Graphics

Junior Cycle for Teachers

Junior Cycle for Teachers exists to **inspire**, **support** and **empower** teachers in the transformation of Junior Cycle education in Ireland.

An tSraith Shóisearach do Mhúinteoirí
JuniorCYCLE for teachers

Updates/Current events

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, the two-hour Computer-Aided Design (CAD) workshops which were to take place in March and April have been postponed due to school closures. These workshops will be rescheduled in due course.

In response to the distance learning situation teachers and students have found themselves in, the JCt4 Graphics team have added a number of documents within the 'CPD Supports' and 'Resources' section on www.jct.ie.

These include Remote Learning Challenges 2020, a recent webinar recording and a number of classroom resources from previous CPD.

To keep up to date with all the happenings in the JCt4 Graphics space. Join our mailing list and Twitter feed @JCt4ed.

CPD 2019/2020 - A year in review

Welcome to the JCt4 Graphics Summer 2020 newsletter. The JCt4 Graphics team have had a very busy year engaging with teachers in both core CPD and elective CPD. Graphics Advisors met 1265 teachers in face-to-face CPD during 2019/2020, with 64 workshops facilitated nationally in Education Centres. These workshops focused on the integrated approach to Junior Cycle Graphics which was highlighted in the workshop by teachers analysing and discussing student work and teacher testimonials on experiences of the subject so far.

All CPD workshop materials from 2019/2020 are available here.

This year the Graphics team have also hosted 3 electives in the form of webinars, engaging with a total of 459 teachers in the process. All our webinar CPD materials can be found below by clicking the title of the webinar.

Webinar 1: Engaging with the Graphics Specification
Webinar 2: Graphics in Action
Webinar 3: Graphics: Digital Learning Activities

Remote learning challenges

The JCt4 team have provided support for teachers during the current COVID-19 situation through the form of 'Weekly Challenges'.

The team have developed 14 unique challenges for students to engage with and have received student responses to these challenges on a weekly basis. We often post a collage of the responses on our Twitter feed. Some of the Graphics examples can be seen across.
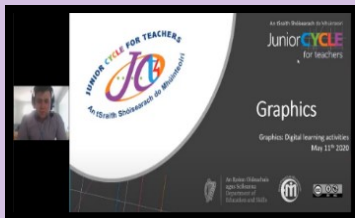
All of the weekly challenges can be accessed here.

Digital learning activities webinar

The Graphics team have recently broadcasted a webinar in response to the current situation that teachers and students find themselves in with distance learning. This webinar, which aired on the 11th of May 2020 at 6.30 p.m., focused on activities which could be used by Graphics students.

The main focus of the webinar was to demonstrate Tinkercad, a cloud-based CAD modelling software, and the classroom feature within it. On the night, a member of the Graphics team completed a live demonstration of the setup of a classroom on the software and some basic modelling features.

Another important element of the webinar was to give teachers a platform to share some examples of what is working well with their students and advice they may have for fellow teachers in relation to remote learning. A collage of some of the comments shared by teachers can be found here.

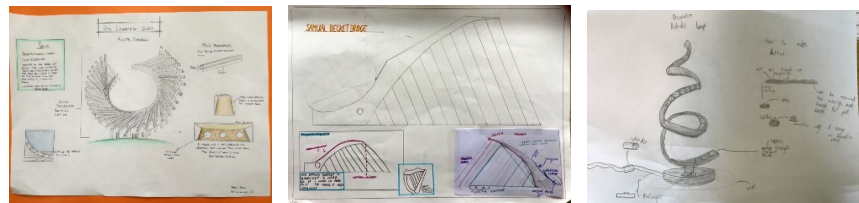A big thank you to all the teachers who attended and engaged during the webinar.

RIAI - Graphics exhibition

The Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland (RIAI) offered an opportunity for first-year Graphics students to have their work exhibited at the RIAI headquarters in Merrion Square. Due to current social distancing advice, the exhibition will now be hosted digitally on the RIAI website and can be seen by clicking here.

Students were asked to look at their favorite space or object, explore the geometry and show how it could be made better, all while communicating it graphically.

All students will receive a certificate of participation for contributing material while engaging in distance learning.
Many thanks to the RIAI, Graphics teachers and first-year Graphics students for collaborating on this initiative. An example of some of the many entries received is shown below.

Looking towards 2020/2021

The Graphics team are currently developing CPD materials for the 2020/2021 academic year. Taking teachers feedback onboard, there are a number of areas that will inform the design of the day. These include developing units of learning that are grounded in learning outcomes that include a focus on how learning will be facilitated and assessed for students of Graphics. We also intend to have hands-on CAD activities during the 2020/2021 workshop. Such activities will require teachers to bring a fully charged laptop on the day.

Finally, we wish you, along with your families and friends, a safe and restful summer break and hope to see you all again in more normal times.

Kind regards,

The JCt4 Graphics Team