

**JCT Professional Learning Experience for School Leaders Autumn 2018**

**Ongoing Reporting for Effective Teaching and Learning (Workshop 2/2)**

This workshop, a follow on from our highly successful Spring 2018 workshop for school leaders, keeps the focus on the NCCA's Reporting guidelines published in March 2018

**"Reporting is the part of the assessment process that provides feedback in support of student learning"**  
p.6 Ongoing Reporting for Effective Teaching and Learning

The workshop is specifically designed for **Principals and Deputy Principals** who lead the process of junior cycle reform in their schools

**Participants will examine:**

- Effective feedback to support learning
- The importance of student reflection in the learning process
- Teacher professional judgements
- Links between student wellbeing and assessment
- How schools have begun to change their reporting practices
- Planning for implementation of the Reporting Guidelines
- Strategic planning for Junior cycle implementation

JCT are running 45 workshops nationwide between 6th November and 5th December 2018

Register now by visiting [www.jctregistration.ie](http://www.jctregistration.ie)

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JuniorCYCLE for teachers  
www.jct.ie  
info@jct.ie  
@JCTforTeachers

# ENGLISH

JCT English are delighted to continue our partnership with Creative Ireland Programme (2017-2022), to present a series of professional development workshops for teachers to support engagement with the arts and learning in Junior Cycle.



This year we continue to work with our partners in the Abbey Theatre and Youth Theatre Ireland to offer our very popular workshops 'Speaking Shakespeare' and 'Young Critics' to teachers in **Dublin, Cork and Mayo**.

Our new partnership with Poetry Ireland, Éigse Éireann, this year has led to the development of our writing workshop 'Ignite the Spark' which we are delighted to bring to teachers.



Kevin Mc Dermott, author of 'In Pieces' and 'Mary's Shadow', and Terry McDonagh, dramatist and poet- 'Echolocation' and 'Boxes', facilitate the workshop which focuses on writing as a process in both poetry and prose form. Teachers have the opportunity to develop skills to assist students through the process of initiating writing, developing a piece, editing, redrafting, refining and polishing for publication.

## English Cluster Day 2018/19

We are looking forward to offering continued support to English teachers across the country this year. We have designed our day based on feedback gathered from our conversations with English teachers, submissions received by JCT and from the views of teachers, students and stakeholders captured by the NCCA. Our day will focus on our understanding of 'text' and exploring how we can support our students in making meaning and responding to a wide variety of texts.

## Report of the review of the early enactment of Junior Cycle English

The NCCA has conducted an interim review between September 2017 and February 2018. The purpose of this report is to capture feedback from teachers, students and stakeholders on the early enactment of the Junior Cycle English Specification (NCCA, 2015). Information for this review was gathered through consultation events, school visits and written submissions.

The 'Report of the review of the early enactment of Junior Cycle English' is available on the Junior Cycle section of the NCCA website, <https://www.ncca.ie>

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# JCT Today

## Newsletter

No. 12 November 2018

## Fáilte



Dr. Pádraig Kirk

I am delighted to present our 12th edition of *JCT Today*, the quarterly newsletter of JCT. Like earlier editions, this one is packed with updates and information in relation to the work that we do with school leaders and teachers. I encourage everyone to read it.

The 2018/2019 school year marks a watershed year for junior cycle reform and for JCT. All new subject specifications will have been published by this year, and already our service has all of our subject teams in place. Our newest teams include our Technologies team, and our Religious Education and Classics teams. This year we have bolstered our existing Whole-school Support and CPD team with additional full-time staff, along with our School Leadership and L1/L2LPs teams.

Our whole-school and L1/L2LP CPD days in schools remain ongoing all year round. Over 10,000 teachers have already attended our repeat 2017/2018 subject CPD workshops across September and October. The first of our CPD workshops for 2018/2019 aimed at school leaders commences this month, while a whole new wave of subject CPD workshops commence this month also in the form of our school cluster events. Over 32,000 teachers are registered to attend these workshops. Also, our elective CPD opportunities and our online presence will continue to expand this year.

This is going to be a busy year for JCT. I am confident that our repertoire of supports for schools, all quality assured to the highest of standards, will continue to play a major role in helping schools embed junior cycle reform as effectively as possible in their respective contexts. As always, we are very open to receiving constructive feedback on our work, so please feel free to email us at [info@jct.ie](mailto:info@jct.ie)

Dr. Pádraig Kirk

## WHOLE-SCHOOL SUPPORTS

Our Whole-school Team consists of seventeen full-time members, 8 Regional Team Leaders and 9 Advisors. Essentially, we are delivering two CPD days this year, with an emphasis on them as a professional learning experience for teachers.

- Wellbeing in Junior Cycle
- Teaching, Learning, Assessment and Reporting

Our Wellbeing CPD day is being rolled out immediately to all Voluntary Secondary Schools and most Community and Comprehensive Schools, while our Teaching, Learning, Assessment and Reporting CPD day will begin in Education and Training Board schools from the end of 2018. The Whole-school Team have visited over 200 schools since the start of the current academic year.

Both days call on teachers to make critical judgements about the themes of the workshops in the particular contexts of their schools. The collaborative aspect of our whole-school support echoes Domain 4 of *Looking at Our School (2016)*, focusing on teachers' collective/collaborative practice. This approach supports teachers in acknowledging that a student is not the responsibility of only one teacher in a subject department, but the responsibility of all teachers in that department and indeed the school. This facilitates teachers in 'working together to devise learning opportunities for students across and beyond the curriculum.'

CPD delivery across all eight regions will be complete by March 2019. Whole-school Leaders and Advisors will continue then to have advisory visits with schools (on request) reviewing CPD delivered and looking forward to 2019/ 2020.



## TECHNOLOGIES

This school year -2018/2019- marks a milestone in the implementation of the Framework for Junior Cycle as the final phase of subject specifications (phase 5 subjects) are published. Among these subject specifications are the Technologies Suite of subjects (Applied Technology, Engineering, Graphics and Wood Technology). These subjects will be available for 1st year students from September 2019. Teachers of these subjects will experience their first in a series of Professional Learning Experiences, (PLE's) in the current academic year in the context of the Junior Cycle for Teachers (JCT) school cluster-based subject-specific model of CPD provision.

In order to support teachers of the Technologies in implementing the new subject specifications in their classrooms and workshops JCT have established a new JCT4 Technologies Team. This team is headed up by a team leader, and comprises 14 full-time seconded advisors, along with 20 part-time associate teachers. This team is currently working hard on developing CPD for teachers to engage with during the forthcoming school cluster-based subject-specific CPD events which are due to start nationwide on the 12th November 2018.

If you would like to keep up-to-date with information regarding the Technologies you can follow our Technologies Team on Twitter at [@jct4ed](https://twitter.com/jct4ed) Further information may also be found on [www.jct.ie](http://www.jct.ie) in due course.



## DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

"We are delighted to announce our new collaboration with 'Yeats Society Sligo'. Together we will be hosting a webinar entitled "From Twilight to Limelight" on the 20th November 2018 from 7:00pm - 8:00pm. You can register for this at [bit.ly/JCTYeats2018](http://bit.ly/JCTYeats2018). It is designed to suggest fresh and original ways to embed Yeats in the Junior cycle English classroom.

We will be immersing ourselves in the Yeatsian world of family, place, myths and legends, sounds and music to inspire our young writers to produce creative and innovative texts of their own.

Yeats – From Twilight to Limelight.  
Webinar 20<sup>th</sup> November 7pm – 8pm  
Register at [bit.ly/JCTYeats2018](http://bit.ly/JCTYeats2018)

An tSraith Shóisearach do Mhúinteoirí  
JuniorCYCLE for teachers

Junior Cycle for Teachers (JCT) Support Service

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Junior Cycle students can now engage with Level 1 and Level 2 Learning Programmes as appropriate.

The **Level 1 Learning Programme (L1LP)** was launched by the NCCA in May 2018. Students taking L1LPs are likely to be at an early stage of cognitive development. Consultation involving parents/guardians, schools and other professionals working with the student will determine the suitability of L1LP for a student. Some students may also have an identification of a learning disability which falls in the range of low moderate to severe and profound from an educational or clinical psychologist.



We held our first **webinar of 2018/2019 on the 7th of November at 7.00pm**. CPD in schools will begin in January.

The Guidelines, Short Course specifications and information leaflet for the Level 1 Learning Programme are available for download at [https://www.jct.ie/l1lp/key\\_documents](https://www.jct.ie/l1lp/key_documents)

The L1LPs/L2LPs Team continue to support both special schools and post primary mainstream schools in relation to the **Level 2 Learning Programmes (L2LPs)**

Schools can contact the team via [sarah.nally@jct.ie](mailto:sarah.nally@jct.ie) or [specialschoolsupport@jct.ie](mailto:specialschoolsupport@jct.ie)

# Visual Art

It's an exciting year for Visual Art teachers who are planning with their students to embark on Classroom Based Assessment 1 in January and we look forward to supporting them on this journey in our upcoming CPD cluster workshops.

The Visual Art team are delighted to have recently met with over 150 teachers at the Art Teachers Association of Ireland's national conference as well as the second teaching subject Visual Art workshops in September/October 2018.

We will be continuing our Webinar series this year as part of our programme of supports for teachers.

We have two upcoming Webinars planned, the first entitled 'A guide to Classroom Based Assessment 1' due to

be broadcast in the next few weeks and a third one is due to be air next March 2019.



Visual Art teachers & Designer Makers discuss possibilities & opportunities for collaborate planning.

## Communicating with Parents

To support schools in communicating the changes to Junior cycle with parents, JCT have created two parent presentations at [www.jct.ie](http://www.jct.ie). The presentations have two different sections.

Part one examines the rationale for change and explores such elements as subjects, short courses, L2LPs, other areas of Learning and student wellbeing.

Part two explores the changes to assessment and reporting and takes a close look at the Junior cycle profile of achievement.

These presentations can be downloaded and adapted to suit the context and audience. A school may use different parts of the presentation to show to the parents of different year groups.

## SCIENCE

In 2017/18, 2nd year Science students engaged in their 1st Classroom-Based Assessment: The Extended Experimental Investigation. Students worked as scientists to engage in authentic investigations, communicate their findings and display knowledge and understanding of science-related phenomena. Feedback from students, when they reflected on the process, was of rich learning and an enjoyable experience. Teachers spoke of the variety and range of investigations that students brought to the classroom and of their professional learning through engagement with the Features of Quality during the SLAR process.

Exploring learning outcomes continues to be the focus of elective CPD where the possibilities of Junior Cycle Science are being explored from the ocean floor to the galaxy next door. JCT Science were delighted to support Science teachers at a range of national conferences in recent months including Frontiers of Physics, Chem-Ed Ireland and the inaugural "Teaching Earth and Space in Junior Cycle" conference held at Birr Castle Observatory. Thank you to all Science teachers who took the time to work with us at these events.

We look forward to meeting Science teachers at the next CPD day where we will continue to provide opportunities and experiences for teachers to work collaboratively in developing a shared understanding of the role of assessment in Junior Cycle Science learning. A Junior Cycle SEC Final Examination sample paper is now available to be downloaded from [www.curriculumonline.ie](http://www.curriculumonline.ie)



We are delighted to bring you some exciting updates regarding STE(A)M in Junior Cycle elective CPD for 2019. STE(A)M in Junior Cycle is a nationwide elective CPD initiative brought to you by Junior Cycle for Teachers (JCT) in partnership with a number of education outreach partners in the STEM and Arts fields. This initiative began in 2017/18 with elective CPD being offered to Junior Cycle Science teachers nationwide. This year, we are inviting all Junior Cycle Teachers with an interest in STE(A)M education to attend. Our 2019 STE(A)M CPD programme will be of particular interest to teachers of Science, Mathematics, Geography and Home Economics.

STE(A)M in Junior Cycle seeks to provide Junior Cycle teachers with rich STE(A)M CPD experiences in keeping with national and international best standards; this provision will allow for interdisciplinary responses to societal challenges in subject-specific and cross-curricular contexts.

JCT are proud to welcome our new partners, and to welcome back existing partners for this year's STE(A)M CPD offering. Our 2018/19 STE(A)M in Junior Cycle partners are:

- ◆ AMBER, Trinity College, Dublin
- ◆ Amgen Biotech Experience
- ◆ APC Microbiome, University College Cork
- ◆ Rediscovery Centre, Ballymun
- ◆ BIAZA (British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums)
- ◆ Science Gallery Dublin
- ◆ Cúram Medical Devices, NUI Galway
- ◆ World Wise Global Schools
- ◆ The Design and Craft Council of Ireland
- ◆ SEAI (Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland)
- ◆ SFI/ESERO (Science Foundation Ireland; European Space Education Resource Office)

No doubt Ireland will be a different place in 2050 and this is the overarching theme for STE(A)M in Junior Cycle (2018-2019).

Under this broad theme, we introduce to you four bespoke STE(A)M CPD events. Through a STE(A)M agenda, we will look towards Ireland 2050 in the context of

- ◆ OCEANS
- ◆ SYSTEMS
- ◆ WEARABLES
- ◆ HUMANS



Aine Woods- STEAM for Junior cycle - stresses the importance of connections and collaboration on classroom impact.

These elective STE(A)M CPD days will be offered nationwide on Saturdays from January to April 2019. Details of the workshops, including dates and venues, will be forwarded to schools and marketed online in the coming weeks – as places are limited, be sure to get registered early!

## Modern Foreign Languages

Last year was a busy and very productive year for our JCT MFL team. The CPD day afforded teachers an opportunity to engage with the Specification for Modern Foreign Languages, further exploring learning outcomes and the dual-approach to assessment. This year we welcome two new Advisors, Salvo Cacciato and Lisa Fitzsimons, to the MFL team.

The MFL team is currently getting ready to deliver a new CPD day from early November this year. This will further support MFL teachers in planning, preparing for Classroom-Based Assessments and the Subject Learning and Assessment Review process.

The JCT MFL team has been busy attending conferences: MFL Alive 2018 in Maynooth University, the French Teachers' Association, the Association of Teachers of Italian, and the German Teachers' Association of Ireland conferences, along with Gaeloid-eachas. The team was also represented at the European Centre for Modern Languages workshop "Towards a Common European Framework of Reference for Language Teachers" by the Team Leader, Clíodhna McManamon, in October this year.



Currently, the JCT MFL team is collaborating in drafting subject statements for JCSP students in MFL. In addition, further resources are being created, including a webinar on Classroom-Based Assessment 1: Oral Communication. Watch the website [www.jct.ie](http://www.jct.ie) for details!



Dr. Harold Hislop, Chief Inspector of Schools, sharing his reflections on Junior Cycle Reform at our October mid-term JCT think-in and training event held in Sligo.

Follow us on twitter @JCforTeachers - We currently have over 13,000 followers and growing.

Website... Junior Cycle for Teachers [www.jct.ie](http://www.jct.ie) Check it out today!