

Dear Science Teacher,

Welcome to the start of another academic year. A year like no other! We appreciate that things are challenging, and we will work to support you, as your schools and science departments adjust to find your way under current circumstances. As was proven during lockdown teachers are resilient and committed professionals.

- A report by the ESRI on the response of second level schools to learning during COVID highlights the dedication and resilience of teachers. Principals unanimously described teachers' dedication to students, and their resilience in what were very trying circumstances for themselves and their families. The report is available [here](#).
- Trinity College also surveyed 700 post primary teachers on their varied experiences of lockdown. I am sure some of you were participants in this research. The findings can be accessed [here](#). The research details the great lengths that teachers went to in order to connect with their students and to adapt and learn new ways of working.

### Accessing support

As everyone begins to reconnect with school, you and others in your department, might want to access supports. If you have new department members you might like to share this email so that they can add their name to our mailing list [here](#). We will shortly be in touch to let you know of some upcoming events and new resources. In the meantime, why not access our [website](#) for support with department planning.

- Interactive planning documents are available [here](#)
- Resources from cluster day 2019/20 which support department planning are available [here](#)

## Guidelines and Publications

As you begin department planning, we would recommend that you become familiar with the adjustments that have been made because of the pandemic.

- **Return to School Guidelines for Practical Subjects:** Pg. 6 & pg. 7 of this document give advice for practical work in Science. It can be downloaded [here](#).
- **Revision to Assessment Arrangements** for 3<sup>rd</sup> year students can be accessed [here](#). Click the “Science” tile on pg. 4 to get directly to Junior Cycle Science revisions.
- **Revised Arrangements for Classroom Based Assessments** for third year students can be accessed [here](#)

## Connecting with JCT Science

- You might like to follow us on twitter - @JctScience. We will tweet links to any further updates as soon as we get access to them
- We will also continue to keep in touch by email for those on our mailing list
- Check in with the News section of our website
- Contact us by email with questions or queries

The Science team has changed. Some full-time advisors have returned to their classrooms. They will continue to work with us, and you, as JCT associates. Eileen is currently on leave, following the birth of her daughter during lockdown. We welcome Declan as a new member of the team. We look forward to engaging and supporting you this year and wish you all a safe return to school.

Kind Regards,

The JCT Science Team

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