

Junior Cycle Religious Education Newsletter - November 2020



@jct_RE



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Dear RE Colleagues,

Welcome to the November edition of the Junior Cycle RE newsletter. We hope you had a relaxing mid-term break, after a particularly challenging couple of months back in the classroom.

In this edition we will focus on numeracy in RE while we explore some cross-curricular links between RE and Maths, Geography and Science. We will share the exciting news of the launch of RE-reflections, a new Junior Cycle Talks RE podcast!

Dates for diary

November 2020

Upcoming events and celebrations from the interfaith and awareness calendars

1st / 2nd All Saints Day / All Souls Day
(Día de los Muertos) (Christian)

8th - 15th Science Week

14th Diwali (Hinduism)

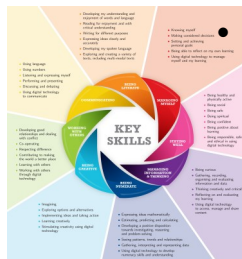
15th - 21st Geography Awareness Week

25th International Day for the
Elimination of Violence against
Women

Key Skill in focus: Being Numerate

This skill asks students to engage in:

- Expressing skills mathematically
- Estimating, predicting and calculating
- Developing a positive disposition towards investigating, reasoning and problem solving
- Seeing patterns, trends and relationships



- Gathering, interpreting and representing data
- Using digital technology to develop numeracy skills and understanding

During Maths week in October a number of RE teachers shared with us the cross-curricular work they did and it highlighted just how many ways we can engage with numeracy in RE.

These included:

- Examining the shapes of religious symbols with 'Maths eyes' to see their angles.
- Interpreting the statistics from the Census, with a particular focus on seeing patterns and trends.
- Creating a timeline of the foundations of the major world religions.

We share further ideas and support for numeracy in RE on the next page.

CBA1

Details of new supports for CBA1 will be available soon. In the meantime, part 3 of our 2019/2020 screencasts is a great starting point for your planning and preparation.

https://www.jct.ie/religious_education/cpd_worksh_ops_2019_2020

Quote of the month

*"Don't count the days,
make the days count."*
-Muhammad Ali

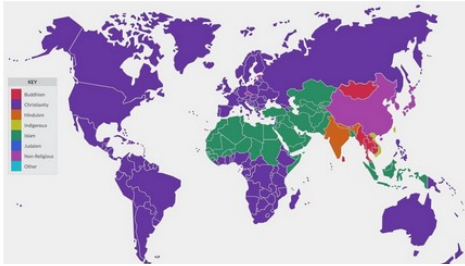




Technology tips

Interactive World Religions Map from PBS

Explore religious beliefs around the world through an interactive map that displays the religions that are the most prevalent in each country. It includes the five world religions on the Junior Cycle course as well as non-religious worldviews.



<https://www.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/sj14-soc-religmap/world-religions-map/>

The map features brief descriptions of each religious grouping and 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. It would also be a great resource to use during Geography Awareness week which happens this month!

Suggested strategy for learning in the socially distant classroom:

Dotmocracy

In this strategy, that can enhance numeracy skills students work together through group vote to make informed decisions, prioritise and reach consensus. Dotmocracy gives every student an equal chance to have their opinion recorded, even in the largest of group.



For information on how to use this strategy in the physically distanced classroom or if engaging learning from home see this link:

https://www.jct.ie/wholeschool/pdf_strategies_for_active_engagement/dotmocracy.pdf

RE in the News



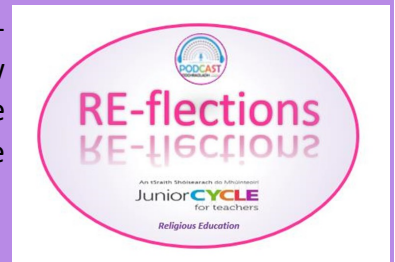
Thinking Anew – Ruthless greed threatens our world

The Season of Creation, which ran from September to October, led to a number of news articles relevant to LO 3.8 like the one linked below. The topic of care for the earth will hopefully continue to make headlines as urgent action is needed. Sharing statistics of climate change is a further opportunity for numeracy in RE. This topic is one with the potential to link to other subjects, including Geography and Science.

<https://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/religion-and-beliefs/thinking-anew-ruthless-greed-threatens-our-world-1.4368778>

RE Team Update: Podcast Launch

The RE team are delighted to announce a new Junior Cycle RE initiative as we venture into the world of podcasts.



RE-flections will be a series of podcast episodes available on the Junior Cycle Talks Podcast Channel. The first episode is available now and is a conversation with Dr. Shane Bergin, a Science Professor in UCD. He reflects on his own educational journey, having a scientific worldview and why he believes RE is a vital subject for young people today. A great episode to share with your science colleagues, just in time for Science Week! Search for Junior Cycle Talks podcasts online or click here: <https://podtail.com/en/podcast/junior-cycle-talks/>

Kind regards,

Religious Education Team