

Junior Cycle Religious Education Newsletter - October 2020



@jct_RE



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Dear RE Colleagues,

Welcome to the October edition of the Junior Cycle RE newsletter. We hope that you have settled into the academic term during this challenging time.

Date for diary: RE webinar

We will soon be opening registration for our upcoming webinar taking place on Monday November 2nd from 6:30-7:15pm as we launch an exciting new resource for RE. Details will be sent via email and available on www.jct.ie

Upcoming events and celebrations from the interfaith calendar

Dates for your diary – October 2020

4 th Oct	St Francis Day - (Christian)
17 th	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
17-24 th	Navaratri - (Hinduism)
29 th	Prophet Muhammad's Birthday (Islam)

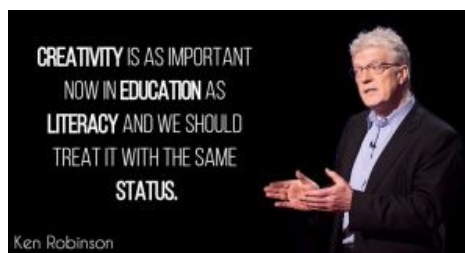
Key Skill in focus: Creativity

The key skill of 'being creative' is vitally important as we adapt our teaching for the physically distanced classroom or given that our students may be engaging with learning from home. Being creative includes:



- Imagining
- Exploring options and alternatives
- Implementing ideas and taking action
- Learning creatively
- Stimulating creativity using digital technology

Creative schools week will commence the first week in November. In order to instil the arts and creativity in the classroom please click [here](#) for some useful resources and links.



Sir Ken Robinson who died in August left a legacy of highlighting the importance of creativity in education .

According to Robinson, “Imagination is the root of creativity. It is the ability to bring to mind things that aren’t present to our senses... Creativity is the process of having original ideas that have value.”

You might like to watch his Ted Talk here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iG9CE55wbtY>

With this focus on creativity in mind we have included some creative ways to engage our students in the technology section overleaf.

Quote of the month

You can't use up creativity, the more you use the more you have."

- Maya Angelou





Technology tips

Fostering the key skill of ‘being creative’ and stimulating creativity using digital technology is one of the elements of the ‘being creative’ key skill. This month we want to highlight *Animoto* as a useful website and app for creative projects. Animoto allows users to produce videos that blend photos, video clips, text and music. It can be a wonderful way for students to present their learning. Teachers can sign up for a free education account and this comes with 50 free licences for your students. See <https://animoto.com/education/classroom> for details.



We have created a screencast tutorial of how to use Animoto. Please click [here](#) to view the video.

If you would like to see a sample of an Animoto video here is one we created of our associate training last year—please click [here](#).

Suggested strategy for learning in the socially distant classroom

The JCT Whole-School Team has repurposed 24 of the existing teaching and learning strategies for students and teachers in the physically distanced classroom and for students engaging with online learning from home. They are available for download in PDF format. This will support all students in the progression of their learning in the unusual circumstances that present this year.



With a focus on creativity this month we recommend trying out the updated Blue Sky Thinking strategy with students:

https://www.jct.ie/wholeschool/strategies_for_active_engagement/Blue%20Sky.pdf

RE in the News



With Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish new year, being celebrated in September there was some interesting articles about the reality of celebrating during Covid restrictions.

In an RTE documentary ‘Together Apart’ Rabbi Zalman Lent revealed how people are finding innovative ways to overcome the challenges of isolation and social distancing. Please click [here](#) or alternatively see link below.

<https://www.rte.ie/player/movie/together-apart/153725992262>

CBA1

The dates for CBA1 have been released:

- Window for completion: **Wednesday 6th Jan – Friday 14th May, 2021**
- Latest date for award of provisional descriptors by the teacher: **Wednesday 19th May, 2021**
- Latest date for completion of Subject Learning and Assessment Review and for award of final descriptors by the teacher: **Wednesday 26th May, 2021**

Please see the linked document for further details: https://ncca.ie/media/4684/ncca_cbas_for_student_cohort_2018-2021.pdf

RE Team Update

We wish our colleague Niall Mulpeter all the very best as he leaves the RE team to take up a new position with the ETBI.

Mailing list

If you know of any colleagues who have not received this newsletter, please encourage them to join our mailing list on www.jct.ie or by clicking [here](#).

Kind regards,

Religious Education Team