

Junior Cycle Religious Education Newsletter - December 2020



@jct_RE



www.jct.ie



info@jct.ie

Welcome

Dear RE Colleagues,

Welcome to the December edition of the Junior Cycle RE newsletter. This month we explore the key skill of being literate, and share technology and pedagogy tips to support this skill. These tips might also be useful for CBA1.

Cluster Day CPD

We are delighted that the cluster days will take place online in January, February and March. Details and dates have been sent to your school. We look forward to seeing you virtually.

Dates for your diary – December 2020

2nd JCT RE CBA1 webinar 7pm

Upcoming events and celebrations from the interfaith calendar

8th	Feast of the Immaculate Conception Christian
8th	Bodhi Day Buddhist
10th	Human Rights Day International
10th—18th	Hanukkah Jewish
25th	Christmas Christian

Key Skill in focus: Being Literate

This skill allows learners to develop good literacy skills, promotes “lifelong learning”, self-esteem and overall quality of life. It also helps students in:

- Developing their understanding and enjoyment of words and language
- Reading for enjoyment and with critical understanding



- Writing for different purposes
- Expressing ideas clearly and accurately
- Developing spoken language
- Exploring and creating a variety of texts, including multi-modal texts.

CBA 1 Webinar and Supports

As you are aware the CBA1 window for RE opens on January 6th and runs until May 14th. Ahead of that the JCT RE team will be hosting a webinar on **December 2nd at 7pm** to help you navigate the planning and process of CBA 1. This will be a chance to ask questions and receive further support and resources. Please click here to register: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4422933268300244749>

In the meantime we have prepared a **Frequently Asked Questions document for CBA 1**: https://www.jct.ie/religious_education/assessment

Circular 0076 /2020

Another document worth reading is the circular that outlines the arrangements for the Implementation of the Framework for Junior Cycle with particular reference to school year 2020/21: https://www.education.ie/en/Circulars-and-Forms/Active-Circulars/cl0076_2020.pdf

Quote of the month

"Blessed is the season which engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love."

- Hamilton Wright Mabie





Technology Tips

Book Creator is a website and app for creating digital books and developing literacy skills. Students can create their own resources by combining text, images, audio and video to create:

- Interactive stories
- Digital portfolios
- Research journals



<https://bookcreator.com/>

Students can publish a digital book on a particular theme or create a book to present research they have carried out. Students might choose to present their CBA research in this way. It allows students create a finished product, giving them a platform for sharing their learning with peers or others.

Click [here](#) for further information on how to use Book Creator in your classroom.

Suggested strategy for learning in the socially distanced classroom

A useful strategy for being literate is peer feedback. It provides students with an opportunity to learn from each other and improve their own work. This strategy compliments peer assessment by using success criteria. Both of these strategies have been updated for the socially distanced classroom and if engaging with learning from home. You can find these resources on the JCT website.

Click [here](#) for how to conduct *Peer Feedback* or to access *Peer Assessment Using Success Criteria* please click [here](#).

This strategy builds important skills for the CBAs as students learn to work with success criteria and to take the time to improve their work.

RE in the News



The Hindu festival of Diwali was celebrated last month and there was some interesting coverage shown on RTE's 'Light up the Dark' which you can view by clicking on the link below:

<https://www.rte.ie/player/movie/light-up-the-dark/162657319969>

Following nearly two decades of fundraising and planning by the Irish Hindu community. Ireland's first official Hindu Temple formally opened its doors in Walkinstown, Dublin 12. Please click [here](#) for further details.



New Resources: Virtual Visits Posters

We have developed a *Virtual Visits* guide, to help prepare students to explore places of religious significance and a specific *Places of Worship Virtual Visits* poster.

It includes guiding questions and links to places of worship from the 5 world religions.

A number of learning outcomes that may be engaged with are also suggested for exploration.

Please find the Virtual Visits posters located under **classroom resources** at the link below:

https://www.jct.ie/religious_education/resources



Nollaig Shona Dhuit,

We look forward to seeing you on Zoom in 2021,

Religious Education Team

