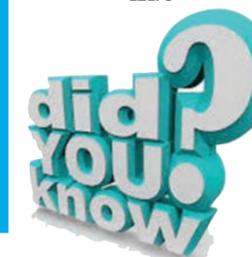
Level 2 Learning Programmes

Level 2 Learning Programmes (L2LPs) have been designed for a small minority of students with particular special educational needs. These programmes are a new and welcome addition to help provide meaningful learning experiences for students who have general learning disabilities in the higher functioning moderate and low functioning mild categories. The special needs of these students often prevent them from accessing some or all of the subjects and short courses on offer at junior cycle.

JCT is delighted to support schools and teachers of L2LPs by facilitating CPD activities to support their introduction. These activities include core workshops which focus on planning for the introduction of L2LPs, as well as providing access to a wide variety of teaching and learning methodologies. The L2LP team has a full-time team leader and a team of associates, made up of practicing teachers from both special schools and mainstream schools. Some eighty-six special schools received their whole school CPD day on L2LPs last year. It is hoped to offer further CPD to mainstream schools with units attached in the near future. JCT will also be involved in the delivery of various elective workshops in areas where additional support may be required.



Judith Callan Gough
Team Leader
L2LPs



English

During the first roll out of CPD in 2013/14, more than 5,000 teachers of English attended the various Education Centres for our initial

CPD day.

The day focused on curricular change; the specification; familiarising participants with the learning outcomes in the three integrated strands of oral, reading and writing; an introduction to texts - indicative and prescribed; planning and assessment in the classroom as well as exploring a number of classroom strategies. Delivery of our next CPD day will commence in November with a view to ensuring that all teachers of English in ETB schools are invited to training before Christmas.

Members of JCT will also visit schools to offer support in a range of areas including Planning and Developing resources and how to conduct the Subject Learning and Assessment Review (SLAR) meeting. Schools will be able to choose the area that best fits their school context.

As students in our schools have now engaged with the new English Specification, our next day will focus on a number of key areas, including: a recap of our initial CPD day; advice on planning, teaching and assessing using learning outcomes; practical classroom strategies to help prepare for the two classroom based assessments - Oral Communication and the Collection of Student's Texts; information on Subject Learning and Assessment Review

meetings as well as information on the Assessment Task and the final SEC assessment. Throughout the day, time will be given for interaction and discussion so that teachers may benefit from the classroom experiences of colleagues from other schools.

The new JCT website (www.jct.ie) should become a first port of call for teachers and by simply clicking on 'Subjects' on the menu bar and visiting the English section, you can access information on CPD supports, planning, resources, assessment and useful links to enhance teaching and learning. While each area of the site is populated with useful information and rich learning materials, the Planning Section contains a very practical webinar on classroom planning; materials on prescribed films; speed trailering for the short films as well as booklets to guide you and your students in choosing from the prescribed 20 novels and 17 plays.

We encourage you to join our Mailing List - simply click on 'Join our mailing list' on the JCT website home page - to ensure that you receive updates on all forthcoming elective workshops, events and resources, etc. To this end, we are delighted once again to be collaborating with The Arts Council to continue the very successful Arts in Junior Cycle English Initiative begun in 2013-2014. We will continue to make links with various agencies, groups and individuals to support student learning in the junior cycle.



Pauline Laurenson
Team Leader, English



Gary Abrahamian
Advisor, English



Mary Gilmore
Advisor, English



Eoghan Evesson
Advisor, English



Gráinne Macken-Reid
Advisor, English



Tommy McCormick
Advisor, English



Evelyn O'Connor
Advisor, English



Follow us on twitter @JCforTeachers - We have nearly 4,000 followers and growing.