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.

2020/2021 CPD

The Applied Technology team are currently designing the 2020/2021 CPD workshop that will be facilitated in the next school year. The team have extracted key themes from the feedback provided by teachers after this years CPD workshops. Some of the themes that will feature heavily in this new workshop are Classroom-Based Assessments, reflection and integrating theory and practical work in the Applied Technology classroom. The Applied Technology team look forward to supporting you further as you implement the specification in your classroom.

Keep in touch

Three ways to keep up to date with the JCt4 Applied Technology team are:

Visit our webpage:

www.jct.ie/technologies

Follow us on Twitter

@JCt4ed

Join our mailing list

Mailing list

All materials and resources from previous CPD wprkshops are available on www.jct.ie in the Technologies section.

Welcome

Welcome to the fifth issue of the JCt4 Applied Technology Newsletter. As we approach the end of the school year, we all find ourselves in a new normal, we hope this newsletter finds you and your family safe and well. We are currently engaging in the design of our CPD day 2020-2021 and look forward to hopefully meeting you.
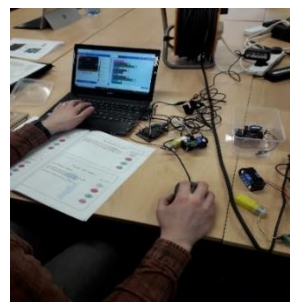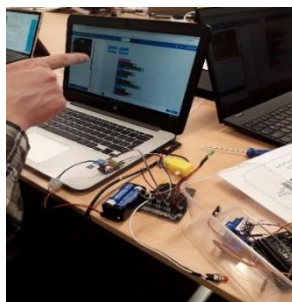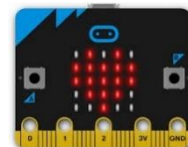
Unfortunately, due to the current pandemic, our electives with GMIT and Dolmen are postponed until the new academic year but stay tuned to the mailing list and our Twitter page for updates on the dates for these workshops. A reminder that the Applied Technology specification and the Applied Technology Guidelines for Classroom-Based Assessments can be found here: Junior Cycle Applied Technology Specification and click here for the NCCA: Assessment Guidelines for Classroom Based Assessments

Elective CPD in Problem Solving through Coding, Applied Control and Mechatronics

Elective CPD was delivered in multiple Education Centres across the country during the weeks of the 24th of February and the 2nd of March. This was a follow-on workshop from that of our colleagues on the Engineering team. This workshop, Problem Solving through Coding, Applied Control and Mechatronics was designed to support teachers who have a basic understanding in problem solving using micro:bit. Teachers worked through coding challenges using a range of inputs and outputs such as switches, sensors, motors and Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs). Teachers also explored the use of some expansion boards that could be used in project work.

If you didn't attend the workshop but would like to see the material covered, you will find it here.

Webinar

The Applied Technology team hosted a webinar entitled *Exploring a design brief/problem – Where do I start?* This took place on the 1st of April 2020. The webinar focused on the discovery stage of researching a design brief or problem. We explored a range of strategies to support students so that they might better understand a design brief/ problem and discover the possibilities within.

A recording of the webinar is available on our website together with last year's webinar around planning using learning outcomes.

Follow us on twitter or join the mailing list to keep up to date with webinar details.

Podcast

The JCt4 team will be creating exciting and interesting podcasts for teachers across all four Technology subjects, including Applied Technology. Keep in touch and join our mailing list so that you can listen to these podcasts as soon as they are available. In our first podcast we will be talking to Aoife O'Dwyer. Aoife is a designer, illustrator, artist and curator. By day she is a Senior Visual Designer with Each&Other agency focusing on creative digital User Experience Design (UX) & User Interface Design (UI) projects. Aoife is part of *Why Design*, an initiative working to address the gender imbalance in the design industry across Ireland, by showcasing influential female Irish designers.

BAI and Building Ireland

As part of an on-going partnership with the Broadcast Authority of Ireland and JCT we are excited to be involved in a classroom resource which will be launched in the new academic year. It focuses on the Building Ireland Series that has aired on RTE for 3 seasons. It aims to make a link between old industrial Ireland and the Applied Technology and Engineering specifications. Keep an eye on Twitter and the mailing list for updates on its availability to use in your Applied Technology classes.

In the news

Elon Musk's SpaceX company is set to make history this week by launching the first astronauts into space from US soil since the last shuttle flight in 2011. On Wednesday 27th May, a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket will take off at Kennedy space centre in Florida– with the Crew Dragon space capsule on top of it. It will be a demonstration of the new "taxi" service Nasa has agreed to buy from Musk's firm.

The billionaire is seeking to realise his dream to commercialise space travel. It will also mark the first attempt by a private company to send astronauts into orbit. Only governments—Russia, the U.S., and China—have done that.

The first astronauts to be launched by SpaceX are breaking new ground for style with hip spacesuits, gull-wing Tecla's and a sleek rocketship—all of it white with black trim.

By using SpaceX's mission as a resource or stimulus, students could engage with possible learning within learning outcomes: 1.5, 1.6, 2.5, 2.8, 3.3, 3.6, 3.8. For more info click here.

Finally, the JCt4 Applied Technology team are looking forward to seeing you next year at CPD workshops in Education Centres across the country. In the meantime, we hope that you have a restful break over the summer holidays!

Kind Regards,

The JCt4 Applied Technology team