

Introduction of new Science Specification

Welcome to our first Newsletter of the 2016-2017 academic year which sees the introduction of the new Science Specification to your classrooms. We have been working closely with our science teaching associates to see how the specification is translating in practice and to determine how the fulltime science team can work to support you before your second CPD day takes place. Please feel free to contact us with queries via info@jct.ie or at our individual email addresses. In the meantime, through this Newsletter, we hope to highlight other supports available to you.

Supporting parents and students

You might like to use this [video](#) to give parents and students some idea of what to expect.

Tacaíocht le h-aghaidh múineadh trí méán na Gaeilge

Tá leagan Gaeilge ár suíomh beo anois. Tá achmainní i nGaeilge le fáil [anseo](#).

Support for teachers who did not access CPD Day1 last year

Download a copy of a learning outcomes poster [here](#) and watch a short video introducing the new specification [here](#).

Information on assessment

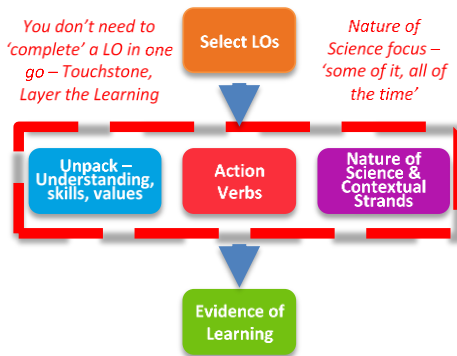
Under [Assessment](#) in the Science section of our website, you will find a number of supports including:

- Information related to ongoing assessment in Junior Cycle Science
- A video introduction to the Classroom-Based Assessments in Science
- A timeline for the new assessments in Junior Cycle Science for the first cohort of students beginning this September

The NCCA Assessment Guidelines for Science are available [here](#).

Guidelines for Collaborative Department Planning

To support you in your department planning we have developed a [video](#) introducing our guiding principles for working with learning outcomes



In summary

1. Together select the learning outcomes in focus for a period of work e.g. a half term. Consideration should be given to contextual strand learning outcomes and the nature of science learning outcomes. You might also consider addressing parts of learning outcomes from different strands in a block of work.
2. Unpack the learning outcomes in focus into the understanding, skills and values as you did in CPD day 1.
3. Consideration of the meaning of the action verbs used brings clarity to understanding the learning outcome.
4. At this point you might also discuss how you could gather evidence of student learning.
5. Each teacher can then use this information to begin their own classroom planning.

As a department, you might like to use the collaborative planning documents which are interactive and now include a complete list of learning outcomes AND their related action verbs ([Contextual Strands](#) and [Nature of Science](#))

Check that your Principal has registered all department members **this year** so that you can be invited to CPD

Planning for Your Classroom

Once you have completed your department planning you need to consider what will happen in your own classroom. Click on the image below to remind yourself of some important points about the Nature of Science.



Planning at this stage needs to be flexible as you get a feel for the new specification. Each of the science team developed a half term plan to illustrate how different teachers within a science department might address the learning outcomes in a different way. You can find these videos in the planning section of our website [here](#).

CPD Support and Time Allocation 2016 - 2017

To support your enactment of the new science specification, this year each science teacher is being allocated 8 hours of professional time. How this can be accessed and used is outlined in this [DES circular](#). Relevant sections are 3.1.2 – 3.2.2

Each teacher will also receive one full day science CPD and we look forward to meeting you there.

Once again opportunities are being provided in conjunction with our partners Science Foundation Ireland and The Science Gallery. To keep up to date with these please ensure you are on our mailing list.

Please click [here](#) to join our mailing list

In the coming weeks we hope to host a webinar to address some of your questions. To find out what a webinar is click [here](#). As promised last year, we wish to respond to your needs so why not let us know some of the ideas you would like us to address in this webinar by completing this [short survey](#).

Share any good ideas using #JCTscience Follow us on twitter @JCForteachers.

Kind Regards,
 The JCT Science Team