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March 2020

Thank you

Our subject school cluster events have come to an end for 19/20. They started on 4th November last year, we had 117 cluster events involving 700+ schools. We facilitated 1,620 individual workshops attended by 27,848 teachers, while 336 schools and 20 education centres hosted us. Thank you for your support and engagement.

Webinars

WEEKS OF WEBINARS is back! We are hosting a series of elective webinars over the coming weeks to support teachers across a range of junior cycle areas. Two different webinars each night across three weeks:

Week 1: March 23rd-26th;
Week 2: March 30th -4th April;
Week 3: April 20th-23rd.

Twenty-four Webinars will be facilitated. There is something for everyone.

Click on the link below for the full list of webinars and registration details.



Webinars

Welcome to issue 18 of JCToday

Unprecedented times. That's the only way really that the current pandemic situation, which unfolds daily around us as I type this foreword, can be described. How different our world can change in only a very short space of time; our personal lives are turned upside down, never mind our professional lives too. In the context of school closures in the face of the pandemic, as a means towards 'flattening the curve', our education system – from pre-school right up to third level and beyond – is facing significant challenges. One can only have admiration for our schools, school leaders, teachers and others alike, as they all do what they can to 'keep the learning going'. These are indeed challenging times, but the determination of our educators to provide colleagues and students with relevant supports, advice and a sense of continuity is welcome by all at this time.



The Covid19 pandemic has also changed how we work in JCT. Every face-to-face CPD workshop, core and elective, right now, is cancelled for the foreseeable future. This was the right thing to do. Our entire team is 'off the road' and working from home. As a schools' support service our staff would be familiar with home working situations, but not on a continual basis. It is important for JCT staff, just as it is for all of us, to stay in contact. Our internal IT systems, as well as other methods of course, allows us to do just that. We are meeting online now more regularly and we are keeping the work going, even in these trying circumstances. I want to pay tribute to all of our staff – our management team, our team leaders, advisors, associates and administrative staff alike – for their commitment and dedication, and for their high degree of flexibility at this time. I for one, look forward to the day when we can all meet up together again and shake hands. Until then, we will be following the advice of our health authorities. This also is the right thing to do. For now, JCT's services will be operating exclusively in the online space. Our weeks of webinars event - #JCTWOW – starts this week (Monday 23rd March 2020) and will run for three weeks across the Easter break, with two webinars at least per day being broadcast. There is something for all teachers as part of this event and I encourage as many as possible to register and join with for this event. The number of teachers registering currently is rising daily.

Our website, www.jct.ie, continues to be our repository for all things junior cycle and teachers will find an array of helpful materials and resources stored here. We are currently contingency planning for additional supports in the online space which may come to fruition, including a thorough 'spring cleaning' of our website, the broadcasting of additional webinars and the stepping up our recently launched podcast initiative. We are also exploring how we can move previously planned face-to-face elective CPD into the online space. More anon.

For now, as the current situation continues, I encourage all to follow the advice provided by the HSE and keep an eye on the Department of Education and Skills website for updates. Stay well and let's look after one another during these turbulent times.

Dr. Pádraig Kirk
Director

Create Music Workshop

This two-hour elective workshop, which formed part of our Arts in Junior Cycle programme, was a direct response to our Music teacher feedback. Twenty-four workshops took place nationwide with almost four hundred music teachers in attendance. Using digital learning technologies, this intensive workshop sought to explore pedagogic strategies to support understanding of how to create music, to develop creative ideas through engagement with other aspects of the Junior Cycle course and to experience this learning using cross-platform software and extension hardware.

Teachers explored this learning through engaging with thirteen of our thirty-six learning outcomes, of which only one explicitly referenced technology. There was every shape, size and type of device from laptops, iPads, phones, chromebooks and laptops. A reminder email forwarded before every workshop ensured teachers brought with them headphones, fully charged Wi-Fi enabled devices with all the necessary software uploaded and sign-ups attended to.

We explored rhythm, melody, chords and processing FX through listening, performing, creating and responding. We engaged with the Why, What and How from the Digital Strategy Framework, we learned through colour and we explored how to record an accurate representation of sound. Software included web-based platforms, notational packages, sequencers, audio recorders and workstations and video editors. Discussions also included the various types of microphones and how to set up the 'recording studio' (*ah-ahem!*) at the back of the music classroom!

All agreed this was an action-packed workshop whose success lay in the championing and sharing of good pedagogy, the relaxed atmosphere of '*not being afraid to have a go*' and the ultimate take away that the '*learning is in the doing!*'



Many thanks to all our Education Centres, to the senior management and music teachers in Mount Carmel Secondary School Dublin, Dominican College Galway, Kilkenny College, Davitt College Castlebar and to Jean and Melissa in The Irish World Academy, University of Limerick.

The PowerPoint presentation and resource booklet are now available on our website [here](#).

A short video of our engagement can be accessed [here](#). We are delighted to report that we continue to build on our 'How To...' series of resources which can be downloaded [here](#).

To keep up to date with developments in Junior Cycle Music, please join our mailing list [here](#). Thank you to all our music teachers for a fun and engaging evening of learning.

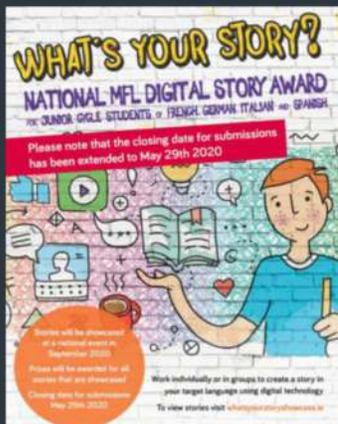
Keep the conversation going.
JCT Music Team

... Cúraíth Shóisearach do Mhúinteoirí ...
JuniorCYCLE
for teachers
Music

To refresh ideas for creating music in your classroom, click on the image below to check our webinar from April 2019 entitled '**Creating and Exploring in Junior Cycle Music**'



The deadline for '**Whats Your Story?**' has been extended to 29th May 2020. The form to be completed is available [here](#)



Introducing ... **TANGENTS** - A JCT Math's team series of podcasts, available soon.



Weeks of Webinars

Week 1: Monday 23rd March 2020

CSPE – Effective Reporting On CSPE Within Wellbeing

Tuesday 24th March 2020

Geography – Preparing For CBA2: My Geography And The SLAR Meeting

Business Studies – Learning Intentions And Success Criteria In The Business Studies Classroom

Wednesday 25th March 2020

English – Reconnecting With Reading – Exploring Graphic And Audio Texts In Junior Cycle English

Science – Using Assessment To Build Strong Foundations – Concept Development In The Chemical World

Thursday 26th March 2020

Gaeilge T2 - Téacsanna agus tascanna: An Litríocht mar shíol an eispéiris foghlama

MFL – Curious About Questions?

Click on the links to register. Once registered, a reminder e-mail will be sent to you prior to the webinar commencing.

Week 2: Monday 30th March 2020

Engineering - Goal Oriented Problem Solving In Junior Cycle Engineering

Wood Technology - Introducing The Craft Of Bending And Lamination Through A Student Design Task

Tuesday 31st March 2020

Maths - Mathematics And Being Creative

PE - Effective Reporting On PE Within Wellbeing

Wednesday 1st April 2020

Applied Technology - Where To Start When Exploring A Design Brief In The Applied Technology Classroom

Graphics – Graphics In Action

Thursday 2nd April 2020

Home Economics - Reflections On Our Journey Through Home Economics CBA1: Creative Textiles, Teachers' Perspectives

Gaeilge T1 - Téacsanna agus tascanna: An Litríocht mar shíol an eispéiris foghlama

Week 3: Monday 20th April 2020

Student Voice – Student Voice At The Centre Of Learning And School Life

Digital Media Literacy – Introduction To The Digital Media Literacy Short Course

Tuesday 21st April 2020

L1LPs/L2LPs – L1LPs And L2LPs In Action In Schools

Leadership – Leading And Managing The Wellbeing Programme: A Conversation With School Leaders

Classics – Classics In The Classroom

Wednesday 22nd April 2020

Visual Art – A Focus On Developing Work In The Visual Art Classroom

Music – Collaborate – Create - Reflect

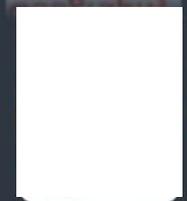
Thursday 23rd April 2020

SPHE – Effective Reporting On SPHE Within Wellbeing

Religious Education – The Research Rich Classroom

Webinar recordings and all materials will be available on www.ict.ie after the event.

JCT has twitter handles to provide support to teachers



Level 2 Learning Programmes

Rachel Ryan, Special Educational Needs (SEN) teacher at Mercy Secondary School, Ballymahon talks about her engagement with Level Two Learning Programmes (L2LPs).

MERCY SECONDARY SCHOOL



BALLYMAHON

When we opened our special class for children with autism in 2016 at Mercy Secondary School, Ballymahon, we didn't for one minute anticipate the game changer having a special class at our school would be.

We named our class Narnia, as it looks the same as every other class on the outside, but once inside the door it is a different world in educational terms.

Four years on it's nice to be offered an opportunity to reflect on our journey. Early on we realised that the traditional curriculum would not fully meet the needs of our six new students, and so I looked around for a broader curriculum that would address the needs of a group of wonderful young people who were eager to be at school, and who enjoyed learning.

Two of the six students met the criteria to follow the Level Two Learning Programmes (L2LPs) and so I did my research on the programme and engaged in the professional development offered by the Junior Cycle for Teachers (JCT) team.

Immediately I realised that the Priority Learning Units (PLUs) offered by the L2LP met, not only the needs of my two students, but were very relevant for all six of the students in the class. Following my professional learning experience, we sat down with our students and figured out a workable timetable for each one.

One that would meet their academic needs, develop their social skills, life skills and one that would offer a sensory diet too.

All our students attended mainstream classes, some taking level 3 subjects and the others working on PLUs of their L2LPs in their mainstream classes. Teachers liked the PLUs as they are broadly aligned with the level 3 specifications and helped the students achieve greater independence.

When students returned to Narnia we worked through the PLUs that were more suited to the smaller group context, such as Preparing for Work and Living in the Community. Planning my classes became fun as I could think more creatively than I ever could for a mainstream class.



When planning, I like to work on a thematic basis. I choose a theme and work it across all five units of the programme, meeting different Learning Outcomes from each of the Elements of the PLUs while maintaining the key skills of the JCT programme central to the learning.

L2LPs

Learning Outcomes are individualised for each student and are determined by their needs, strengths and interests as outlined on their Student Support File. Planning and delivering the curriculum in this way makes teaching fun.

Class Narnia is a happy place to be in for all teachers and is a huge success for the students, offering a chance to learn in a supportive yet inclusive way. Our Christmas module has been one of our most successful to date. Our students plan and deliver a full Christmas dinner for their teachers, the principal, deputy principal and themselves. This involves so many of the PLUs of the L2LPs.

We plan the menu, make and deliver invitations, order our shopping online, decorate the room, make a seating plan, shop for extras in our local shops, then cook and serve dinner on the day.

The students also organise a cake sale with their mainstream friends to fund the event, and each student then produces a project booklet that documents their engagement and learning. They also video the occasion and edit it for the school website.

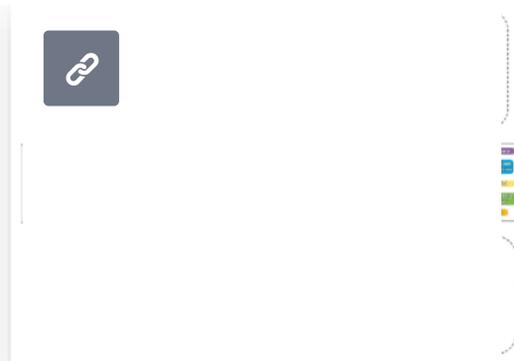


Every year we repeat the module, and so the learning becomes embedded by the time they reach their Third year. This year we have opened our second special class for children with autism named Bláthú, meaning a chance to flourish and our graduates of the L2LPs are leading the learning on the Christmas module for our new L2LP students.

Our students from Narnia celebrated the receipt of their Junior Cycle Profile of Achievements (JCPA) and are now completing the Transition Year programme and are enjoying the mainstream classes, trips and work experience.

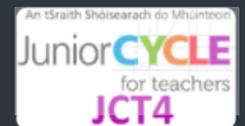
I look forward to the revised Senior Cycle programme and so my journey continues designing a school-based programme that will build and sustain students' motivation to learn in a happy, inclusive way.

Rachel Ryan
SEN teacher
Mercy Secondary School
Ballymahon



Click on image to open resource

Our twitter handles to support teachers



ASSOCIATE FORUM 2020 KILDARE EDUCATION CENTRE

An tSraith Shóisearach do Mhúinteoirí
Junior **CYCLE**
for teachers

CPD Design 2020
Associate Voice

Members of the Associate Forum convened in Kildare Education Centre on Saturday, 25th January 2020. Dr. Pádraig Kirk, Director of JCT, was present from senior management and enjoyed informal, but deep discussion with the Associates and guests alike.

The meeting provided a great opportunity for Associates to get to know other people working across the various subject areas, L1/L2 learning programmes and Whole School. A particular focus of the day aimed to garner the unique insight of the Associate into CPD design for 2020/2021. The Associate is notably well-placed in their understanding of future CPD requirements, from both a practising teacher's and a facilitator's point of view.

Associates completed a detailed online survey and worked collaboratively on a placemat activity which allowed them to delve deeply into the question of what should or should not be included as part of CPD for 2020/2021. Data from both activities was collated and will purposely feed into the design of CPD for the coming academic year.



Patricia McDonagh, former principal of Malahide Community School

Donal Evoy, current Deputy Principal (DP) of Wicklow Educate Secondary School and Stacy Kenny, DP of Edmund Rice College, Blanchardstown also attended on the day.

Donal and Stacy previously worked as Associates with JCT. Forum members enjoyed an engaging Q&A session whereby we explored the ways in which working as an Associate had a marked, long-term impact on their role as educators.

They described their most enjoyable and challenging moments as Associates and the specific skill-set



In conjunction with the Arts in Junior Cycle initiative, the JCT4 Technology team are delighted to collaborate with Industry and Third Level partners, Dolmen and GMIT, to develop a series of exciting elective workshops.



On the 9th of May in Laois Education Centre and the 16th of May in Drumcondra Education Centre we are running workshops with Dolmen, a product design and innovation company. In this workshop, we will bring teachers through a series of practical research and design process activities. Teachers will experience the design process in action and will engage in design strategies used in industry.



Associate Forum 2020

In the afternoon, we were joined by Patricia McDonagh, former principal of Malahide Community School. Patricia spoke passionately about the vision and principles of Junior Cycle. She referenced authors who inspired her journey in education such as William Glasser and Ken Robinson.

We explored the demanding dual role of the Associate and identified ways to best manage the busy nature of the position. Patricia spoke about how dual roles such as Associate/teacher are both rewarding and exciting, albeit demanding.



From left to right;

Back Row – Garreth Fitzpatrick, Darren O’Sullivan, Carmel Boyle, Donal Evoy, Sharon Ryan, Kate Horan, Rachel Ryan, Maria Hyland, Jenny Breen, Dr. Pádraig Kirk

Front row- Éidín Gallagher, Stacy Kenny, Clare Catterson, Mary Cody

‘Dream big, stay positive, work hard but enjoy the journey!’

We look forward to the next meeting of the Associate Forum, which will take place on Saturday, 25th April in Navan Education Centre.



In association with the Arts in Junior Cycle initiative, the Jc4 Wood Technology team are delighted to have collaborated with master craftsman Willie Creighton for ‘Get your World Turning’. The day aims to support teacher’s creativity through experimentation with the craft of woodturning with an emphasis on using the natural properties and aesthetics of wood to create artefacts of value. Please click [here](#) to view a video clip from one of these workshops.

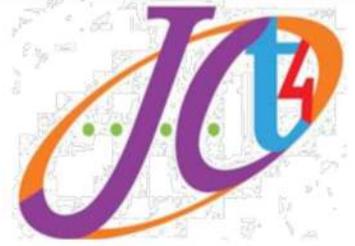
In addition, in May we are building on last year’s hugely successful National Drawing Day workshop. This year we are focusing on the process of generating design ideas and how we are inspired by the world around us.

Click on link below for details



Technologies

The Jct4 team of Advisors have been busy preparing materials and facilitating 2019/2020 CPD workshops and elective events across the country. We have met with teachers of Applied Technology, Engineering, Graphics and Wood Technology aiming to support them in their engagement with the new specifications in these subjects.



Due to recent developments, the scheduled workshops which were to run from the 14th March to the 29th March have been cancelled as per DES guidelines. JCT will be exploring how these events can be run in the future.

Jct4 had a recent collaboration with the JCT Level1/Level 2 Learning Programmes(L1/L2LP) team and developed a webinar which focused on potential learning experiences, across the suite of Technology subjects, for students that participate in a L2LP. On the night the team discussed the L2LP student through the lens of a **Wood Technology teacher** who is currently engaging with L2LP students in his classroom. The full video of the webinar can be found by clicking on image.



Representatives from Jct4 met with 3DWIT and I-Form in Waterford Institute of Technology to design an elective workshop that looks at embedding a pedagogical approach to exploring 3D printing in the classroom.

3D Printing in the Classroom – Creativity and Design, funded in partnership with Science Foundation Ireland, will be held in 3rd level venues throughout the country. Due to the recent guidelines from the Department of Education and Skills some of these workshops have been postponed. For more information on this elective workshop click [\[link\]](#)



3D Printing in the Classroom - Creativity and Design



Technologies

The **JCt4 Engineering team** would like to thank all of the 600 teachers who attended our cluster CPD workshops this year. This year's CPD focused on teaching, learning and assessment, with a strong emphasis on classroom practice in the Engineering classroom. The workshop was designed to support teachers in engaging with all aspects of the Engineering specification, through integrated learning experiences across all three strands. All of our CPD workshop materials are available to download by clicking



The **JCt4 Graphics team** have been very busy since the start of 2020 and over a nine-week period, starting 9th January, have facilitated the Graphics CPD 2019/2020 workshop in 60 venues to a total of 1,265 teachers. Engagement in the cluster workshops has been very positive and we look forward to further supporting teachers for the remainder of the academic year in the elective spaces. A big thank you to all teachers who engaged with us during the cluster workshops.

"Throughout the course, students will explore the geometric world to gain an appreciation of the importance of graphics in the world around them." *Graphics specification page 3*

1st YEAR | **YOUR Surroundings**

<http://www.makeshapechange.com>

Look at your favourite space or object:

- What is it?
- Where is there geometry present?
- Show how you could make it better?
- One A3 sheet per entry.

Teachers are asked to submit entries on their students' behalf to: jct4competitions@jct.ie or by post to: **First-year Graphics Exhibition, RIAI, 8 Merrion Square, Dublin 2, D02YE68**

Closing Date: May 1st 2020

RIAI: Junior Cycle for Teachers are delighted to run this initiative in conjunction with The Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland (RIAI). The RIAI have kindly offered to showcase samples of student entries in their offices in Merrion Square. Schools will be informed if their students work is being displayed in advance.

KIVI: ...to provide support to all schools participating in the initiative...

RIAI Partnership

The JCt4 Graphics team are delighted to announce a partnership with The Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland (RIAI). First-year students of Graphics have the opportunity to have their work exhibited at the RIAI headquarters in Dublin 2. The closing date for entries is the 1st of May 2020. For full details click [here](#) to view promotion material.

The **JCt4 Wood Technology team** would like to acknowledge the participation of 1,150 teachers in our Cluster CPD workshops this year. This year's CPD focused on teaching, learning and assessment, with a strong emphasis on classroom practice to support and prepare students to engage with all aspects of the Wood Technology specification through integrated learning experiences. To access this year's CPD support materials please click [here](#).



Technologies

The **Applied Technology team** would like to acknowledge the participation of 254 teachers in our Cluster CPD workshops this year. This year's CPD focused on teaching, learning and assessment with a strong emphasis on classroom practice to support and prepare students to engage with all aspects of the Applied Technology specification. We also explored the approach and pedagogy relating to applied control technology through a series of integrated learning experiences. To access this year's CPD support materials please click [here](#).

The team also facilitated an elective titled '**Problem Solving Through Coding, Applied Control and Mechatronics**'. During this elective, teachers engaged with control technology and explored how this technology could come to life in student project work. We would like to thank teachers for the excellent turnout and engagement in the workshop, even though our workshops coincided with tough weather conditions. We look forward to providing more of these sessions in the new academic year.



Webinars for Technologies

The focus of our **Wood Technologies** webinar will be the introduction of the craft of bending and lamination through a student design task. An interdisciplinary approach will be used to integrate all three strands in the teaching and learning associated with this discipline. During this webinar, attendees will experience the planning associated with generating a unit of learning on laminating. Samples of student work will be reviewed along with teacher testimonial outlining their own reflections on the classroom activities. The webinar will broadcast on March 30th at 7.30pm. You can register for the webinar by clicking [here](#).

As part of the week of webinars the Jc4 Graphics team will host their second **Graphics** webinar titled "Graphics in Action" on April 1st 7.30 – 8.30 p.m. The Jc4 Graphics team will broadcast live on the night, with a focus on a teacher's journey as they explore the Graphics specification with a first-year class group. To register for the webinar, click [here](#).

The focus of this webinar will be an exploration of goal orientated problem solving in the **Engineering** specification. During this webinar, attendees will hear from a teacher on their experiences in planning a unit of learning to design learning experiences that develop the skills of communication, collaboration and research. Samples of student work will be reviewed along with teacher testimonial outlining their own reflections on planning and learning experiences. The webinar will broadcast on March 30th at 6:15pm. You can register for the webinar by clicking [here](#).

The **Applied Technology** webinar aims to explore teaching strategies that will support students in the discovery/exploring phase of a design brief. We will speak with designers from industry to capture their approach to exploring a design brief when solving real world problems. We will look at some of the skills needed by students to develop a deeper understanding of a problem. We will then explore some classroom strategies, trialled and tested with a class group, which could support students to confidently move forward in their design journey. You can register by clicking [here](#).

Religious Education

The first Junior Cycle Arts collaboration between the **JCT Religious Education team** and the Chester Beatty Library took place on March 11th in the Chester Beatty Library, Dublin. The active workshop entitled “Sacred Texts and Sacred Objects” explicated the ways in which teachers can create inter-faith resources in the classroom using sacred texts. The evening’s facilitators Jenny Siung and Justyna Chmielewska of the Chester Beatty Library examined texts and artefacts using a tactile / kinaesthetic approach and also hosted a museum visit for the participating teachers from a variety of subject spaces.

A thoroughly memorable evening ensued of insightful conversations and collaboration between all present, examining the use of sacred texts from how they were made to the variety of worldwide religions and cultures that constructed them. Creating resource boxes for enquiry and explorative based learning was a highlight of the night enabling teachers to engage with the 3 new elements from the RE specification. We look forward to hosting many more evenings of this nature in the future in education centres around the country.

Resources

Check out our website at www.jct.ie where you will find resource materials for all junior cycle subjects, including this years and previous years workshop materials, key documents, assessment materials, posters & past webinars, etc

The image displays a collage of screenshots from the JCT website, illustrating the navigation structure. Blue arrows indicate the flow from the main subject grid to specific resource pages.

- Home Page:** Features a navigation menu (Home, Wellbeing, Whole School, Leadership, Subjects, Short Courses, L1LPs/L2LPs, Publications, Leagan Gaelige, Search) and a grid of subject tiles including English, Science, Business Studies, Geography, Modern Foreign Languages, Visual Art, Maths, Music, Geography, History, Home Economics, Technologies, Religious Education, Languages, Classics, L1LPs/L2LPs, Leadership, and Wellbeing.
- Publications Page:** Lists various resources such as "Junior Cycle for Teachers - Subject Information Leaflets", "Junior Cycle for Teachers - Parents Information Leaflets", "Junior Cycle for Teachers - Articles", "Junior Cycle for Teachers - JCToday Newsletters", and "JCT Posters".
- History Page:** Offers resources categorized into Key Documents, News/Events, CPD Workshops, Planning, Assessment, and Resources.
- Planning Page:** Provides detailed planning resources, including "Whole School Planning for Short Courses", "CSPE and Wellbeing - Planning", "PE and Wellbeing - Planning", "SPYE and Wellbeing - Planning", "Coding - Planning", "Digital Media Literacy - Planning", "Artistic Performance - Planning", "Chinese Language and Culture - Planning", "Philosophy - Planning", "Level 2 Short Courses - Planning", and "Short Course Development - Planning".

WEEKS OF WEBINARS 2020

An tSraith Shóisearach do Mhúinteoirí
JuniorCYCLE
for teachers

Junior Cycle for Teachers are hosting a series of elective webinars from March 23rd - April 23rd to support teachers across the junior cycle curriculum.

Week 1: March 23rd - 26th

Week 2: March 30th - April 2nd

Week 3: April 20th - 23rd

History
CSPE
Geography
Business Studies
English
Science
Gaeilge T2
MFL

Engineering
Wood Technology
Maths
PE
Applied Technology
Graphics
Home Economics
Gaeilge T1

Student Voice
Digital Media Literacy
L1LPs / L2LPs
Leadership
Classics
Visual Art
Music
SPHE
Religious Education

How to register:

Visit the homepage of
www.jct.ie

Subject Twitter accounts

If you cannot log in to the webinar on the night, all webinars and linked materials will be available on www.jct.ie shortly after the broadcast date

#JCTWOW



@JCforTeachers

An tSraith Shóisearach do Mhúinteoirí

JuniorCYCLE
for teachers

Junior Cycle for Teachers (JCT) Support Service

Administrative Office:
Monaghan Ed. Centre | Armagh Road | Monaghan
Tel.: 047 74008

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