

JC TODAY

The Official Newsletter of Junior Cycle for Teachers

Issue 26 | December 2021

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

Welcome to our new look newsletter. Our newsletter's will adopt a thematic approach going forward. The theme for this 26th edition of our newsletter is **CREATIVITY IN JUNIOR CYCLE**.



Junior Cycle reform is infused with opportunities to express our individual and collective creativity. Never before has creativity been so central in curricular reform. Indeed, creativity and innovation form part of the underlying principles of junior cycle, while Being Creative stands proud as one of the eight key skills of junior cycle. This newsletter is devoted to creativity in Junior Cycle.

In our work with teachers, we endeavour to accentuate the opportunities to be creative across the curriculum. I hope you will find the various articles in this edition to be useful and informative, even better if they light a creative spark!

On behalf of the JCT organisation, I want to take this opportunity to wish everybody who works and learns in our schools and centres for education a very peaceful and happy Christmas period.

We are proud to work with you all and look forward to an even brighter 2022.

Dr. Pádraig Kirk, Director

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Creativity in Junior Cycle



Key Skills of Junior Cycle



Click on the image to download

Music

An tsraith Shóisearach do Mhúinteoirí
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Music

Creativity, being creative and creative learning continue to inform all we do on the JCT Music Team. Click on this image for a whistle-stop tour through some of our creative journey. Enjoy!



Special Visit of Lithuanian Delegation

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On Monday November 16th, St Dominic's College Cabra and St. Oliver's Community College Drogheda partnered with JCT to host a visiting delegation of Lithuanian teachers along with representatives of their National Agency for Education, who were visiting to learn about progression in Junior Cycle reform and other developments in our education system.

The delegates commented on the warm relationship between teachers and students in both schools. They remarked on the creative approaches to teaching and learning and the capacity of both students and teachers to engage deeply with subject material in the lessons they observed.

They were delighted to be welcomed by students from Lithuania in St. Dominic's and remarked on the creative displays in St Oliver's which celebrated the diversity of nationalities that form their school community. We extend our thanks to both schools for their hospitality.



Creativity, along with Critical Thinking, Collaboration and Communication are often referred to as 'the 4 Cs of 21st Century Learning' and are important learning goals for complex, globalised and increasingly digitalised economies and societies.

The Framework for Junior Cycle (2015), places creativity at the centre of all learning which is informed by the Key Skills, Principles and Statements of Learning.

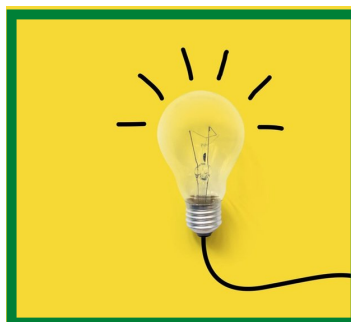
The Key Skill of Being Creative activates a student's ability to imagine, explore options and alternatives along with offering opportunities to implement ideas and to be active participants in their own learning. While the Junior Cycle Principle of Creativity and Innovation is incorporated into all aspects of curriculum, assessment, teaching and learning, it can be further activated using digital technologies.

Statements of Learning are central to planning for and evaluating students' creative experiences of their school's Junior Cycle Programme. They encourage an inventive space for students to create, appraise, critically interpret, present, design, initiate and innovate throughout the three years of Junior Cycle.

The Junior Cycle Implementation Support Team (JCIS), in collaboration with the Arts in Junior Cycle Team are in the early stages of design considerations for an online Creativity module for facilitation in schools.

This JCIS Creativity piece, while exploring the five Creative Habits of Mind, will allow teachers to discuss and reflect on their students' creative learning. Teachers will consider how these creative habits of

- being inquisitive
- collaborative
- persistent
- disciplined
- imaginative



sit in our practice, our classrooms, and our school communities. When students are engaged with this five-dimensional model of creativity, they are empowered to learn creatively (Lucas, 2016).

English

To support the creative journey in the Junior Cycle English classroom, the English team would like to draw your attention to a number of supports that are available on our website, including our Autumn Online Learning Event, our 'Conversations From the Classroom' podcast series and elements of our most recent CPD day, focusing on oral communication and film studies.



Autumn Online Event

As part of Junior Cycle for Teacher's Autumn Online Learning Event, 'Contemporary Poetry in Action', we were delighted to collaborate with English teacher Kevin Dowling and his students from St. Joseph's Secondary School in Rush, County Dublin.

It was a highly engaging event for teachers seeking to incorporate creativity into their Junior Cycle English classrooms. Kevin and his students shared their class work, created through the digital medium of Thinglink. Kevin's wonderful resource is available [here](#). Further contemporary poetry resources from the evening are available [here](#).

Conversations From the Classroom

In the podcast section of the JCT English website, you will find a selection of conversations with Junior Cycle English teachers. Of particular interest is our recent conversation with Patrick Huff from Ardscoil Mhuire, Limerick. Patrick shares his creative approaches to teaching texts and what works for him and his students. Interestingly, Patrick also gives us an insight into his own creative writing process! You can access our 'Conversations From the Classroom' podcasts [here](#).



Recent CPD

Finally, as part of our most recent CPD day, we offered a choice of two workshops. Our film podcast workshop 'Spinning Stories out of Light' features five episodes in conversation with a selection of contributors exploring creativity and film in the Junior Cycle English classroom. Our second workshop focuses on oral language, exploring a plethora of creative ways to engage with oral language in the Junior Cycle English classroom. To access the workshops on our website, [click here](#).

History

An tSraith Shóisearach do Mhúinteoirí
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BENEFITS OF BEING CREATIVE IN THE JC HISTORY CLASSROOM

INCLUSION AND
APPRECIATION
OF DIVERSITY

DEVELOPING
HISTORICAL
THINKING SKILLS-
E.G. OBJECTIVITY,
PROBLEM SOLVING,
CRITICAL THINKING

CREATES A
COLOURFUL AND
CREATIVE
LEARNING
ENVIRONMENT

TOLERATING
AMBIGUITY,
CHALLENGE AND
RISK-TAKING

EXERCISE
AUTONOMY AND
INNOVATION

CELEBRATION
OF TALENTS
AND PASSIONS

PROMOTES
STUDENT VOICE
AND
OWNERSHIP

CROSS
CURRICULAR
OPPORTUNITIES



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@JetHistory

KEEP BEING CREATIVE IN THE JC HISTORY CLASSROOM

WORKING WITH SYMBOLISM

- GOOGLE DOODLE
- POSTAGE STAMP
- CURRENCY
- ORIGINAL POLITICAL CARTOON
- MEMORIAL
- PROTEST POSTER
- PROPAGANDA POSTER

NUMERACY AND GRAPHICS

- MINDMAPS
- TIMELINE USING POLITICAL CARTOONS
- MAP AN AREA WITH SKETCHES OF BUILDINGS
- GRAPHIC ORGANISERS
- CODE BREAKING (WWII OR MIRROR WRITING OF DA VINCI)

DRAMA

- FREEZE FRAME FOR PHOTOS
- ROLE PLAY E.G. TREATY NEGOTIATIONS
- COURTROOM TRIAL E.G. COMPENSATION
- MYSTERY- ENQUIRY QUESTION
- ESCAPE ROOM RESEARCH QUEST
- ARMY TECHNIQUES
- HOT SEAT

MAKING

- MODEL BUILDING
- TIME CAPSULE
- BOARD GAME WITH CHANCE CARDS
- HOW HIGH CAN A ROCKET GO?
- RENAISSANCE PAINTING UNDER CHAIRS/ DESKS
- TASTING MENU THROUGH THE AGES

LITERACY

- DIARY ENTRY
- CLOSING ARGUMENT IN A COURT CASE
- TRAVEL BROCHURES ABOUT LOCALITY IN THE PAST
- SPEECH TO THE NATION (PROPAGANDA)
- LETTER TO A LOVED ONE OR RIVAL (CENSORSHIP)

LITERACY

- SONG LYRICS
- POEM OR LIMERICK
- NEWSPAPER FRONT PAGE
- TIME 'PERSON OF THE YEAR'
- OBITUARY
- 'WHAT IF?' SCENARIOS
- BOOK/ FILM REVIEW (FACT VS FICTION)
- INTERVIEW Q+AS

AURAL

- RADIO NEWS BROADCAST
- PODCAST
- COMMENTARY OF AN EVENT E.G. BATTLE OR SPORT
- SING OR RAP TO SUMMARISE A TOPIC
- INTERVIEW

PRESENTATION

- CREATE A COUNTRY – HOW WILL YOU RUN IT ?
- BID AT AN AUCTION OF EACH OTHERS CASTLE DESIGNS
- PITCH YOUR NEXT MOVE IN A HISTORICAL EVENT
- CREATE AN ADVERT
- DRAGONS DEN – PITCH AN INVENTION

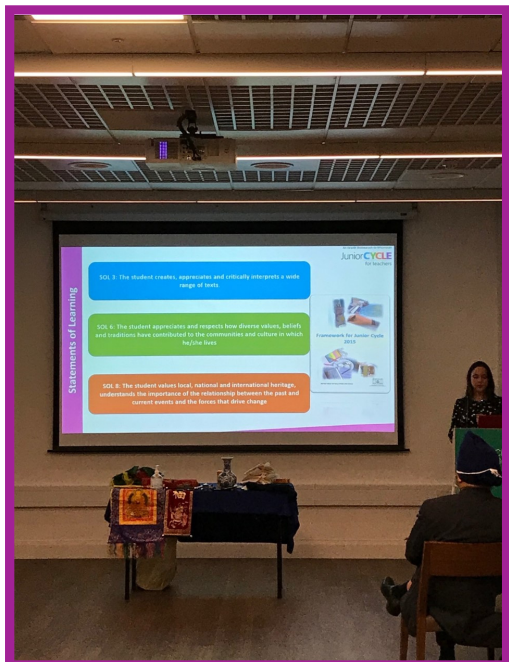


Religious Education

On Thursday 11th November, the JCT Religious Education team attended a National Forum about the teaching of world religions in the Chester Beatty Library in association with MIC Limerick and the Dublin City Interfaith Forum. It was a most enlightening day of both reflection and discussion as we creatively explored symbolism and the use of artefacts in the different religious traditions.

JCT RE team leader Dr Ailís Travers presented a talk at the event about the use of sacred artefacts and online museum collections in teaching and learning. This centred on the role of creativity in Junior Cycle. In particular, she highlighted the importance of asking questions to spark creativity, curiosity and engagement in the Junior Cycle RE programme. Examples of classroom strategies to support learning creatively with physical artifacts and digital resources developed by the JCT RE team were shared with participants. Finally, the promotion of the RE specification elements of enquiry, exploration and reflection and action were encouraged as a way to foster a mutual respect and understanding of diverse beliefs and traditions.

There was an opportunity to examine and discuss artefacts or symbols important to each of the major world faith traditions represented at the forum, which stimulated some interesting observations and new insights. For example, the Shofar, a symbol of reconciliation within Judaism, was used to provide participants with an insight into the Jewish holiday of Yom Kippur or the Day of Atonement. The Buddhist representative's input on the Buddhist robe known as a Kasaya was similarly insightful. Symbolising simplicity and detachment from materialism, the Kasaya is made from cast off materials that are washed and dyed in earth colours. Focusing on one particular artefact in this way really helped us to grasp the essence of that particular faith tradition.

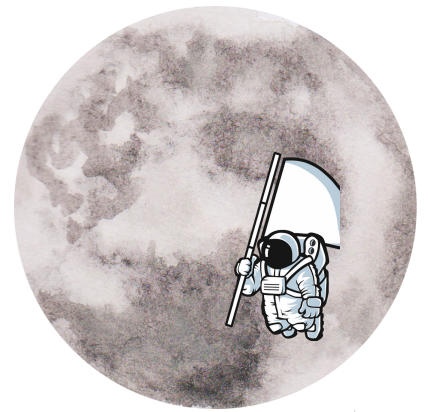


For us in the JCT RE team, the day provided a rich opportunity to deepen our own appreciation of the creative use of religious symbols and artefacts through our discussions with the representatives of the faith traditions present

Mar pháistí, deirtear linn go bhfuil “fear” ar an ngealach mar gheall ar na spotaí dorchá atá sofheicthe uirthi. Smaoineamh iontach é do pháiste ach síscéal atá ann, ar ndóigh. Sa bhliain 1969, áfach, tharla éacht i bhfad níos draíochtúla ná an síscéal sin nuair a thuirling an chéad fhear ar an ngealach. Seans ann nach bhfuil nasc ar bith idir an dá rud ach seans ann freisin gurb é “an fear ar an ngealach” a spreag eolaí óg chun díriú ar dhuine a sheoladh chun na gealaí lá breá éigin. Ach conas aidhm mar sin a bhaint amach? An freagra ná, an chruthaitheacht.



Is í an chruthaitheacht an droichead idir coincheap agus feoil a chur ar choincheap. Is í an chruthaitheacht fórsa an dula chun cinn. Ní raibh aon teorainneacha in intinní na neolaithe, na n-innealtóirí ná na spásairí nuair a cuireadh síol na féidearthachta na blianta ó shin. Bhí samhlaíocht, saoirse agus solúbthacht acu chun beocht a chur ina smaointe féin, chun an cine daonna a bhrú ar aghaidh go dtí an ‘teorainn dheiridh’. An ní is tábhachtaí, áfach, ná, go raibh siad in ann deighleáil leis an méid saoirse agus solúbthachta seo. Níor chuir easpa teorach ná easpa teorainneacha isteach ar na ceannródaithe seo. Bhí siad in ann a mbealach féin a oibriú amach, na huirlisí a bhí de dhíth orthu a dhearadh, na contúirtí a mheas agus an chéad choiscéim leagtha síos acu.



In 2015, tháinig athrú mór, suntasach ar an gcóras oideachais in Éirinn mar gheall ar an tSraith Shóisearach. Is í an chruthaitheacht cnámh droma an chreata. Tugtar aitheantas agus tús áite di. De réir an chreata, “Cuireann an curaclam, an measúnú, an teagasc agus an fhoghlaim deiseanna ar fáil, do scoláirí a bheith cruthaitheach agus nuálach.” Is léir ón ráiteas seo go bhfuil tionchar forleathan aici ar, ní hamháin na scoláirí agus na bealaí ina bhfoghlaimíonn siad, ach ar na múinteoirí freisin agus sna slite ina múineann siad.

Is é sainmhíniú na cruthaitheachta ná “an cumas teacht ar smaointe spreagúla” agus is léir go spreagann an tSraith Shóisearach í sin i ngach céim. Fiú, ceann de na haidhmeanna atá aici ná “taitneamh a bhaint as cumarsáid chruthaitheach agus nuálach a dhéanamh trí Ghaeilge”. Leis an gcruthaitheacht mar chroílár eispéireas foghlama an scoláire, tá an fhéidearthacht ann go spreagfar duine amháin chun samhlú ar rud éigin nár samhlaíodh é riamh. Mar a dúirt an spásaire mór le rá, Neil Armstrong ar an lá cinniúnach sin, “Céim bheag don duine, léim ollmhór don chine daonna”.



Modern Foreign Languages

The Modern Foreign Languages team, in collaboration with PPLI, facilitated the 'What's Your Story?' National MFL Digital Story Award. This award encourages MFL students to be creative in telling their own story through the target language, and to use their digital skills to share their story. Stories were created and shared by students from across Ireland. Several schools received the award, and the stories are showcased on a dedicated website www.whatsyourstoryshowcase.ie.

All strands in MFL promote students' use of a range of digital technologies to research and manage content as well as to communicate. A range of learning outcomes were at play as students utilised their creative writing skills in the target language.

An event was hosted online to celebrate the achievement of students and their teachers on Wednesday 3rd November. Congratulations to all involved!

We have a range of **resources** on our website to help you and your students to get creative and tell their story through their target language. Here you will find guidelines, a storyboard template and checklist.



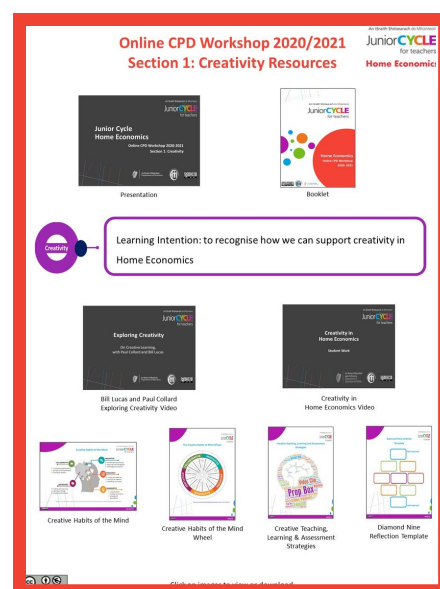
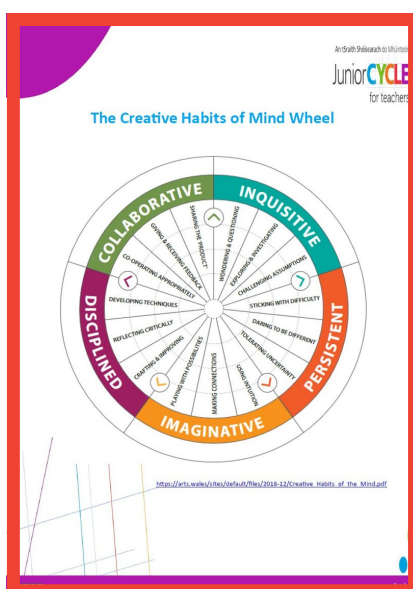
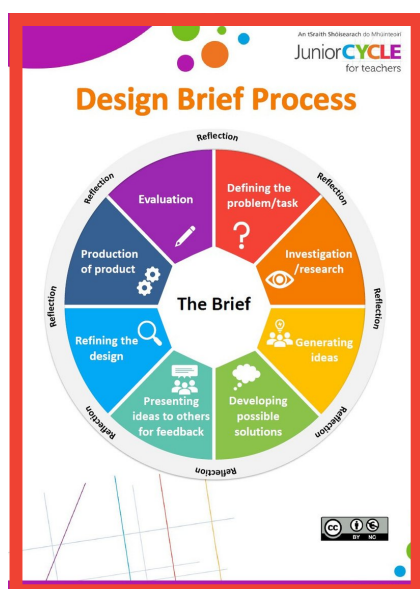
Home Economics

During October 2021, we engaged with over 308 teachers in our Autumn Online Learning Event *Reflections on Creative Textiles CBA1 and Beyond*. Many thanks to all the teachers who attended and to our Associates who reflected on their journey to date with Creative Textiles.

Our online CPD Day 2021 explored the key skill of Being Creative in Home Economics. We reflected using the *Creative Habits of Mind* by Bill Lucas and Ellen Spencer during this workshop. We discussed the similarities between the Creative Habits of Mind and our Design Brief Process. We shared several resources to help us deepen our understanding of creativity and the importance of incrementally developing creative thinking skills with students. You may wish to visit the *CPD Workshop* section to explore these resources further. Tá gach rud ar fail as **Gaeilge** freisin.

Finally, to nurture your own creativity, you may like to listen to the following Home Economics related podcasts on our Junior Cycle Talks channel or simply click below:

- [Sinéad Lawlor Sustainable Fashion Designer](#)
- [Leonie Cornelius Garden Designer and Interior Architect](#)

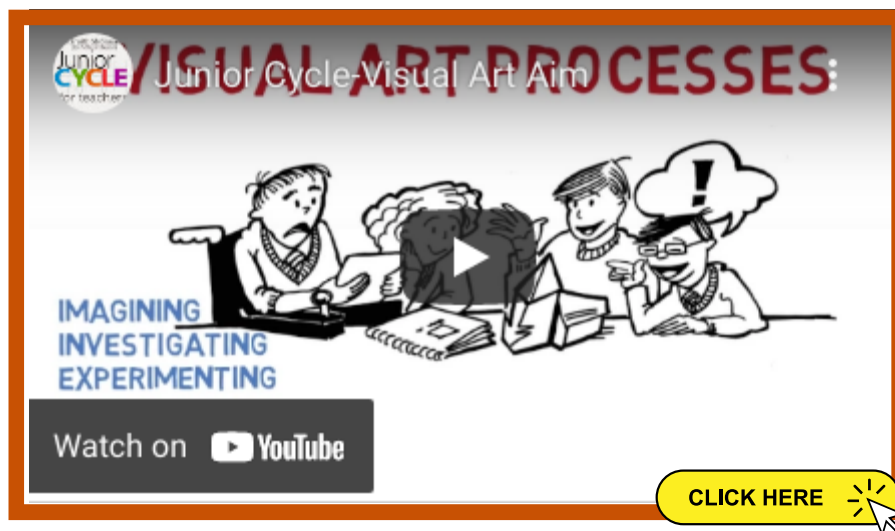


Visual Art

Activating the key skill of Being Creative in the Visual Art classroom

The exploration of open-ended creative tasks in Visual Art, allows students to experience the creative processes of imagining, investigating, experimenting, making, displaying, and evaluating.

Encouraging creative and critical thinking supports students to envision and evaluate ideas and visual information.



The Creative Chance Cards...shown here is a question-based methodology that encourages students to use their imagination to explore new possibilities, playing with different visual ideas and new concepts. The range of 84 open-ended **what if...** questions support students who may be at a turning point in their work and facilitates them to develop their own unique personal response to a stimulus or exploration. Students learn to persist with challenges, experiencing the creative process through to completion and develop genuine problem-solving abilities.

Creative Chance Cards

These **Creative Chance Cards** are designed to help generate ideas, make links and associations and to aid thinking critically and creatively.

Shuffle the deck. Pick one or two cards at random, use the question to help you think about different approaches and possibilities, discuss with others and take a creative chance!

Instructions

Download this PDF.
Cut and paste to A6 size cardboard.



What if you emphasised the lines?



What if you incorporated the human form?

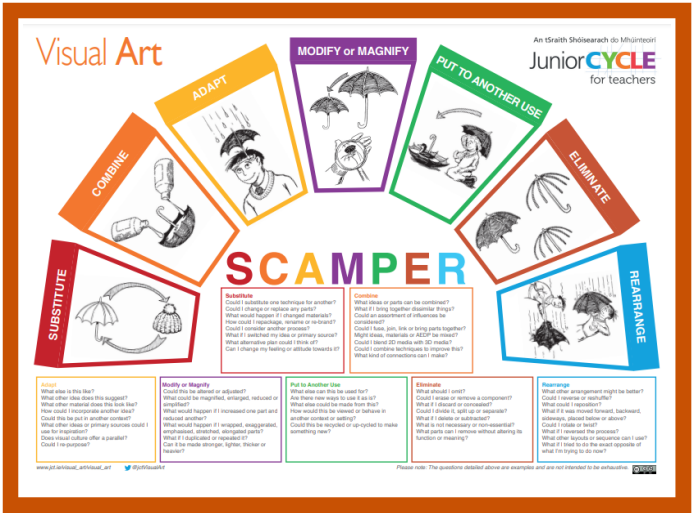


What if you added an unusual texture?

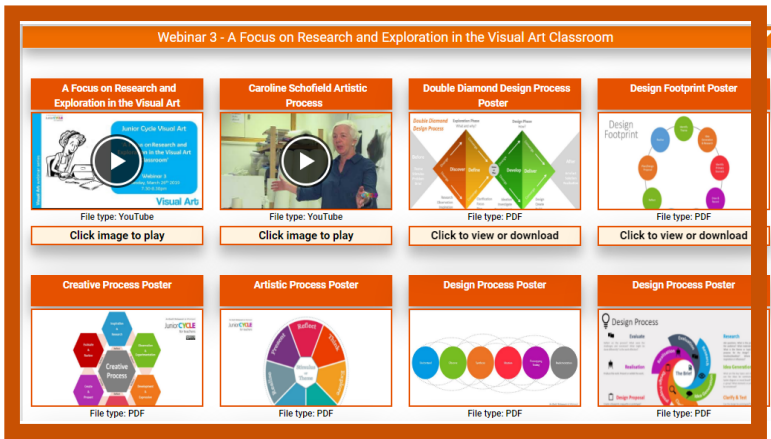


The **SCAMPER** poster seen here is a methodology that will support students in generating new and original ideas and approaches to developing their work in a creative way. Based on an acronym, it sparks new thinking and alternative viewpoints by looking through the lens of Substitute, Combine, Adapt, Modify, Put to another use, Eliminate and Rearrange.

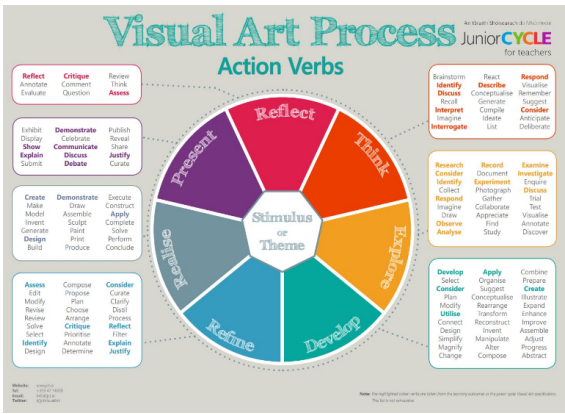
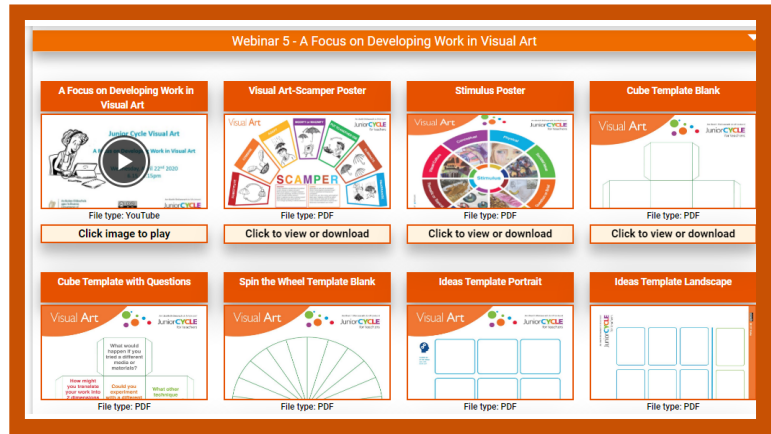
Engaging with different questions through these lenses helps students to explore links, connections and patterns within their own work and wider visual art contexts. It also supports the development of new avenues as students question assumptions about how they might explore media, techniques, etc. Please see a video version of the resource [here](#)



The **SCAMPER** poster has recently been posted to teachers of Visual Art.



In the Visual Art resources section and elective workshop section of the website, you will find a range of supports in the form of webinars entitled *Research and Exploration in the Visual Art Classroom* and *Developing work in the Visual Art Classroom*. You will also find visual posters that focus on a range of Creative Processes all of which support the development of the key skills of Junior Cycle including the area of *Being Creative*.



Junior Cycle Talks

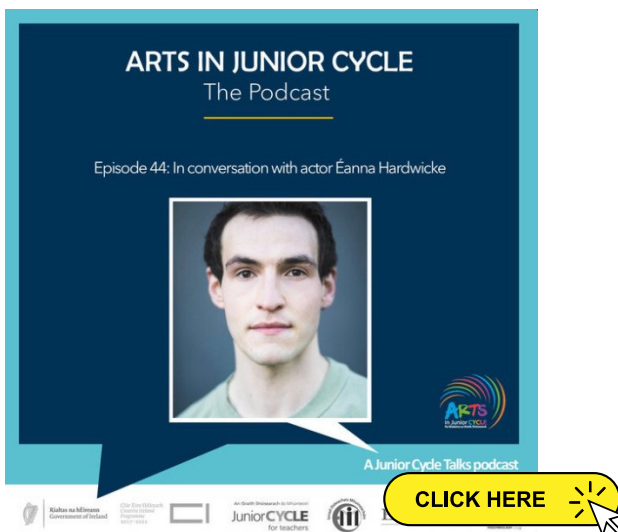


Our podcast channel 'Junior Cycle Talks' continues to go from strength to strength. You will find a whole host of episodes across different subjects and interests by searching for Junior Cycle Talks.

SUBSCRIBE



Recent episodes include:



Actor Éanna Hardwicke

An tSraith Shóisearach do Mhúinteoirí
JuniorCYCLE
for teachers
**Business
Studies**

Open for Business Podcast Series



Creative Director Chantal McCormick



Spoken Word Artist Adam Mohamed

Every podcast explores the skill of being creative. Artists, teachers and experts draw on their experiences across different settings

Search Junior Cycle Talks wherever you get your podcasts!



Arts in Junior Cycle

Our aim in Arts in Junior Cycle is to inspire, support and empower Junior Cycle teachers from all subjects to engage with and be enriched by the arts and learning.



Creativity

Together with our arts partners, we design elective workshops and longer-term initiatives that encourage teacher creativity. Our aim is to embody the Key Skills and Principles of the Junior Cycle Framework and encourage teacher creativity and reflective practice. Being Creative is a key skill that is particularly relevant, as is the Principle of Creativity & Innovation.

We have offered a range of online elective opportunities as part of our Autumn 2021 programme, all designed to provide teachers with space and time to engage in a variety of art forms and experiences. Here is a flavour of the feedback we have received from our teacher participants:

"Great opportunity for teachers to generate ideas of how to creatively approach subject topics."

"...the collaborative feedback and idea-sharing was a wonderful experience. I learned so much and felt inspired and creative at the end of the sessions."

"Thank you so much for organising these beautiful workshops. We SO need them. I felt transported during each workshop."

New for Spring 2022 Workshops

Writing our Place with Fighting Words

Partners

Museum of Literature Ireland (MOLI)
Newsbrands Ireland

For more on Arts in Junior Cycle workshops, go to www.artsinjuniorcycle.ie



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Clár Éire Ildánach
Creative Ireland
Programme
2017–2022



An tSraith Shóisearach do Mhúinteoirí
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Online Cluster Days 2021/2022

An tSraith Shóisearach do Mhúinteoirí
Junior CYCLE
for teachers

zoom



JCT is delighted to engage with subject teachers as part of their online cluster day for the academic year 2021/2022. Details of your upcoming cluster day have been sent to your school.

In advance of this day, we invite you to check out our short video guide on using Zoom below.

On the day, please have the following:

Your own device (preferably a laptop/PC) with a camera and mic enabled

Pen and Paper

Optional

A second device (a phone/iPad/tablet)



We look forward to supporting you on your cluster day!



Further Supports

The SEC has recently released sample papers for Junior Cycle subjects presenting for examination in 2022 for the first time.

These include:

Religious Education,
Classics,
Jewish Studies,
Graphics,
Wood Technology,
Applied Technology,
Engineering.

Sample Papers and Circulars 2022

Junior Cycle
2022 JC Sample papers Circular EV IV
Junior Cycle Graphics Sample Paper
Junior Cycle Wood Technology Sample Paper
Junior Cycle Applied Technology Sample Paper
Junior Cycle Engineering Sample Paper
Junior Cycle Classics Sample Paper
Junior Cycle Religious Education Sample Paper
Junior Cycle Jewish Studies Sample Paper



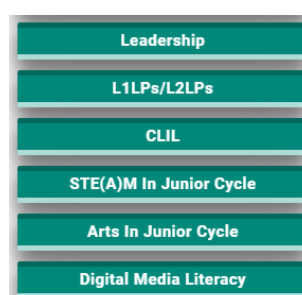
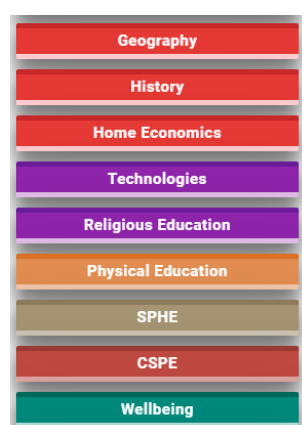
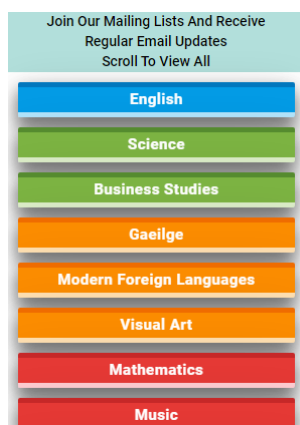
Click here to access



Check out our website for all the latest updates to support your Junior Cycle classroom



Join our mailing lists [here!](#)



Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening

Whose woods these are I think I know.
His house is in the village though;
He will not see me stopping here
To watch his woods fill up with snow.



My little horse must think it queer
To stop without a farmhouse near
Between the woods and frozen lake
The darkest evening of the year.

He gives his harness bells a shake
To ask if there is some mistake.
The only other sound's the sweep
Of easy wind and downy flake.

The woods are lovely, dark and deep,
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep.

Robert Frost



**JCT would like to wish a very Happy Christmas
and a prosperous new year to all!**

Editor: Liam Bannon

An tSraith Shóisearach do Mhúinteoirí

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