

# APPLIED TECHNOLOGY

## JCt4 Newsletter

### Junior Cycle for Teachers

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

### 2019/2020 PLE

The Technologies team is currently designing the 2019/20 PLE day for teachers. The cluster days will be run in the same way as last year, through education centres. Please note they will be held in November/ December. School principal's will be informed of the specific dates for their teachers.

### Keep in touch

Three ways to keep up to date with the JCT Applied Technology team are:

Visit our webpage  
[www.jct.ie/technologies](http://www.jct.ie/technologies)

Follow us on Twitter  
[@JCt4ed](https://twitter.com/JCt4ed)

Join our mailing list  
[Mailing list](#)

All materials and resources are available on our webpage.

## Welcome

Welcome to the second issue of the JCt4 Applied Technology Newsletter. As we come to the end of a busy academic year we look

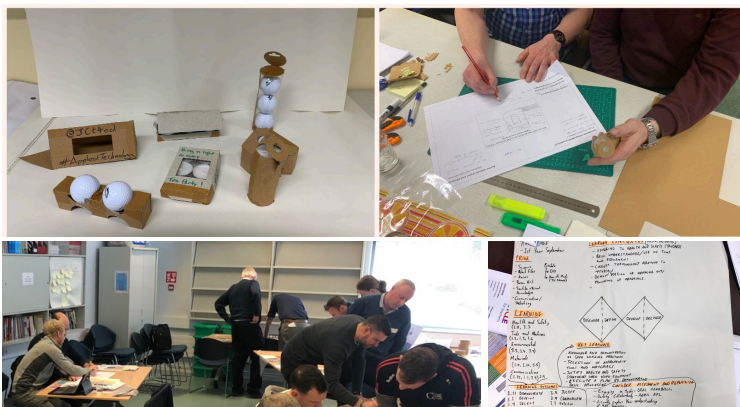
forward to the introduction of the

[Junior Cycle Applied Technology Specification](#) for incoming first year students across the country this Autumn.



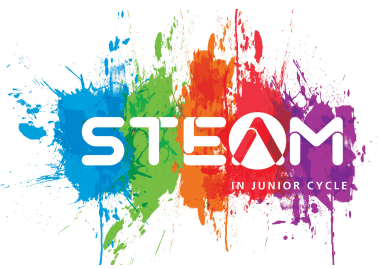
### Professional Learning Experiences (PLEs)

Our first Cluster Day PLEs were experienced by 285 teachers across the country in February of this year. The team were delighted to meet so many enthusiastic teachers who are excited by the freedom and flexibility that the Applied Technology learning outcomes offer. Teachers particularly enjoyed the prototyping exercise and could see the opportunities for student learning in the peer evaluation that took place after the prototypes were completed. All the resources from the day are available [here](#). Included in these resources are the planning tool, digital planning tool and exploring learning outcomes document. We hope teachers find these useful as they engage in the planning process for incoming first year students.



## Webinar

The Applied Technology team delivered a webinar in April with a focus on planning. The webinar is available on our [website](#). We hope you find it useful as you engage with the planning process for incoming first year students. The unit of learning that was developed in the webinar focused on an introduction to the principles of basic control systems. It was another great opportunity for teachers from across the country to ask questions and engage with the Applied Technology specification.



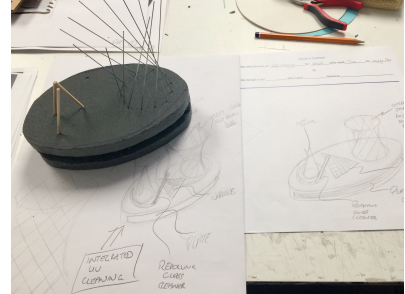
## STE(A)M

The JcT4 Applied Technology team are delighted to have become involved in the JCT STE(A)M initiative. Planning for the elective workshops that will take place in the 2019/20 academic year has begun and we are excited by the range of partners that are involved. The workshops will be very practical and will give Applied Technology teachers great ideas and new perspectives on how to help students engage with learning outcomes. The best way to keep up to date with the STE(A)M initiative is to follow them on [Twitter](#) or join the [mailing list](#).

## Elective

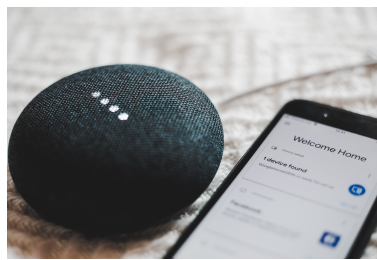
On National Drawing Day (18th May), the JcT4 team in collaboration with the JCT Visual Art team held an elective with the School of Design and Creative Arts (GMIT).

Participants had a fantastic day where they responded to a design brief, examining the potential of using sketches and drawings in the communication and development of design solutions.



## In the news

Smart-toys and smart-appliances are becoming more popular every year. In a recent Irish Times article, available [here](#), it is stated that the smart-home market is expected to exceed €135 billion by 2024. This could be a great way for students to



engage with learning

outcomes 1.5, 3.7, 3.8 & 3.9.

Learning outcomes 3.7 states that 'students should be able to recognise their responsibility for ensuring security and privacy of personal data.'

Students could investigate and present their findings about smart-toys and perhaps develop a safety checklist or maybe engage in a debate around a decision to avoid them altogether. This learning outcome highlights the importance of students recognising the part that they play rather than relying on others for security and privacy of personal data. An investigation like this would be a great way to engage with one of the aims of the Applied Technology specification which states that 'the study of Applied Technology at junior cycle aims to promote the enjoyment of the study of the subject while developing a curiosity about the technological world.'



### Note:

The Applied Technology 2018/19 workshop will run again in September for those who missed it earlier this year. Please contact [info@jct.ie](mailto:info@jct.ie) for details.