JCT Mathematics Newsletter

Welcome

Welcome to the first 2022 issue of the JCT Mathematics Newsletter. Since the last issue, the JCT Mathematics team were delighted to meet over 1,000 teachers across the country in September as they engaged with a rescheduled CPD workshop. In this issue we share some of the highlights of our cluster and elective programme of CPD. In January 2022, we began meeting teachers for the fifth Junior Cycle Mathematics CPD cluster day. This the second cluster day that has been facilitated online and provides teachers with an opportunity to consider their practice in the areas of ongoing assessment, formative feedback, key skills and promoting a positive disposition amongst students about Mathematics.

Webinars

Delving into DESMOS

DESMOS is a ***free digital*** software tool that can be accessed from any web browser. DESMOS also has a graphing feature that allows easy visualisation and manipulation of functions and a library of ready-to-go classroom activities for students to apply their knowledge and build understanding. This software provides opportunities for students to explore concepts more deeply and collaborate with their peers on problem-solving. Dan Meyer, Chief Academic Officer with DESMOS.com, facilitated a JCT mathematics workshop via a virtual webinar event. The webinar highlighted the potential for embedding pedagogy and digital learning technologies. A recording of this webinar can be accessed here.

Desmos for Junior Cycle Mathematics: Using DESMOS to Deepen Student Learning

In October 2021, the JCT Mathematics Team led a further online workshop on Desmos. Teachers interactively engaged in three activities by following along with the webinar. The DESMOS interface was shown from the student perspective and the teacher perspective. Demonstrations of activities and howe they can be tailored to suit individual classes. To explore DESMOS, a recording of the webinar can be accessed here.

Question Posing

Question Posing for CBA 1

Welcome to the webinar:

File type: YouTube

Click image to play

To encourage and support discussion around problem-posing in Junior Cycle Mathematics, the JCT Mathematics team were joined by a panel of teachers in a live webinar where they shared their experiences of, and advice for, supporting students with classroom-based assessment. The webinar begins with a taster of possible strategies for question posing and problem formulation from the interactive CPD found here. Some of the panel discussion includes planning as a department for question posing, supporting students with posing questions and developing and refining questions for investigation with students. You can access the webinar here. For convenience, the panel discussion has been split into bite-sized excerpts located here.
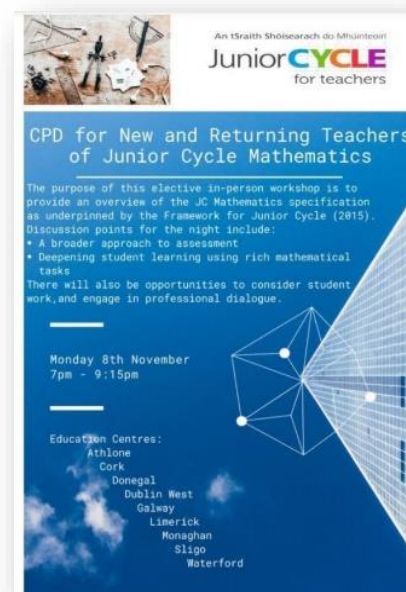
Electives

Live Lesson Elective Event

The JCT Mathematics Team hosted an interactive workshop that aimed to develop teaching and learning strategies in Junior Cycle Mathematics by examining mathematical tasks and lesson design.

The workshop was based around a live lesson experience, which allowed teachers to implement the lesson plan in real-time.

New and returning teachers of Junior Cycle Mathematics

The JCT Mathematics Team was delighted to run an in-person CPD elective across several education centres around the country in November 2021. This CPD provided an overview of the Junior Cycle Mathematics specification as underpinned by the Framework for Junior Cycle (2015), a broader approach to assessment and aligning teaching, learning and assessment. The elective also provided opportunities to consider student work, collaborate and engage in professional dialogue and a Q&A session. Teachers were also provided with resources and supports for use in the Junior Cycle Mathematics classroom.

Second Teaching Subject Supports 2020-2021

All materials for the 2020-2021 CPD are available on the JCT website including slides, booklet, and resources. The materials have been restructured to support self-directed engagement online and can be accessed here.

JCT Mathematics Podcast Series, Tangents, Continues

Tangents is a JCT Mathematics Team podcast series available on the *Junior Cycle Talks* podcast channel.

Episode 7

Is múinteoir Mata agus Eolaíochta é Feargal Máirtín i nGaelcholáiste Cheatharlach. Déanann sé iarracht atmaisféar ranga a chruthú a chothaíonn meon dearfach i leith na matamaitice, ina bhfáiltítear roimh bhotúin agus ina spreagtar cruthaitheacht na ndaltaí. Úsáideann sé teicneolaíocht agus físeáin le tacú le foghlaim na ndaltaí sa rang agus lasmuigh den rang. Is féidir leat teacht ar an leabhrán anseo.

Episode 8

We met with Dr Niamh O' Meara, a Lecturer in Mathematics Education based in EPISTEM, the national centre for STEM education housed in the School of Education at the University of Limerick. In this podcast, we discuss the development of procedural fluency and conceptual understanding in post-primary mathematics students and the teacher's role in supporting students in the transition from primary to post-primary education. You can listen to the podcast here or search for *Junior Cycle Talks*: *Tangents* on SoundCloud, Spotify, Apple Podcasts or anywhere you listen to your podcasts.

Keep in Touch

There are numerous ways to keep in touch with the JCT Mathematics Team:

1. Join our mailing list
2. Follow us on twitter @JctMaths
3. Visit our webpage www.jct.ie/maths

Kind regards,

The JCT Mathematics Team