

Welcome to the first edition of *JCToday* for 2021.

This edition contains useful information to keep you up to speed with all things junior cycle.

As *JCToday* is published, we are in the midst of another lockdown in our continuing drive to suppress COVID 19. This is a unique time and requires an innovative response in providing engaging and worthwhile continuing professional development (CPD) for teachers. In our ongoing response to this challenging professional and personal environment, our provision of junior cycle CPD continues to support teachers and school leaders. Since September 2020, over 10,800 participants have engaged with JCT online electives including Subject, Leadership, L1LPs/L2LPs supports and many more. To date, over 2,500 teachers have engaged with our whole-school online electives.

Currently, we are rolling out Online Subject CPD for over 30,000 registered teachers. Alongside this first-ever nationwide rollout of online CPD, the Whole School Team will continue to engage with schools in the months ahead. Turn the pages for further details of these and other JCT supports.

Finally, we look forward to working with you during 2021 and wish you the very best for the year ahead.

Online Subject CPD

JCT online subject CPD workshops are up and running. These workshops will continue until March 2021.

Click on the video link below to get an overview of what to expect on the day.



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Staying in Touch



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

January—March 2021 **Online Cluster workshop**

So what do I have to do to prepare for my online cluster day?

Approximately one week in advance of your workshop you will receive an email from JCT detailing how to access the live Zoom workshop.

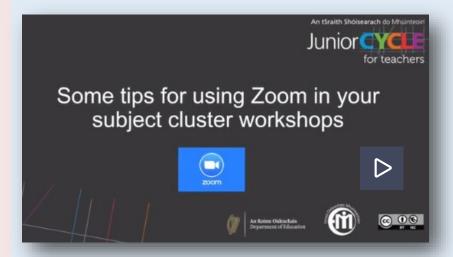
You are advised to have a copy of your subject specification to hand during the online workshop (or, at minimum, a list of the subject Learning Outcomes).

Resources associated with your online workshop are available on our website, please click here and choose your subject.

It is recommended that you familiarise yourself with the relevant subject resources in advance, particularly the workshop booklet where one exists. It is highly recommended that you either download or print it in advance, or have it available on a second device or screen which you can refer to during your CPD workshop. Please ensure to bring pen/ pencil and paper with you on the day.



Important reminder: Please ensure that the device you will be using on your subject CPD cluster day has Zoom Client for Meetings installed. You will not need a Zoom account to participate. You can download Zoom Client for Meetings here.





Check out our screencast highlighting tips for using Zoom in your subject CPD school cluster workshop including your registration email, the links to workshop resources and other supports, what to do on the day of your workshop.

Online Cluster Workshop



Subject **CPD Online** Cluster Days An Medica Coldente to State Section 25 of the College of the Colle

What is an online cluster day for subject CPD?

Schools and teachers are familiar with the faceto-face cluster day model of continuing professional development (CPD) used by Junior Cycle for Teachers (JCT) to support schools in implementing the Framework for Junior Cycle

Given the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, the face-to-face model of subject CPD provision based in schools is not possible for this academic year. We have devised a new ONLINE CLUSTER MODEL which entails schools in a number of geographical regions closing to students on the same day so as to ensure that all of the teachers in each of these schools can come together online for the purpose of attending Junior Cycle subject CPD.

- Facilitator-led input
- Stimulus for discussion
- Opportunities for collaboration
- Opportunities for creativity
- Break-out group activities / discussion Reflection moments
- Reading / writing offline
- Engaging with audio or video on main screen / on separate device
- Workshop material online (downloadable)
- Other custom workshop resources

- √ Desktop computer, laptop or tablet-type Checklist:device, with webcam and mic
 - Optional: A second device (e.g., smart phone or tablet) with fully charged battery and charger (for the purpose of viewing relevant documents while online if a teacher opts not to print out material)
 - ✓ Download workshop booklet/material

 - Other materials for a particular subject, as √ Pen & paper advised in advance
 - ✓ Good quality broadband
 - ✓ Suitable environment

What will the online cluster day look

The subject CPD workshops will be delivered on the Zoom platform. Many teachers are familiar with its ease of use and accessibility across a range of devices. Each subject workshop will follow the same timetable:

Session 1:	0000000
Tea/coffee break:	9.30 a.m.
	11.00 a.m.
Session 2: Lunch break:	11.20 a.m. 1.00 p.m.
Session 3:	2.00 p.m 3.30 p.m.
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Teachers are asked to log on at least 10 minutes before the start of the morning workshop.

Breaks and Lunch



Tea/coffee break and lunch break are at a common time for all workshops.

What subjects are included in the subject CPD online cluster days?

Up to sixteen workshops are being provided as part of the subject CPD online cluster day this year, including:

English **Business Studies** Modern Foreign Languages Visual Art Mathematics History Geography Music Home Economies Engineering Wood Technology Classics Religious Education Physical Education

*Applied Technology, Graphics, CSPE and SPHE will be provided separate to these online Cluster days.

Other Personnel

Separate CPD workshops are provided by our whole-school, school leadership and L1/L2LPs teams on an ongoing basis. School leaders are welcome to attend any of the subject workshops in an online cluster day but will need to register in advance in order to be assigned a link to the online workshop. The same applies in the case of Professional Masters in Education (PME) students, who may be registered using their school or third level college email address.

Certificate of attendance

JCT does not issue certificates of attendance for subject CPD in online clusters.



Podcasts

Junior Cycle Talks is a weekly podcast 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.



here.

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A Junior Cycle Talks podc

JCT Updates

Keep in mind... Remember a facilitator is not:

- Junior CYCLE
- An expert who knows everything about the topic
- Expected to provide quick or easy answers



Facilitation is...

As facilitators we have a responsibility to:

- Encourage participation
- Ensure equity
- Build trust

The North East Region, Whole School Team, hosted a Zoom Workshop for teachers allocated Management Resource Hours on 15th December. It facilitated MRH personnel to collaborate and share ideas with each other and to reflect upon the nature of the role within their own school.

Thank you to the 639 teaches who attended our online Subject Learning and Assessment Review (SLAR) Facilitator training during the month of November.

Which duties does your role currently entail as you support the principal in implementing the new Junior Cycle?

Can you share the challenges you encounter in your role and where you look to for support?



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Thank you to all members of the JCT Associate Forum who joined us online back in December. The Forum provides a voice for all JCT Associates across L1/L2 LPs, Subjects and Whole -school to discuss Junior Cycle reform.

Congratulations to all the teachers and students who received the 'What's Your Story?' National MFL Digital Story Award **2020!** Wonderful stories available here.

This award encourages students to combine their language and digital skills, through the practice of digital storytelling to tell their own story.



JCT Updates

The **Leagan Gaeilge version** of our interactive booklet Chatterbox: Strategies and Tools for **Encouraging Oral Communication in the Physically Distanced MFL** Classroom, created in collaboration with @languages_.ie is now available on our website here.



Making music together, in the current socially distanced environment. Check out this <u>YouTube</u> <u>link</u> of the Class of 3JCT Virtual Practical Project.



Thank you to all who took part in our **Business Studies Blended Learning Webinar** in
December It was a great success.

We hope you enjoyed it and that you got plenty from it in terms of ideas & inspiration. The recording of this webinar can be viewed online here.



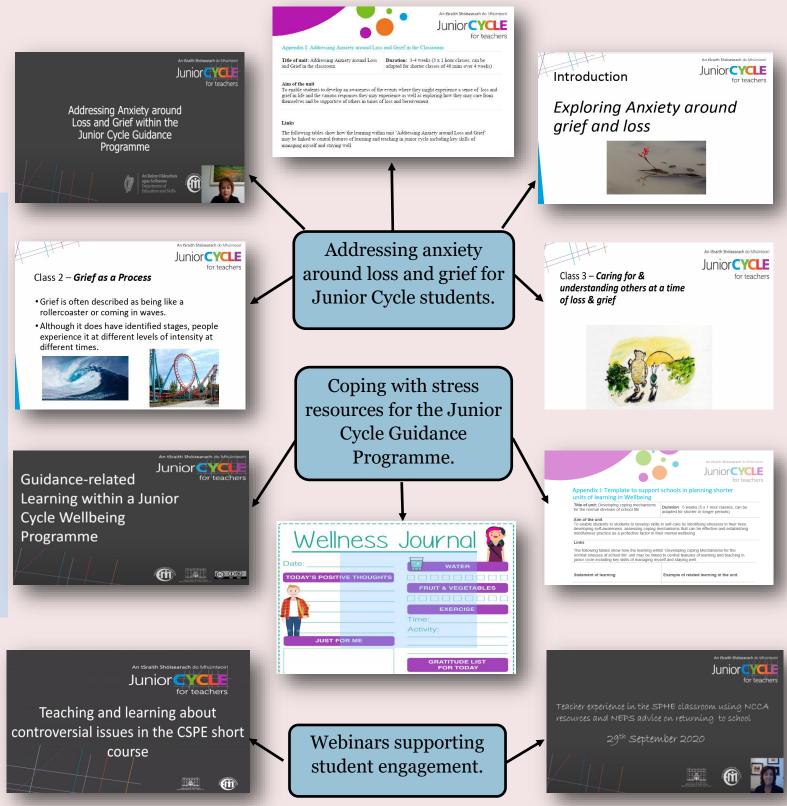




Thank you to all who joined us on Wednesday the 9th of December for the first of our **Arts in Junior Cycle Night at the Museum broadcasts**. We were delighted to speak to Julia Walsh from Tipperary County Museum and Liam Bradley from Monaghan County Museum who is also Chair of the Local Authority Museums Network.

Wellbeing Planning Supports

<u>Jct.ie</u> has a variety of resources to support teachers that can be used to support students' wellbeing. These supports take the form of webinars, planning supports and policy documents, etc. Click on the images below to access resource or check out the <u>Wellbeing section</u> of our website for more details.



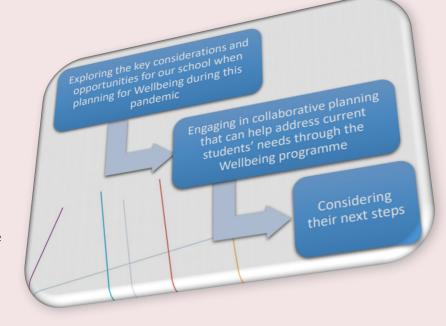
Whole School Supports

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.

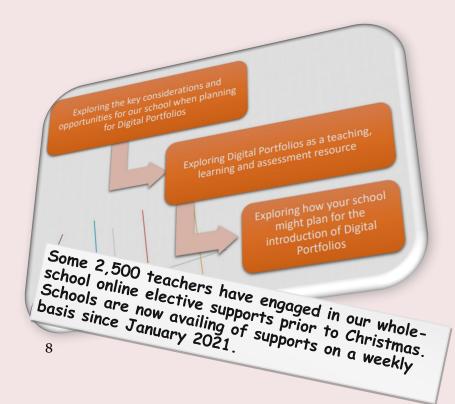
Supporting Student Learning in the Wellbeing programme during this unique time

This online elective support for schools is designed to facilitate a conversation amongst staff members who lead student learning as part of the Wellbeing programme and will also be of interest to members of the Student Support Team. The support makes a firm reference to recent Department of Education (DE) and National Educational Psychological Service (NEPS) documentation, as well as the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA) Wellbeing-related considerations and supports. This option will be updated once the revised Wellbeing guidelines are published by the NCCA.



Supporting Student Learning through the use of Digital Portfolios

This support for schools is designed to facilitate a conversation amongst teachers about the rationale and creation of Digital Portfolios. The online meeting could include teachers from different subject areas and will allow for discussion and reflection to explore the current key considerations and opportunities for your school when planning for Digital Portfolios for the year ahead. The support makes a strong reference to the recent DoE/NCCA documentation and recent research on the impact of school closures on student learning.



Whole School Supports

Supporting student learning: Learning to Learn

This support is entitled 'Learning to Learn' and will facilitate a discussion with teachers about how they can enhance students' awareness of their individual learning processes (how they learn).

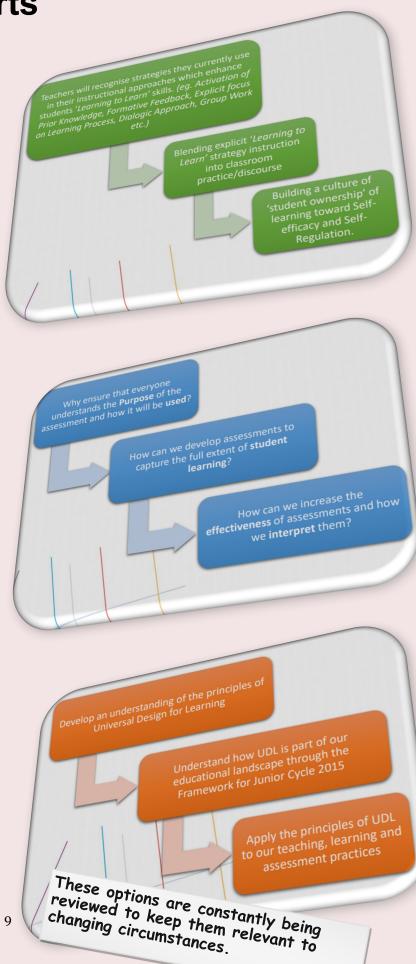
The focus is on enabling students to recognise their strengths and challenges as learners and adopt effective strategies/practices to improve their educational outcomes.

Supporting Student Learning: Considerations for Assessment

This support for schools is designed to facilitate a conversation amongst teachers and support them to consider how we develop, analyse and interpret assessments to support student-centred learning. This interactive online learning workshop will allow teachers from all subjects the opportunity to discuss their own assessment practices and consider key ideas in the creation and interpretation of assessments. These approaches will support subject department and whole school planning for assessment and reporting.

Supporting Student Learning: Universal Design for Learning

This online support for schools is designed to introduce the concept of UDL to Junior Cycle teachers. It is embedded in the Junior Cycle principles, key skills and subject /short course specifications; all of which are designed to be as "universal as is feasible, providing meaningful and valuable learning opportunities for students from all cultural and social backgrounds and from a wide variety of individual circumstances" (The Framework for Junior Cycle 2015, p. 26).



Leadership Supports



The JCT Leadership Team very much understands the ongoing challenges that schools face and for the school year 2020/2021 our CPD for School Leaders has been moved into the online space due to the restrictions necessitated by Covid-19.

Thus, we have restructured our usual one full day workshop for school leaders into three separate but interconnecting workshops, taking place on three separate dates over the period from January to May.



This short video gives details on how this professional learning experience will be organised.

The theme of the JCT Leadership online spring workshops 2021 is - Leading a Student-centred Approach to Assessment.

Each workshop will be of **90 minutes duration** and will take place online via Zoom.

When registering for the three workshops, you will be given a range of dates to choose from.

Workshop 1:

Exploring a dual approach to assessment which supports learning over the three years of Junior Cycle

25th January- 12th February 2021

Workshop 2:

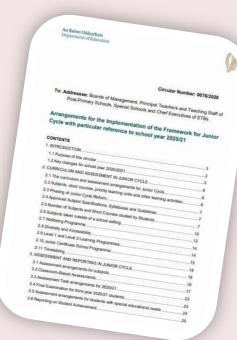
Supporting effective assessment practices to develop student ownership of learning

1st March - 19th March 2021

Workshop 3:

Evaluating the manageability and impact of the school's assessment practices

19th April- 7th May 2021

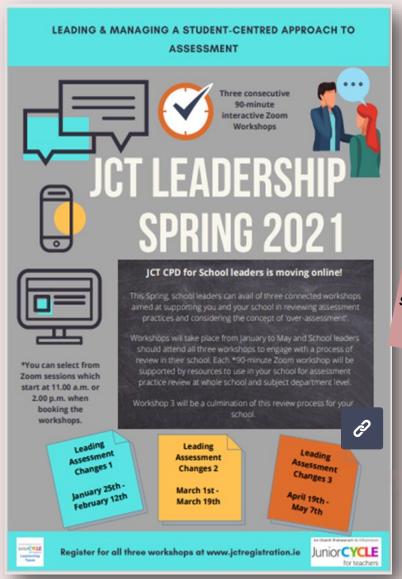


Circular 0076/2020

Arrangements for the implementation of the Framework for Junior Cycle with particular reference to school year 2020/21.

Leadership Supports





The workshops will focus on exploring the term 'over-assessment' and its implications for the leadership and management of assessment practices in our schools, as referred to in the most recent Department of Education Circular 0076/2020.

As all new subject specifications include ongoing feedback, formative assessment as well as final examinations, there is a need to avoid 'over-assessment' and to avoid 'over-assessment' and to students and teachers of multiple subjects.

Circular 0076/2020

The aim of these workshops is to support school leaders to:

- address this statement from the Circular
- guide school leaders through a process of reviewing and evaluating the manageability and impact of the current assessment practices at a whole school and subject department level
- enable school leaders to make key decisions regarding assessment going forward.

School leaders are asked to log onto <u>www.jctregistration.ie</u> to register for the workshops.

Previous webinars including varied Junior Cycle leadership supports are available from the <u>Leadership</u> section on the JCT website. The most recent leadership webinars can be accessed by clicking on an image below.







L1LPs and L2LPs



Some students and teachers are engaging with the L1LPs and L2LPs through remote learning at the moment.



Any teachers who have specific questions around L1LPs or L2LPs should contact our team through <u>info@jct.ie</u>.





Stay up to date @JCTL1LPS_L2LP Revised Arrangements for the **Assessment and Reporting of L1LPs and L2LPs** for students currently in 3rd year are available here.



A reminder that the repurposed **teaching** and learning strategies will support teachers as they make use of technology to promote continued engagement with Junior Cycle students and their learning. Click on the image below to view recent screencast.



The NCCA is developing a specification for **Junior Cycle Physical Education**. The consultation on the Background Paper and Brief is now open. Click on image for details.



Arts in Junior Cycle

The Arts in Junior Cycle team works with arts partners to develop creative and innovative professional learning experiences for teachers from all subject disciplines.

A range of online elective opportunities are coming up as part of our Spring 2021 programme, designed to provide teachers with space and time to engage in an extensive range of art forms and experiences.

DesignCIRCLE, developed in partnership with Design & Craft Council Ireland (DCCI) is ongoing. Our writing initiative with Poetry Ireland Style & Purpose: Developing your Voice will run again from March – May 2021, and we have many other exciting projects coming up. Here is a flavour of what we have to offer:

About Architecture with the Irish Architecture Foundation (IAF)

About Architecture is an online elective workshop for Junior Cycle teachers from any subject discipline. This interactive workshop with Blaithin Quinn of Irish Architecture Foundation, explores the principles of architecture by considering the design of our homes and the local built environment. Discussion and creative activities will explore materiality, light, form and context in architectural design.

There will also be a brief introduction to our Architecture Connects initiative which is due to commence in February.

Dates: 19 & 26 Jan 2021

Hands on Spanish with Instituto

Cervantes

A practical workshop on Spanish culture, with Instituto Cervantes. The workshop (part English/part Spanish) will focus on aspects of Spanish arts and culture, such as gastronomy, poetry, games, and music. The workshop will also include a short training session on how to make use of all of the resources available in Instituto Cervantes' e-library.

Date: Tues 26 Jan 2021

Online Digital Arts with TechSpace-Camara

Education

In a series of workshops, teachers will use open source online software to develop digital stories in a supportive environment. They will be encouraged to experiment, explore new opportunities, share and reflect on their creative storytelling process with a focus on the use of podcasting and audio-visual storytelling.

Dates: Tue 26 Jan | Tue 9 Feb | Tue 23 Feb | Tue 9 March 2021

Registration for all our workshops and events is on www.artsinjuniorcycle.ie













tech

space

Arts in Junior Cycle





Architecture Connects with the Irish Architecture Foundation

Architecture Connects is an opportunity for teachers to engage in a series of online community of practice workshops with professional architects. Teachers from diverse subject areas will work collaboratively in small groups with an architect where they will explore and experience the design process through one of the following themes: Home, Heritage, Public Space, Sustainability or Universal Design. The small group setting will allow teachers to collaborate and design in a safe environment, while also providing the opportunity for self-directed learning and exploration.

An introductory online preparation and planning workshop for successful participants takes place on Thursday 4 February 2021.

Style & Purpose: Developing your Voice, with Poetry Ireland.

Following the success of the first round of this initiative last term, we are delighted to offer it for a second time. Style & Purpose is a series of online elective workshops in which 5-6 participants are matched with a writer to develop their writing together in an online group. Groups will focus on a chosen writing genre for the series of workshops.

An introductory workshop for successful participants takes place on Thursday 4 March 2021.



Further workshops and initiatives coming up in Spring 2021 include:

- Visit, Explore, Respond with the National Gallery and the Crawford Art Gallery
- What's in a Frame? With the Irish Film Institute
- Spoken Word poetry workshop with Colm Keegan
- German arts and culture workshop with the Goethe-Institut Irland
- Artistic Performance Short Course webingr

And many more.

Registration for all our workshops and events is on www.artsinjuniorcycle.ie











Online Engagement: What, How and Why

Online Engagement "Is there a digital tool/practice/strategy you are using in your online Music classroom that you and your Junior Cycle students find effective in supporting engagement?

Joanna Hughes, Music Teacher from Killarney Community College is engaging with resources on our website to plan for her Junior Cycle online Music classes and finds them useful, student friendly and interactive.

AJ Doyle, Art, SPHE and RSE teacher from CBS Carlow explains how Wellbeing can be promoted using online strategies such as Menti to identify and activate the Wellbeing indicators.

The need to engage in online teaching and learning has allowed me to find new occasions to collaborate with my colleagues. Through the use of simulation and collaboration software I have learnt how to bring my students online learning experience that little bit closer to their normal classroom experience. Once we return to the classroom, this should provide my students with a richer learning

experience. Con Hurley, Clonakility Community College Online Engagement "Is there a digital tool/practice/strategy you are using currently in the online classroom that you plan to develop when back in the physical classroom?"

Students have become much more relaxed and confident in online classes and love the interaction of seeing their teacher and class mates in real-time. It is lovely to see them smile and engaging with activities like Kahoot and Menti that live classes

Kenneth Hickey, Maria Immaculata Community College.

Teaching online may have its challenges but there are some real advantages too. Firstly I am enjoying the very obvious opportunity to see my first years' faces everyday! I can finally see them smile! I am also 'hearing' the quieter students' voices in the chat function - these students who were often too shy to comment in class are happy to type in their responses. These less heard opinions are broadening all of our views as we read critically together. Ann O'Regan, Carrigaline Community College.

Teacher, Fergal Murphy from St Leo's College, Carlow talks about using audio files to facilitate rich feedback to progress Junior Cycle student learning opportunities to develop digital technology as an important teaching, learning and formative assessment tool.





"Is there a digital tool/practice/strategy you are using currently at whole school level that is proving highly effective in terms of engaging your Junior Cycle students?

Louise Ronan, Deputy Principal, Coláiste Bríde, Clondalkin talks about their Whole-School Engagement and Link-Teacher System to identify barriers to Junior Cycle online engagement to facilitate responsive and supportive action to mitigate any barriers.



Junior CYCLE Online Teaching Modules



These resources are a collaboration between Junior Cycle for Teachers. RTÉ and the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland (BAI) and explore key learning and issues raised in a series of exploratory documentaries.

In the development of these online supports, the JCT Subject teams collaborated to create rich learning experiences to complement both subject specifications and, in a wider context, the Framework for Junior Cycle 2015. The resources created are not designed to be used in a linear fashion, but rather to support the creation of learning experiences that work for individual schools in their individual contexts. As you explore these resources, you may identify potential links with other subjects and potential to explore these topics in other areas of learning within junior cycle. Please let us know your experience of using these resources on social media via @JCforTeachers and @BAItweets.



This resource was structured to promote crosscurricular collaboration, where possible, between Religious Education and English teachers. The resource includes four distinct yet complementary sections:

An Introduction to Key Concepts

English Unit of Learning

Religious Education Unit of Learning

Reflection on Key Concepts

Students in the 21st century engage in a range of activities online and this resource has been designed to support student understanding of their rights and responsibilities online and to raise awareness of safe and ethical use of the internet.

The resource is structured into three units of learning: CSPE, SPHE, Digital Media Literacy.



Online Teaching Modules





This resource is structured to promote crosscurricular collaboration, where possible, between Business Studies and Geography teachers. The resource includes four distinct yet complementary sections.:

An Introduction to Key Concepts Business Studies Unit of Learning Geography Unit of Learning Reflecting on Key Concepts.

RTÉ Learn is a dedicated resource for teachers and educators showcasing a diverse range of educational content from across RTÉ, ideal for both formal and informal learning.







This resource includes four distinct yet complementary sections. - Introductory Learning Experience: Exploring Text - History Unit of Learning - Gaeilge Unit of Learning - Reflecting on culture. The four sections support opportunities for ongoing assessment and the development of key skills.



CSPE Short Course

Do you want to explore Strand one of the CSPE Short Course? Here is the first of three interactive and engaging screencasts for each strand of the CSPE Short Course. Click on image to view.



Philosophy Short Course

The Philosophy section of our Website can be found here. A recording of our webinar 'Philosophical Inquiry and the Critically engaged Classroom is now available. Click on image below to view.



In the current absence of sustained face-to-face continuous 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 challenges 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.

