

Junior Cycle Religious Education Newsletter - September 2020



@jct_RE



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Dear RE Colleagues,

Welcome to the September edition of the Junior Cycle RE newsletter. These newsletters will be published each month to support you throughout this academic year.

Second subjects

Normally in September and October we offer face-to-face 2nd teaching subject workshops in education centres. This year that is not possible. Therefore, we have repurposed all of these workshops, including resources and support materials for the online space. These can be accessed from the home page on www.jct.ie or by clicking [here](#).

Dates for your diary –September 2020

Upcoming events and celebrations from the interfaith calendar

1 st – 4 th Oct	Christian Season of Creation/ Jubilee for the Earth
2 nd -17 th	Pitru Paksha Shradh (Hinduism)
19th	Rosh Hashanah (Judaism)
27th	Harvest Festival (Christian)
28th	Yom Kippur - Jewish Day of Atonement (Judaism)

Key Skill in focus: Staying Well

The key skill of ‘Staying Well’ has never been as important given the current context. Staying Well includes:

- Being healthy and physically active
- Being social
- Being safe



- Being spiritual
- Being confident
- Being positive about learning
- Being responsible, safe and ethical in using digital technology

There is no better starting point for collaborative department planning than to reflect on how you, your colleagues and your students are feeling about the return to school and the unique challenges of this school year. Taking time to try to integrate these skills into your department planning will help you build relationships with your students and hopefully help to create a happy atmosphere for learning despite all the new restrictions.

Teacher Wellbeing

For your own wellbeing the DES document *‘Supporting the Wellbeing of School Communities as Schools Reopen: Guidance for Schools’* includes some useful resources and links.

Remember, it is always important to take time for self-care as you try to take care of others. If you would like daily prompts for self-care check out the ‘Action for happiness’ calendar:

<https://www.actionforhappiness.org/self-care-september>



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Technology tips

In keeping with the key skill 'staying well', that encourages responsible and ethical use of digital technology we want to suggest some sources for finding copyright free material that you can use in RE and can encourage your students to use. As our specification talks about living our values and our responsibilities to others this is a great example to highlight with students when using technology in RE.

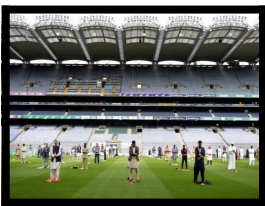
www.pexels.com/
www.picturesforclass.com/
www.pixabay.com/
www.pics4learning.com/

Suggested strategy for learning during social distancing

For those that were with us for [2019-2020 CPD day](#) you might recall we shared the '**See, Think, Wonder**' thinking routine (this is also found in the new screencast recordings for those that didn't get to join us or those that want to recap on how it works). This is an ideal strategy for use in a classroom with social distancing requirements and it works really well for online learning experiences. When we find our copyright free images this is a great way to use them!

For support with using this routine click [here](#).

RE in the News



One story that caught our attention this summer was the Eid celebration in Croke Park. A wonderful conversation starter with students, this could be part of a variety of units of learning with links to learning outcomes 1.1, 1.6, 1.8, 1.10.

Here is a [link](#) to RTE coverage of the event with video clips, interviews and a letter from President Michael D. Higgins

· [Croke Park Eid prayers](#) -
<https://www.rte.ie/news/2020/0731/1156594-eid-croke-park/>

Quote of the month

"There was never a night or a problem that could defeat sunrise or hope."
- Bernard Williams

Spotlight on planning

The following [link](#) to a short new video we created on planning units of learning for Junior Cycle RE – is an ideal introduction to those of you teaching from the specification for the first time or a quick recap for those that want a reminder of the basics.



CBA1

If you are preparing students for CBA1 it is worth noting that dates have not yet been released for second years this year. As soon as the dates or any other updates are announced we will share that information via our mailing list, on our twitter account and in the news section of our website. We will also highlight details of our CBA1 supports in future newsletters.

Mailing list

If you know of any colleagues who have not received this newsletter, please encourage them to join our mailing list [here](#):

Le gach dea-mhéin,

Religious Education Team