

The Official Newsletter of Junior Cycle for Teachers

Issue 25 | October 2021



Welcome to our new look newsletter. Our newsletter's will adopt a thematic approach going forward. The theme for this 25th edition of our newsletter is KEY SKILLS OF JUNIOR CYCLE.



This edition is packed full of information and ideas on how the eight key skills of Junior Cycle can be mediated in our classrooms. Links to suitable resources are provided across a range of curricular areas including English, Visual Art, MFL and Religious Education to name a few. We want to provide teachers with ready access to all of the valuable resources that we have produced over recent years, all of which can be found on www.jct.ie by clicking the relevant links in this newsletter.

Our CPD programme continues apace for 2021/2022. This year we hope to adapt a more hybrid model of facilitation as we come out of Covid, with a good mix of both face-to-

face and online engagements.

Our elective CPD offerings continue to expand also with a wide range of Zoom webinars and meetings being provided. In this respect, we will record as many as we can so that they can be revisited by teachers in their own time - one of the advantages of the technology!

Don't hesitate to contact us should you have any queries about any aspect of Junior Cycle in your school or in your classroom. We also value constructive feedback and can be contacted by email at info@jct.ie.

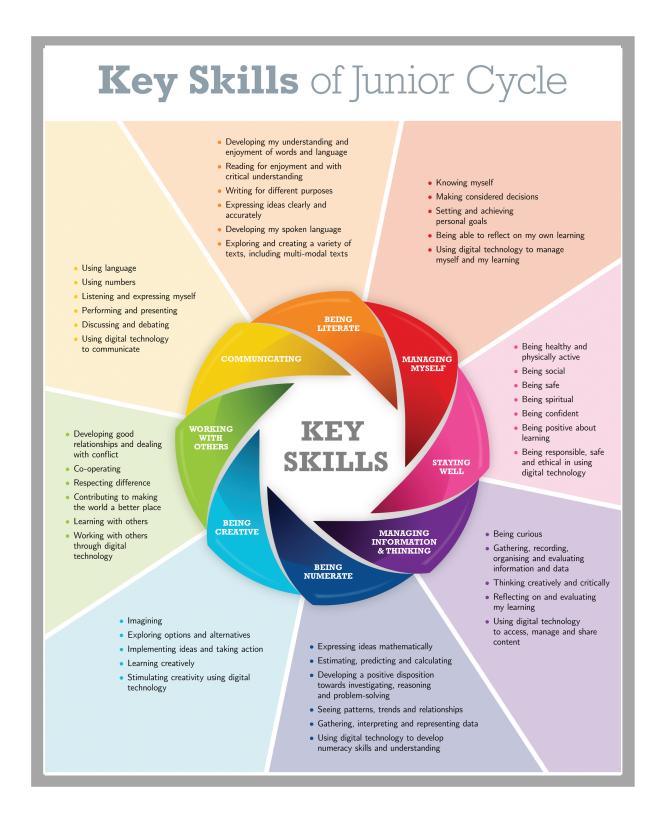
In conclusion, JCT takes this opportunity to wish school leaders, teachers, students and the wider school community every success in the year ahead.

Dr. Pholraig Kirk, Director

Contents:	
Key Skills of Junior Cycle	2
Home Economics	4
• English	5
• History	6
Religious Education	8
• Gaeilge	9
• MFL	10
• Junior Cycle Implementation	10
Support	
Visual Art	11
 Junior Cycle Talks 	13
Arts in Junior Cycle	14
 Online Learning Event 2021 	16
• Further Supports	17

The Key Skills of Junior Cycle



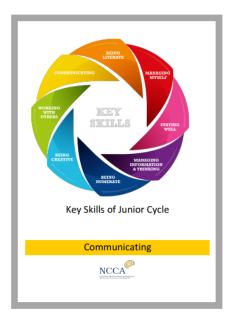


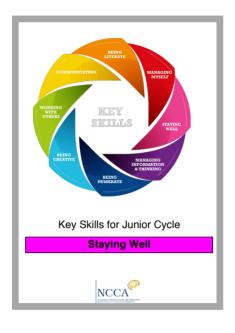
Click on the image to download

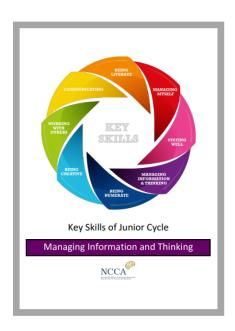


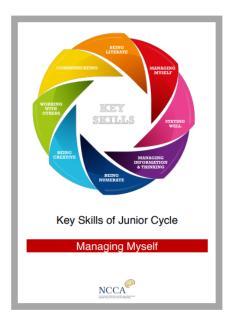


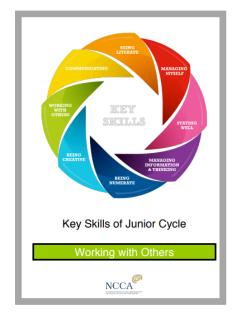
For more information on each key skill, please click on the relevant image

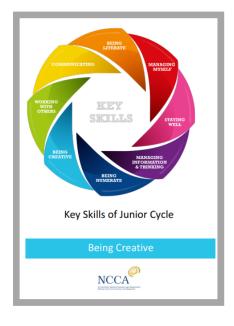














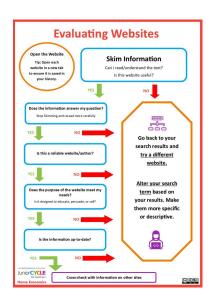
Further information on the Key Skills of 'Being Literate' and 'Being Numerate' can be found on the NCCA website



3

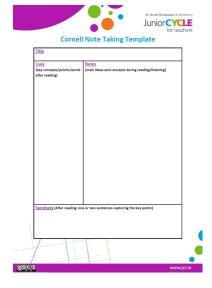
Home Economics



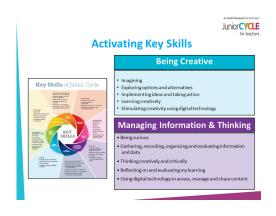


This September we engaged with over 270 teachers from schools that deferred their cluster day in 2020/2021. The focus of that workshop was supporting the key skill of Being Creative in Home Economics. Of course, there are opportunities to support the development of all key skills in Home Economics. Many key skills are activated when students carry out research and analyse information.

Last April, we explored the key skill of Managing Information and Thinking during our online learning event:



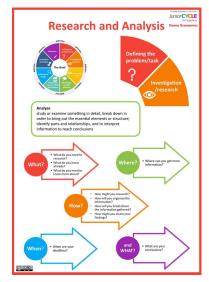
'<u>Supporting Students to Research and Analyse</u> Information for CBAs.'



During this online learning event, we shared several resources to support students in research and analysis, evaluating the reliability of a website when carrying out research online and note-taking.

You may like to look at these resources further, all of which use the key skill Managing Information and Thinking by clicking the images.

Tá siad seo go léir ar fáil as **Gaeilge** freisin.





English



Over the month of September, the JCT English Team engaged with 834 English teachers from across the country, as we facilitated a series of rescheduled online cluster days. We also welcomed our new Team Leader, Liam, and two new advisors, Paul and Owen. Our most recent CPD day focused on the progression of student learning throughout the three years of junior cycle English; oral communication; film studies and supports for the collection of student texts, which included strategies on formative feedback. The material and resources for this CPD day can be found on our website at this link.

To support the development of students' key skills, the English team would like to draw your attention to a number of resources that are available on our website including strategies for oral language and the writing process. Explore the resources section here.

This page also includes our series of 'How To' videos on various digital supports that can aid both teachers and students in incorporating digital technology into their learning. You will also find our series of podcasts with our most recent podcast featuring Irish author Patricia Forde as she discusses her novel *The Wordsmith*.

Finally, to support the key skill of Being Literate, you will find information and resources on the 1st Year indicative novels on our website at this <u>link</u>.







History





KEY SKILLS IN THE HISTORY CLASSROOM

BEING NUMERATE



of change like 'How happy a particular section of society was' or 'How effective technological innovation was'. Label the Y-axis 1-10 and the X-axis with dates.

Multiple groups could be drawn to build comparison.

Familiarise your students with the language of learning. Display posters on CBAs, share the Feature of Quality upon starting a CBA and use the Action Verbs of the Learning Outcomes in lessons.

BEING LITERATE



MANAGING MYSELF



Card Ranking is a thinking tool that gets students to prioritise and make judgments. Then it helps them to analyse and evaluate the criteria that they have used for making their judgments. Opportunities to work in pairs or small groups is also a good way of building skills in consensus decision making.



Graphic organisers can be used for exploring options to manage information. There are dozens of different types available to help students organise their thoughts or information. You can find some ideas here: https://www.jct.ie/jcis/classroom_strategies



BEING CREATIVE



Photos can be used to develop students' capacity for empathy by imagining what it would be like to be in that moment. Creating mysteries is also a great way to introduce students to enquiry-based learning-What happened just before/ just after the photo?

Expanding headlines is a strategy to encourage students to write more complex sentences. Either individually or in groups, students are asked to expand on a given headline using more detailed information, drawing on their prior knowledge and vocabulary associated with this topic. A word bank could be given to assist them in the task.

COMMUNICATING





Before building group work into lessons, actively teach the skills needed for group work such as listening skills, leadership skills (shared and rotated), conflict resolution skills, how to give feedback and how to encourage each other.

Structure group work in such a way that students need each other to complete the task.

Use cooperative learning methodologies where everybody feels included. Teach students to actively listen to each other by displaying a cocreated T-chart explaining what active listening 'looks like' and 'sounds like'.

STAYING WELL



Adapted from NCCA booklets that support a whole-school approach to integrating key skills into learning and teaching: https://ncca.ie/en/junior-cycle/framework-for-junior-cycle

Religious Education



RE

During 2020-2021, the Religious Education team focused on a different key skill each month in the RE monthly newsletter.

This included an exploration of a diverse range of technology tools to support engagement with the Junior Cycle key skills in the RE classroom. For example, the key skill Being Numerate featured an overview of an interactive world religions map to explore religious and non-religious worldviews from around the world. This online map features brief descriptions of each major world religion included in the RE specification (Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism) as well as non-religious worldviews. It generates bar graphs that reflect the percentage of a country's population associated with each grouping, making this an ideal way to bring numeracy skills to life in RE.

However, most of the technology tools discussed can be used to support engagement with the key skills in a wide range of subjects and short courses. These digital tools have been gathered into one document to provide support for the key skills and to enhance teaching, learning and collaboration online and in the physically distanced classroom. More information and an overview of each of these digital tools can be found here.







Gaeilge



Ceist na Teangan agus Príomhscileanna na Sraithe Sóisearaí



"Cuirim mo dhóchas ar snámh i mbáidín teangan faoi mar a leagfá naíonán i gcliabhán"



Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill

Is é ceann de na spriocanna atá ag litríocht (go háirithe litríocht na mionteangacha) ar fud fad an domhain agus thar na cianta ná an teanga féin a chur ar aghaidh. Mar a dúirt duine dár bhfilí móra le rá, Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill, ina dán, 'Ceist na Teangan', cuirimid ár ndóchas faoinár dteanga dhúchais "ar snámh i mbáidín teangan."

Leagann an meafar seo béim ar an nGaeilge mar leanbh, go bhfuil doiléireacht ag baint le todhchaí ár dteanga dhúchais, go bhfuil a marthanas ag brath, go huile is go hiomlán, ar threo na gaoithe, ar shruth na n-aibhneacha, ar chonstaicí éagsula, fánacha agus ar eilimintí anaithnide eile. Le Gaeilge na Sraithe Sóisearaí, áfach, ní ghá dúinn brath ar an dóchas amháin. Táimid ag iarraidh an doiléireacht agus an mhíchinnteacht a laghdú trí nithe níos misniúla, níos cumasaí, níos diongbháilte- is é sin, an chéad ghlúin eile.

Beidh scoláirí ullmhaithe le réimse leathan eolais agus scileanna praiticiúla, pearsanta as seo amach. Cruthóidh na príomhscileanna seo droichead idir teanga atá ag maireachtáil ar dhóchas agus teanga a mbeidh tacaíocht chuimsitheach aici.

Is féidir leis an scoláire a bheith cruthaitheach agus liteartha trí dhánta, amhráin nó scéalta a chumadh, iad a bheith cumarsáideach, foghlaim conas obair le daoine eile agus eolas agus smaointeoireacht a bhainistiú trí chur i láthair ar théacs litríochta nó ar chultúr na teanga a dhearadh agus a dhéanamh, conas mé féin a bhainistiú agus fanacht folláin trí dhul i ngleic le réimse leathan téacsanna atá oiriúnach agus ábhartha dóibh agus conas a bheith uimheartha trí gnáthchaint an ranga. Is iad scoláirí na sraithe sóisearaí agus na glúnta eile atá ag teacht cosantóirí agus caomhnóirí ár dteanga agus ár gcultúr as seo amach.



Modern Foreign Languages



As part of Junior Cycle for Teachers' autumn online learning event, the MFL Team, in collaboration with Arts in Junior Cycle, were delighted to welcome Youth Theatre Ireland.



This online event was titled **Act 1 – Drama in Junior Cycle MFL** and took place on Wednesday, 13th October.



With the Key Skill of Communicating to the fore, the online workshop incorporated the elements of spoken production and interaction. It offered practical strategies that are readily transferable to the MFL classroom and promoted target language as an integral feature of the language classroom from first year.



It was a highly engaging event for teachers to incorporate drama into their language classrooms!

JCIS - Junior Cycle Implementation Support





ESCI® transference (I)

A key part of the Junior Cycle Framework (2015) that promotes the key skills of all learners is that of Classroom-Based Assessments (CBA) and Subject Learning and Assessment Review (SLAR) meetings.

JCT recently hosted a number of online training events for SLAR facilitators and participants.

Key information regarding the SLAR process can be found in circular letter 0017/2020 which may be of interest to teachers as they continue to engage in this process with colleagues. Click here to access this circular.



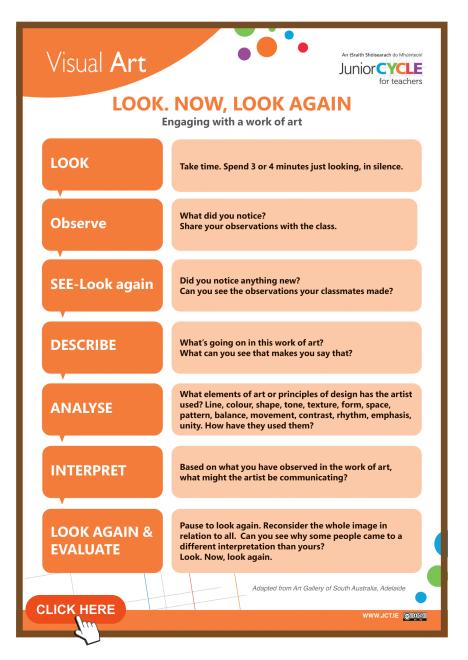
Visual Art



In the Visual Art resources section of the website, you will find a range of supports that will help students to develop the key skills of Junior Cycle. The resources you see featured here will support students in the key skill of managing information and thinking.

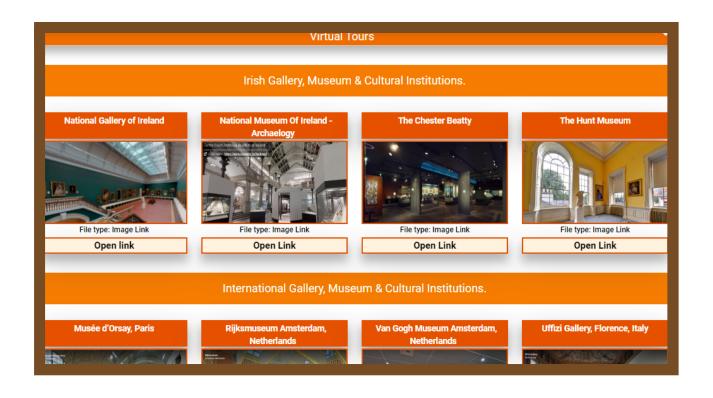
The resource 'Look. Now, Look Again' is just one strategy you might use to aid students as they engage with visual culture examples. It supports students in developing visual literacy as they learn to observe, respond, analyse and interpret imagery and the world around them.

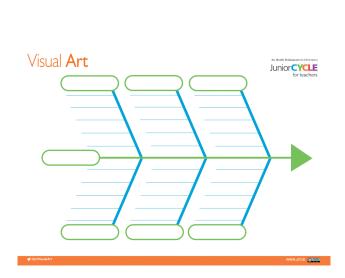




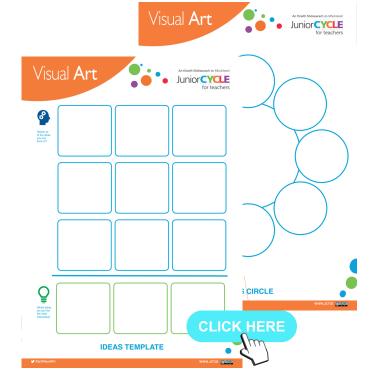


Another area of interest for students might be the suite of Virtual Tours in the resources section. Students can be encouraged to become curious active learners by engaging with these virtual tour links in a self-directed way to gather information and research. A suite of supporting Graphic Organisers can help students to organise and process information enabling them to make links, construct meaning and formulate their ideas. A range of graphic organisers allow students to record, organise or summarise information in different ways.





Graphic Organisers





Junior Cycle Talks



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



Recent episodes include:



Author Kit de Waal

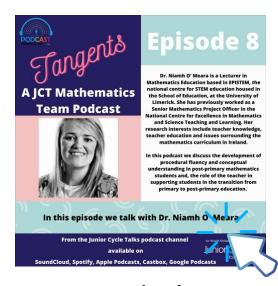


Comedian Maeve Higgins

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



Singer Tolü Makay



Lecturer Dr. Niamh O'Meara

Search Junior Cycle Talks wherever you get your podcasts!









Arts in Junior Cycle

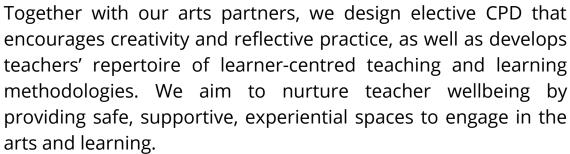


We have had a busy start to the 2021/22 school year on the Arts in Junior Cycle team! Advisors Ann Ryan, Michelle Geraghty and Mary Lowry, led by team leader Margaret O'Shea, are working hard with our partners to bring teachers a range of elective CPD offerings across a range of art forms.

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

Key Skills

All our elective workshops and initiatives aim to embody the Key Skills and Principles of the Junior Cycle Framework. Being Creative, Working with Others and Communicating are key skills that are particularly relevant.





Arts in Junior Cycle Podcasts

We encourage you to check out our series of podcasts, which take the form of conversations with artists from a variety of arts backgrounds, in which they talk about their creative processes and the key skills and competences needed to realise their work.

Suitable for teachers of all subject disciplines, our podcasts are accompanied by reflection questions to support engagement with them.

Since September, we have released podcasts with writer Kit de Waal, architects Nicola and Gráinne from Studio Red Architects and James Bingham from The Irish National Opera.









Arts in Junior Cycle Short Films

We also have an extensive range of short films with accompanying teacher guides. We see the artists in their workspaces and hear them discuss their creative processes as they talk about their career pathways, their inspiration, the materials they use, how they research and develop ideas to finished product.

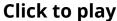




@JuniorCycleArts



www.artsinjuniorcycle.ie





A flavour of our Autumn Series so far....





Exciting new initiatives developed with The Irish National Opera, Fighting Words and songwriter Niamh Regan.

Style & Purpose:
Online writing workshops in
a chosen genre with a
professional writer.



Autumn 2021 Online Learning Event





JCT wishes to thank all teachers who signed up to our series of workshops as part of our Autumn Online Learning Event

We are delighted with the number who have attended so far and each workshop complements the 8 Key Skills of Junior Cycle.

Look out for more exciting events coming soon!













Further Supports





The most recent information regarding CBAs for current 2nd and 3rd year students can be accessed by clicking on the image on the left

The assessment arrangement for Junior Cycle students presenting for examination in 2022 can be found by clicking on image on the right.





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







Join our mailing lists <u>here!</u>



Autumn

Slowly, one by one,

Through the damp-smelling, misty air of autumn

The delicate leaves drop down,

Covering the grass like a carpet
A carpet woven in gold and silver:
And the sun,

Shining through the bare black trees,

Turns to a glory of gold these dying woods.

Let the winds scatter

The broken scarlet web of autumn wide over the world!

Soft with sleep,

Let the delicate air sign through the naked branches,

That still preserve their beauty.

Gone, gone, is their merriment. Only an echo remains
While the curtain of night is descending;
But how lovely that echo! -

Lovelier far than the shouts and the laughter, the
Songs and the childish play:Lovely as autumn.

Forrest Reid

Editor: Liam Bannon

An tSraith Shóisearach do Mhúinteoirí

Junior CYCLE

for teachers

Monaghan Education Centre, Armagh Road, Monaghan. +353 (0) 47 74008



