

# JCSP

Newsletter

JUNIOR CERTIFICATE SCHOOL PROGRAMME



Issue 4 April 2007

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# Welcome New Team Members

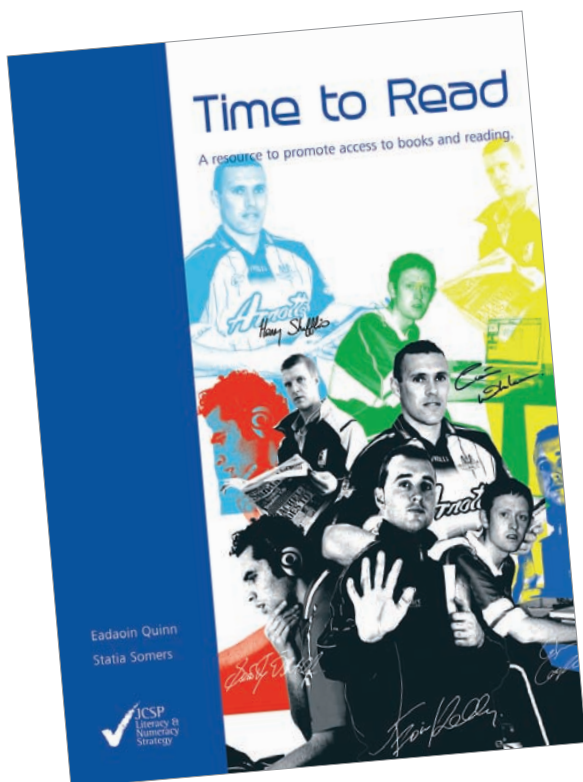
**Welcome**, to our new team members in the JCSP Support Service. **Statia Somers**, JCSP co-ordinator, Liberties College, Dublin and **Mick O'Riordan** former JCSP co-ordinator in Tallaght Community School and more recently visiting teacher for Travellers in Co Clare. Also **Mary Clare Higgins** – JCSP co-ordinator in St Paul's Community College Waterford who is replacing Dorothy Butterly while she is on maternity leave. Congratulations to Dorothy, Peter

and family on the birth of their wonderful baby son, Zach. Jean Henefer has joined us as Research and Development Officer. In the Demonstration Library Project **Kathleen Moran** has taken over from Margaret Bentley as Senior Project Librarian. Lisa Carter and Tony Dunne have joined the team as office managers for the JCSP National Office.

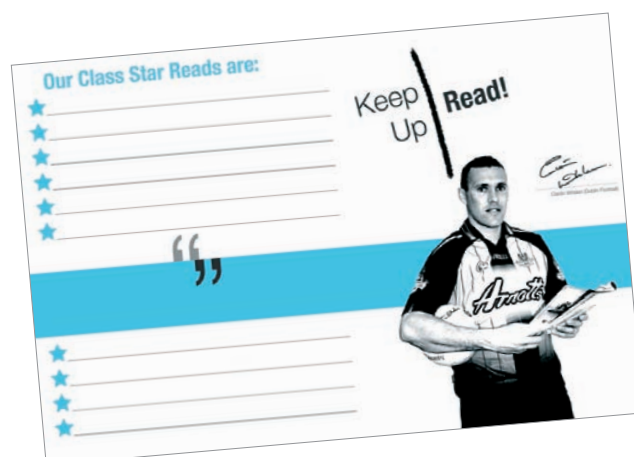
**Welcome aboard to all!**

## Co-ordinators' Meeting, Croke Park, Dublin, April 30<sup>th</sup>

Our co-ordinators' meeting of April 30<sup>th</sup> is to incorporate the launch of **Stars Read**. Stars Read is a campaign to promote reading amongst our JCSP students. A collection of materials has been designed using high profile GAA sports stars as positive role models for reading. An Taoiseach **Bertie Ahern** will officially launch the Stars Read Campaign.



Part of the Star Reads campaign; a resource book for teachers outlining how students can be encouraged to read. A list of recommended reading material and interventions is included.



# Launch of Stars Read Reading Campaign

## Sports Stars Read is part of the wider Stars Read Project

*Sport Stars Read, A Collaborative Project between the Junior Certificate School Programme, Gaelic Athletic Association and the Limerick School of Art and Design College/LIT.*

Many JCSP students regularly attend GAA games and list inter-county players as their "sporting heroes". This ever-increasing popularity, and the high-profile of gaelic games among students led the JCSP support service to consider how these stars could be part of a campaign to recognise and celebrate positive role models for reading.

Some sporting heroes were approached and invited to participate in the project to produce a set of posters and other resources using the players' images to emphasise and highlight the importance of engaging with reading to support successful learning in schools.

The aim of the project is to:

- \* increase awareness of the benefits of reading for pleasure and recreation
- \* recognise and celebrate the work of sporting stars as reading role models
- \* change negative perceptions and overturn the myths associated with reading
- \* elevate the status of reading for pleasure
- \* support schools that value reading
- \* disseminate good practice for promoting reading for pleasure

Many thanks to the Gaelic Athletic Association, its President Sean Kelly and all the players who participated namely Seán Óg O'hAlpín (Cork), Eoin Kelly (Tipperary), Henry Shefflin (Kilkenny), Colm Cooper (Kerry) and Ciarán Whelan (Dublin).

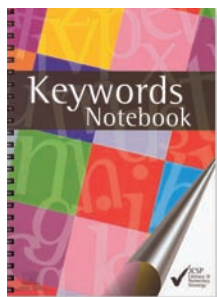
Also thanks to the Limerick School of Art and Design/LIT's Graphic Design Department, course coordinator Adrian Byrne and final year students who undertook the project, as part of their client project assignment. The students worked in collaboration with Fiona Richardson and Jerry Mc Carthy of the JCSP support service.



# New Materials

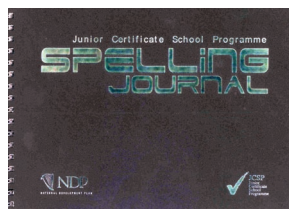
## Irish Vocabulary Cards

These new cards are intended to provide students with an easy and enjoyable way to learn key vocabulary. The cards are divided into five categories, Siopaí, An Scoil, Timpeall na h-Aite, Sport, and Cad tá ar siúl. Each has the printed word in Irish and English and a visual image of the word. They can be used in many ways to make teaching, learning and revising vocabulary enjoyable.



## Keyword notebook

This attractive keyword notebook will make organising and learning keywords easier.



## Spelling journal

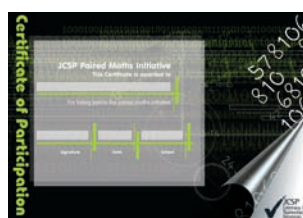
The spelling journal can be used for the spelling challenge initiative and for ongoing spelling work. See the article in this newsletter on the Spelling Challenge.

## New Student Statement Awards



## Letter writing book

The popular letter writing book has been updated.



## New Paired Maths Certificates

# New JCSP Postcards

We had a terrific response to our latest postcard competition. The new cards were produced in answer to requests from subject teachers for more subject specific postcards. The new designs are excellent. Congratulations and thanks to everyone who took part.

JCSP postcards have long been a valuable resource for coordinators and teachers. This was recognised in the report: The Junior Certificate School Programme; Building on Success (The Department of Education and Science,

2005) which stated "JCSP postcards can have a beneficial effect on JCSP students in building their self-esteem and helping to predispose them positively towards school."

The postcards will be distributed at the next co-ordinators meeting and are also available from the JCSP office.



Congratulations and thanks to all who entered. The winners are:

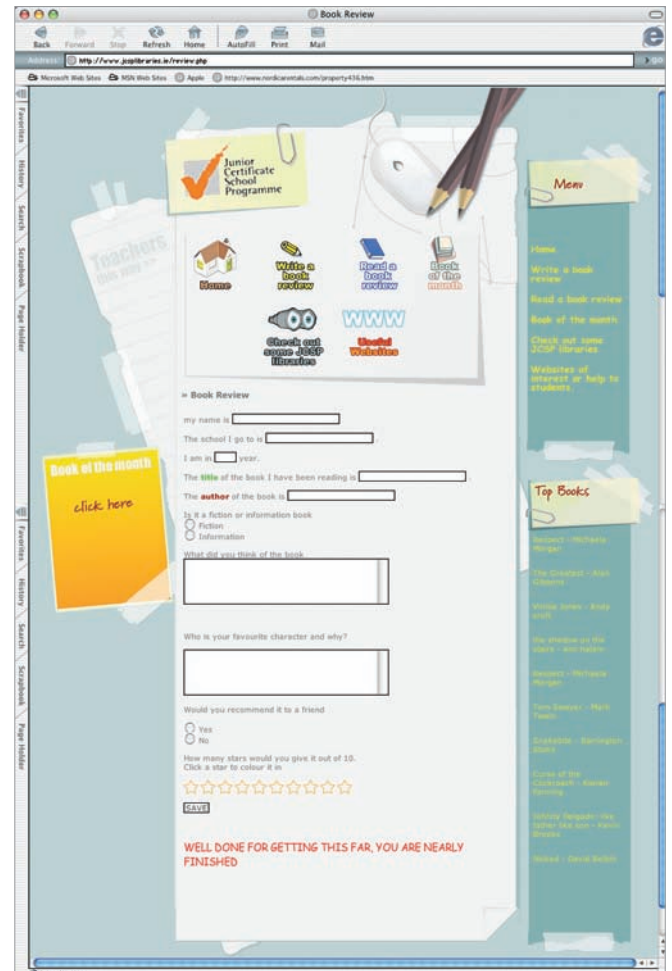
**Dillon Crinnion**  
**Aisling Feerick**  
**Stephen Nolan**  
**Patrick O'Brien**  
**Aaron Maher**  
**Brigita Girkute**  
**Seosamh O'Mathuna**  
**Bernie McDonagh**  
**Dean Sweeney**  
**Ryan Byrne**  
**Daniel Breen**  
**Naoimi Cullen**  
**Davydas Butkevicius**  
**Ellavita Flynn**

St Kevin's YEP, Cork  
 Colaiste an Chraoibhin, Fermoy  
 St Paul's School, Finglas  
 St Kevin's YEP, Cork  
 St Kevin's YEP, Cork  
 St Patrick's CC, Naas  
 St Paul's CC, Waterford  
 Galway CC, Galway  
 Galway CC, Galway  
 Bush Post Primary, Louth  
 Galway CC, Galway  
 Wexford VS, Wexford  
 CBS Synge Street, Dublin  
 Mercy SS, Goldenbridge

**Selina Cantillon**  
**Gerard Cleary**  
**Noelle Ryan**  
**Eugene O'Callaghan**  
**Rebeckah Butler**  
**Patrick Good**  
**Nathan Egan**  
**Eileen McDonagh**  
**Hassan Al-Amidi**  
**Brigita Girkute**  
**Anna Senbruna**  
**Denis Aherne**  
**Eddie Harty**  
**Edward Kavanagh**

St. Nesson's CC, Limerick  
 Galway CC, Galway  
 St. Nesson's CC, Limerick  
 St Nesson's CC, Limerick  
 Colaiste Ard Alainn, Cork  
 Maria Immaculata CC, Cork  
 Ennis CC, Clare  
 Ennis CC, Clare  
 Arklow CC, Wicklow  
 St Patrick's CC, Naas  
 St Patrick's CC, Naas  
 Listowel CC, Kerry  
 Colaiste Cathail Naofa, Dungarvan  
 Arklow CC, Wicklow

# www.jcspliteracy.ie



Visit our new website [www.jcspliteracy.ie](http://www.jcspliteracy.ie). Here you will find information, materials, resources and guidelines to help you in your role within the JCSP.

There is a section which was designed especially for JCSP students. Here students can write book reviews to be published on-line and read reviews by other students. There is a list of top reads and of useful websites.

# JCSP Initiatives

Since 1997 schools participating in the Junior Certificate School Programme have enhanced their students' experience of the Junior Cycle through the use of initiatives. The initiatives programme provides schools with support to run and measure the effectiveness of innovative teaching strategies. The evolution of JCSP initiatives during the past ten years and the documented impact of these on students and teachers alike, reflect the range of elements considered to be integral to developing a culture of life-long learning. The JCSP initiatives offer teachers the opportunity to adapt or devise teaching strategies that entail active learning and that focus on whole child development. The procedure built into the programme whereby teachers review the process of conducting initiatives and disseminate their findings through evaluation reports and inservice seminars has created a JCSP knowledge network that encompasses, supports and provides for students, teachers, and schools, as well as for the wider community.

In recent years the concept of "adolescent literacy" has been identified and investigated as a key to ensuring positive educational outcomes and addressing social exclusion. Adolescent literacy is seen as crucial because "To participate fully in society and the workplace in 2020, citizens will need powerful literacy abilities that until now have been achieved by only a small percentage of the population...Being literate in contemporary society means being active, critical, and creative users not only of print and spoken language but also of the visual language" (Vacca, 1998, p.5). Research has shown that traditionally the focus of pedagogical concern has been on early childhood and adult literacy with active reading education ending at the primary school level (Bean and Readence, 2002; Damico, 2005; Grosio de Leon; 2002, Moje, 2002). Since 1998 the JCSP, as an integral component of its whole school approach to literacy, has supported the creation, evolution, and expansion of initiatives that directly address the literacy needs of students. The impact of established JCSP literacy initiatives such as the Reading Challenge, Readalong, and Who Wants to be a Word Millionaire, is evident not only in students' improved reading test results, but also by the number of schools that continue to use and develop these interventions from year to year. The scope for a creative approach to general literacy is illustrated by the array of new JCSP initiatives that schools have been encouraged to try this year including Drop Everything and Read and Digital Storytelling.

In JCSP the development of literacy skills is coupled with empowering children to become numerate. The importance of addressing numeracy is highlighted

not only by the extensive range of everyday life activities that require calculation skills but also by the evidence of an increasing rate of developmental dyscalculia in schools throughout Europe (Shalev, Auerbach, Manor, and Gross-Tsur, 2000). JCSP numeracy interventions offer a variety of strategies for developing students' numeracy based on the position that arithmetical and numerical knowledge can only be achieved through the balanced integration of procedural and conceptual knowledge (Baroody, 2003; Resnick, 1982; Van Lehn, 1990). Research suggests that an informal approach to numerical concepts and procedures results in more effective learning (Copley, 1999; Nunes, 1992). Mathematical games and active instructional interventions, components of the JCSP numeracy initiatives, have been shown to have a range of benefits including increasing children's motivation, supporting positive attitudes towards mathematics, allowing student's to try new strategies and stimulating logical reasoning (Blum and Yocum, 1996; de la Cruz, Cage and Lian, 2000; Quinn, Koca, and Weening, 1992).

While the critical emphasis on literacy and numeracy is demonstrated in the development of specific initiatives, the JCSP's whole school approach philosophy is evidenced in the wealth of cross-curricular and subject specific initiatives that are taking place in schools throughout the country. Initiatives as varied as Christmas Celebration, Trips to an Art Gallery, Physical Education Initiatives, and Samba Music are being developed and personalised by teachers to impact not only on student's academic outcomes but on their holistic, long-term development. The opportunity provided by these initiatives for students to engage directly in an active learning experience contributes to both their self-esteem and self-efficacy. The long-term benefits of developing these areas are clear in that "children's beliefs in their efficacy to regulate their own learning activities and to master difficult subject matters affect their academic motivation, interest, and scholastic achievement" (Bandura, Barbaranelli, Caprara, and Pastorelli, 1996, p. 1206). Research in child development has shown that the strength of a child's efficacy beliefs will determine the extent of their occupational aspirations, the degree of effort they will invest in developing an educational basis to pursue a range of careers as well as the effort and success of their academic work (Betz and Hackett, 1986; Lent, Brown, and Hackett, 1994). The JCSP students, who, traditionally, would have had limited chances in school to gain beliefs in their own abilities, are, by taking part in initiatives, able to explore their individual potential, set and achieve personal goals, and, in so doing, perhaps gain an enhanced vision of their own membership in an inclusive knowledge society.

# JCSP Initiatives 2006 – 2007

This year we were delighted to be able to offer schools the widest range of initiatives yet. The more established initiatives such as Readalong and Paired Reading continue to grow in strength while new and innovative initiatives are continually being developed. A full listing is provided to JCSP Coordinators at the start of the school year. The following initiatives were offered this year.

## Subject Specific Initiatives

### Gaeilge

**Irish Morning:** schools host an Irish morning.

**Simulation:** simulating real life eg village street etc gives opportunity for practicing Irish.

**Gaeltacht:** JCSP students turn their school/class into a Gaeltacht or visit a Gaeltacht region.

**Software:** software purchased for use with JCSP students in the Irish department.

**Ceili:** Host a ceili with a snack shop 'as Gaeilge'.

**Storytelling:** Bilingual Storytelling with an outside storyteller / seanacháí.

**Bodhrán Initiative:** combining music and Irish Cultural Studies.

**Disposable Camera Initiative Gaeilge:** student photos to generate interest in creative writing and project work in Irish.

**Twining with another school:** includes a joint collaboration on a cross curricular project.

**Physical Education Initiative:** students complete statement 6 for Physical Education by participating in one of the following activities: hill walking, canoeing, rock climbing, orienteering, sailing or windsurfing.

**Science Initiative:** developing creative approaches to the teaching of Science to JCSP students.

**Modern Languages Initiative:** purchase of relevant software/ magazine or website subscriptions/materials.

**Modern Languages Disposable Camera Initiative:** schools can use the student photos to generate interest in creative writing and project work in a Modern Language.

**Field Trip Initiative:** students to work on a field trip statement in Geography, History, Science or ESS.



**Study Skills and Guidance Initiative:** developing study skills and transfer programmes.

**Home Economics – Sugarcraft:** introducing Sugarcraft techniques to JCSP students.

**Subject Topic Boxes:** topic books and resources related to individual subject areas are gathered.

### English

**English – Pen pal:** can be used with English Statement No.8 and the Letter Writing workbook.

**English JCSP Readathon:** a day's celebration / promotion of reading for pleasure.

**English Disposable Camera Initiative:** schools can use the student photos to generate interest in creative writing and project work in English.

**Project Box:** the JCSP Project box is a very useful and practical initiative. Schools put together a box of materials – markers/pritt stick / pencils / paper clips/ staplers etc to support the students in their various projects.



## Developing the Arts Initiatives



Students from Colaiste Cathail Naofa, Dungarvan display their artwork

**Samba Music in a Cross Curricular Initiative:** students learn to perform Samba Music and participate in a cross-curricular project related to Brazil and/or carnival.

**Trip to an Art Gallery:** aims to enrich the students' artistic and aesthetic education in a stimulating and inspiring environment where they are allowed to interact with and respond to works of art.

**Drama or Dance Initiative:** Schools look to local or regional drama and dance groups who offer workshops to schools in areas such as performance, improvisation, mime, clowning, dance and movement, storytelling etc.

## Co-ordination Initiatives



**Team Building Initiative:** developing profiling meetings and the cross-curricular dimensions of the JCSP.

**JCSP Student Folder Photographs:** co-ordinators purchase a photo printer and cartridges for JCSP student

and teacher use. This adds an exciting dimension to student folder work and displays of students' work.

**Christmas Celebration:** this enables JCSP students; their parents and teachers to join in a celebration.

## Literacy Initiatives



JCSP student meeting author Jacqueline Wilson

### Reading Interventions

**“Who Wants to Be a Word Millionaire?”:** a short-term reading intervention, which challenges a class group of JCSP students to engage in recreational reading, at home with the support of their parents, and to collectively read a total of one million words. Support materials are provided to schools.

**“Who Wants to Be a Word Millionaire?”: Top Up Initiative** enables schools to acquire additional reading materials to repeat the initiative.

**Reading Challenge Initiative:** a short-term reading intervention, developed by a JCSP school Co-ordinator. Students are challenged to read a book a week for six weeks. Parental involvement is an element of this intervention. Reading Challenge motivates students to read and review books; they also track their reading and are awarded for successfully meeting the reading

challenge. Support materials are provided.

**Also, Reading Challenge Top up.**

**Readalong Initiative:** a short-term reading intervention where students read while listening to the book being read on tape or CD. Students can also review the books and track their reading. Support materials are provided

**Also, Readalong Top Up.**

**Paired Reading Initiative:** a short-term reading intervention. Student reading is supported by a tutor. Paired Reading runs 3 to 4 times a week for six weeks. A Paired Reading initiative can work where JCSP students act as tutors to a primary school class, or senior cycle students are reading tutors for a JCSP class or parents work with students as tutors. Support materials are provided.

**Also, Paired Reading Top Up.**



### Reading Programme in the English Classrooms

**Initiative:** for this initiative schools are asked to consider the most appropriate reading laboratory e.g. SRA and to use it outside of the learning support context with a first year JCSP class group. Schools run a six week programme using a reading laboratory resource, aimed at accelerating reading and providing students with a regular opportunity to read at their own level and track their progress.

**Keyword Initiative:** Students are challenged to learn keywords and key spellings across subject areas. Support materials are provided.

**Spelling Challenge:** subject teachers interested offer students a challenge in order to motivate the learning process. Spelling journals are available for the challenge.

**Author in Residence Initiative:** This programme would particularly focus on creative writing skills development where an author would work for a period of time with a group of students. Schools could link with Poetry Ireland Writers in Schools Residencies Scheme.

**Curiosity Packs in Reading /Numeracy and Story Sacks Initiative:** a pack of associated items to compliment reading material are developed by or provided to the students to help the material come to life and develop oral language skills linked to the text.

**Storytelling:** Storytelling with an outside storyteller / seanacháí who will introduce the art of storytelling.

**Drop Everything and Read (DEAR):** promoting reading across the whole school or year group. At a set time everyday for a week everyone reads together.

**Primary Picture Books:** JCSP students link with a primary school class and choose an appropriate picture book to read to the students.

**Reading Corners:** this initiative can be used to create a classroom reading corner. Bean bags and walkmans could be a feature of the classroom reading corner.

### Digital storytelling and Oral Language Development:

Everyone has a story to tell! Digital storytelling revolves around the idea of combining telling stories with any of a variety of available multimedia tools. Digital stories are short films made by students using computers and photographs, drawings, sound etc. The short film/video can be created by an individual or group of students.

**Book Reviews:** students given book tokens and supported in buying books to be reviewed.

**General Literacy Initiatives:** this will allow schools to come up with their own imaginative response to the literacy difficulties that they are encountering among their students.



*Paired reading*

## Numeracy Initiatives

**Paired Maths Initiative:** the “Paired Maths” Initiative provides opportunities for schools to develop a framework for linking Fifth Year/TY students with JCSP students to support the development and enhancement of mathematical and numerical competencies among JCSP students.

**Maths Games Initiative:** this initiative provides opportunities for teachers to source and acquire maths games and/or maths activity packs.

**“Make Your Own Opoly” Initiative:** using and adapting the “Make Your Own Opoly” starter pack (which is based on the “Monopoly” boardgame), teachers can construct and develop their own boardgames to generate interest in maths.

**Cross Aged Paired Maths Initiative:** the establishment and implementation of a cross-aged paired maths programme.

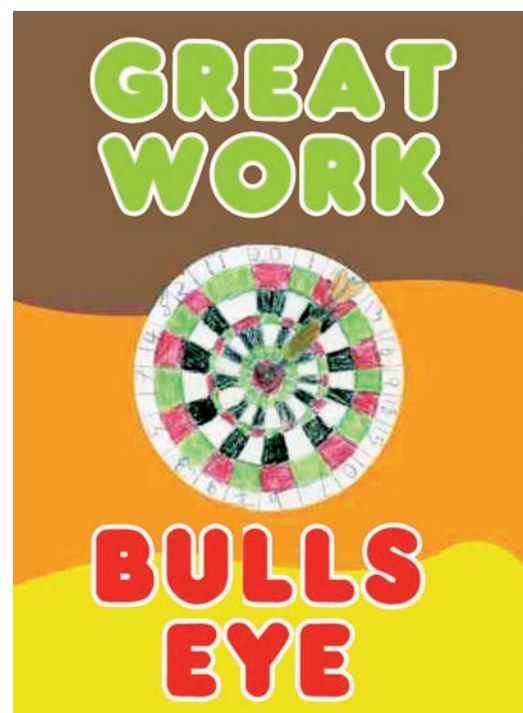
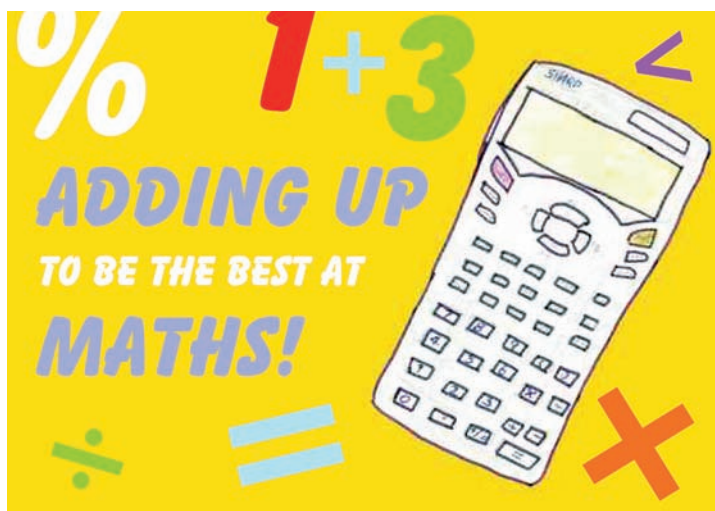
**General Numeracy Initiative:** enables schools to acquire and use age-appropriate experiential resources and games in mathematics and numeracy.

**Flashmaster Maths Initiative:** This initiative introduces a new piece of Maths equipment that has been used successfully in the States for a number of years. The



*Students at Colaiste Eoin, Finglas*

Flashmaster is a handheld device that looks like a calculator but does much more. It allows students to practise their maths facts Multiplication Tables, Division Tables, Addition Tables, and Subtraction Tables in a fun way. Students can set goals for speed and accuracy at different levels in any of the 4 table areas. Teachers can monitor and customise the Flashmaster to practise particular skills or revisit special problem areas. The Flashmaster can be set to ‘remember’ the areas that cause difficulty.



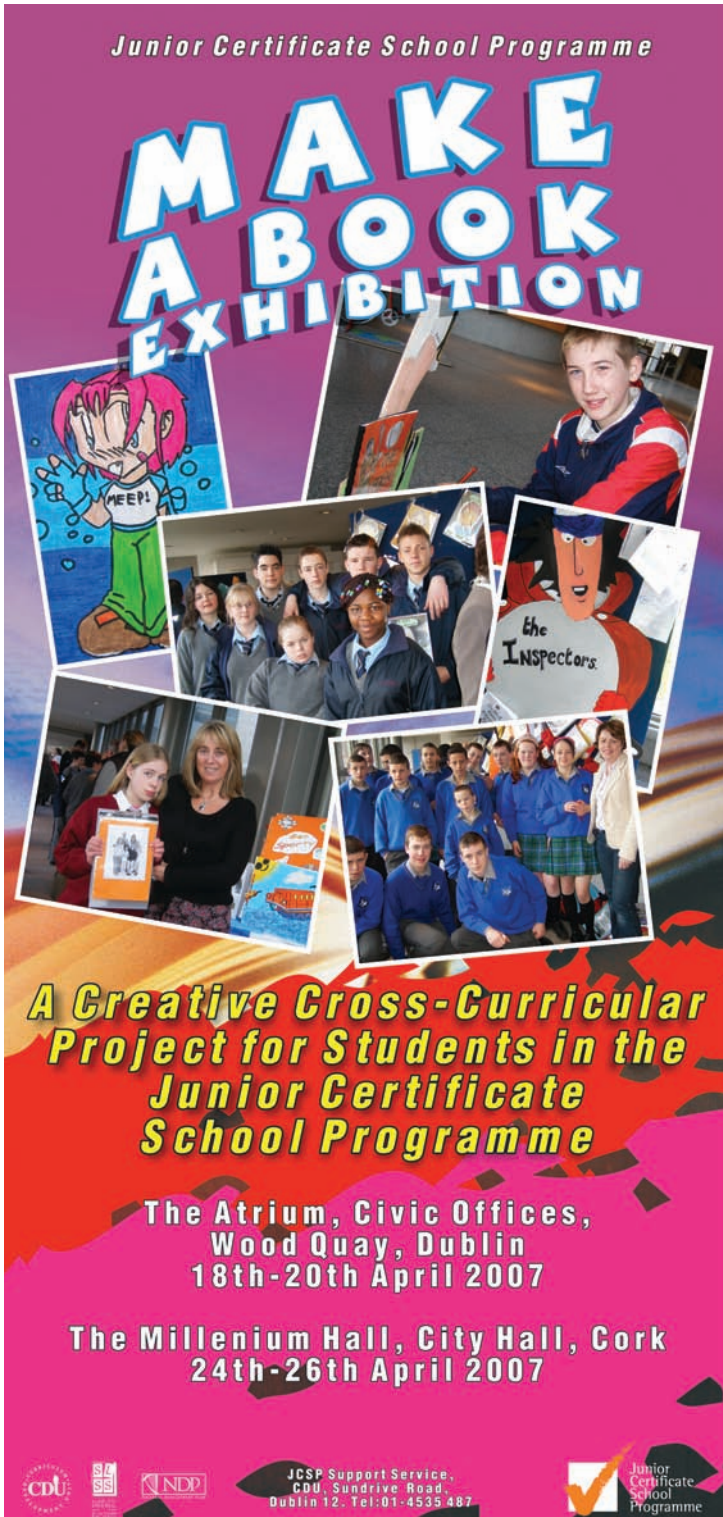
# Make a Book 2007

This year we held our 9<sup>th</sup> annual Make a Book exhibitions. The exhibitions, in Dublin and Cork, were, as always, very special occasions.

The books and displays were very impressive. Congratulations to all the students and teachers involved.

Highlights of this years' Make a Book will be shown at the Coordinators meeting and launch of Stars Read in Croke Park on April 30<sup>th</sup>.

- \* *"It was great coming up to Dublin to see our project" – JCSP student*
- \* *"The student's work is really impressive, so creative." – JCSP teacher*
- \* *"We all feel so proud to see our first years work displayed in Dublin's civic offices." – JCSP Co-ordinator*







*Junior Certificate School Programme*

# MAKE A BOOK EXHIBITION

**A Creative Cross-Curricular Project for Students in the Junior Certificate School Programme**

The Atrium, Civic Offices,  
Wood Quay, Dublin  
18th-20th April 2007

The Millenium Hall, City Hall, Cork  
24th-26th April 2007

   JCSP Support Service,  
CDU, Sundrive Road,  
Dublin 12. Tel: 01-4535 487 

# Focus on Irish Initiatives



Students from St Josephs College, Navan being entertained by their new friends

## Visiting the Gaeltacht

### St Joseph's Mercy Convent, Navan

JCSP students from St Joseph's Mercy Convent in Navan visited the Rathcairn Gaeltacht in Co Meath. Catherine Webster, JCSP co-ordinator, did a lot of preparatory work with the second year JCSP class involved. Students wrote postcards as Gaeilge to penpals in Rathcairn. They also learned Irish vocabulary, focussing on words about school.

When students met with their penpals in person together they had to complete 20 questions in their folders. JCSP students proudly showed their Culture Studies/Irish Folder/Record Books to their new penpals. As choir and music are strong in St Joseph's the students sang for their new friends. In turn they were shown Sean Nos dancing.

Students also explored the village of Rathcairn with the aid of orienteering sheets indicating "curios" and Irish signposts etc. Catherine reported that students very much enjoyed being in the countryside.

Besides improving their Irish the JCSP students benefited from meeting new people. By communicating with penpals first the students were put at their ease.

It was also noted that students were more confident in themselves, their respective cultures and their acceptance of other cultures.

There is a striking intercultural dimension to this project as students from St Joseph's were able to teach those from Rathcairn some words of Cant, Polish, Yoruba and Arabic.

St Joseph's students have invited students from Rathcairn to a return visit.

### Vocational School Abbeyfeale, Co Limerick

JCSP students from Abbeyfeale in Limerick got a taste of Irish heritage and a chance to practise a coupla focail when they visited An Daingean. At The Blasket Heritage Centre the students and their teachers were given a talk and then ordered their lunch as Gaeilge.

In advance of the trip students practised their spoken Irish in class. They found having a motive to practise Irish was very valuable. Some students found the Irish spoken at the Blasket centre was difficult to understand but their teachers were on hand to help. JCSP Irish statements 1 and 2 were used in conjunction with the Gaeltacht initiative.



Visiting the Rathcairn Gaeltacht

- \* *"this is real education"* – teacher from St Joseph's
- \* *"this is different to any other trip I've been on"* – JCSP student
- \* *"the sense of achievement afterwards was palpable"* – JCSP Coordinator

# Focus on Irish Initiatives

## Seisiun Rince

Greendale Community School, Dublin

At Greendale Community School JCSP students along with their teacher Caitlin Carr and Sile O'Sullivan, JCSP coordinator, organised a "Seisiun Rince". (Céilidh)

Two classes were devoted to preparing for the ceilidh. Students gathered information from various sources on Irish dance. They also learned some vocabulary around Irish dance. Posters were designed to highlight the event. The students also learned the Irish vocabulary for items on sale in the "siopa" on the day. Tokens were used instead of money and communication was through Irish.

An experienced Irish dancing teacher put the students through their paces and even the most reluctant students participated.

Caitlin and Sile reported it to be a totally positive experience from a teacher and students point of view. As the students had just completed their mocks the timing was perfect, giving them a welcome break from the classroom.

In the words of the students: *"Great fun, brilliant day"*  
*"the teacher was very patient and explained things"*  
*"I was surprised at how easy it was to learn the dances"*



Students learning their steps



Preparing for the seisiun rince

## Seachtain na Gaeilge

Presentation Secondary School, Warrenmount, Dublin

At Presentation Secondary School, Warrenmount all the JCSP students along with their Coordinator Sr Carmel Daly and teachers organised a Seachtain na Gaeilge.

Besides learning Irish phrases and vocabulary the students tasks included: mounting a display for the school foyer and making posters for around the school.

They selected Irish music to be played over the intercom and Irish prayers for assembly. In choir class students learned songs in Irish including Amhran na bhfiann. A selection of Irish books for JCSP students were bought.

Students in this school are renowned for their dancing so it was no surprise that they made great efforts to learn from a teacher especially employed during the week. A highlight of the week was a presentation to the students of a Cupla Focail emblem (from Bord na Gaeilge) on completion of an oral Irish course.

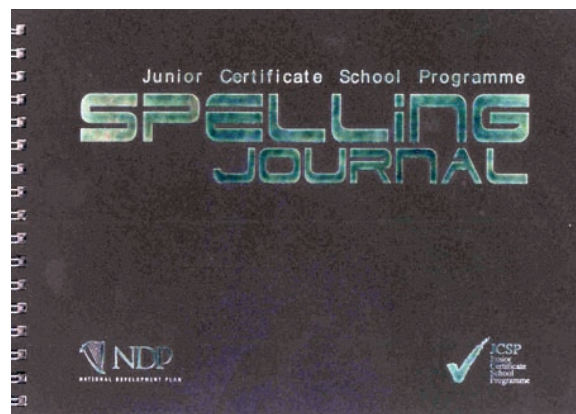
Sr Carmel noted the benefits to the JCSP students of this initiative. These included positive student teamwork and a boost to self esteem as students were in the lime light all week. The student's oral Irish improved as they were anxious to be awarded their Cupla Focail emblem.

# Spelling Challenge

A major spelling drive led by Cathryn O’Grady was carried out at Colaiste Mhuire, Johnstown. The target group were fifteen second year JCSP students.

Each student was given a spelling notebook and a number of dictionaries were purchased. Students were given one spelling to learn each evening. These words were written into the spelling notebook, one word per page. With the help of parents, students learned how to spell the word, looked up the definition in their dictionary and wrote this into the notebook along with a sentence containing the word.

In class different spelling strategies were introduced each week including “look, say, cover, write, check”, spelling rules and mnemonics. Students were tested each day orally with a written test at the end of each week. A healthy competition was encouraged between students.



The challenge was a great success. A party, attended by the teachers involved and the principal, was held to celebrate their success. All students received a postcard home outlining their achievement on the final test and how much they had improved.

## Contacts

### Drama and Rap Workshops

Eileen Holihan, JCSP Librarian at Larkin Community College recommends **Catherine Simon**, who did workshops on anti-bullying and drug awareness with Larkin’s JCSP students.

**Email:** [cassimon@hotmail.com](mailto:cassimon@hotmail.com)  
**Phone:** 086 874 7024

### Comedy Workshops

The comedienne and actress Sinead Culbert has recently done comedy workshops with JCSP students in two schools which have reportedly gone down a bomb. Sinead brought props – wigs, enormous plastic ears etc and got students in groups to perform sketches around these. She does follow up workshop also, recording the students. Her contact number is **087 640 6565** and she works under the business name Seriously Funny.

### Creative Writing

Author and playwright Neville Thompson has done many creative writing workshops with JCSP classes, most recently at Collinstown Park Community School. He works very well with JCSP students. Neville is part of Poetry Ireland’s Writers in Schools scheme which part-funds visits by authors to schools.

Poetry Ireland: [www.poetryireland.ie](http://www.poetryireland.ie)  
01 475 8601

Neville Thompson [nevthompson@eircom.net](mailto:nevthompson@eircom.net)  
087 235 7418

### Traditional Music

Jane O’Loughlin, organised a lunchtime “seisiun” in the library at Colaiste Cathail Naofa recently. The visiting musicians were Seanan Brennan and Martin Crossan from Donegal. Jane reported that they worked very well with all students and she would highly recommend them.

**Email:** [seananbrennan@gmail.com](mailto:seananbrennan@gmail.com).  
**Phone:** 087 414 4411



# 5,4,3,2,1 ... Bottle Rocket Project



First and second year JCSP science students at **Arklow Community College** have carried out a very exciting project with their teacher Helen Corbett. The students got to design and launch their own bottle rockets. Bottle rockets are modified 2 litre mineral bottles. See [www.rokit.com](http://www.rokit.com) for details.

The aim of the project was to make science fun and to foster a team spirit. Students learned about the history of space exploration and in designing their rockets they discussed topics such as air resistance, pressure and Newton's three Laws of Motion.

To encourage team building each student had a definite role in their bottle rocket team including:

- :: **Commentator**, whose job it was to give an overview of the rockets and initiate the countdown to the launch.
- :: **Design team**, designed the promotional material for the event.
- :: **Computer Engineering team**, filmed and selected music for the launch.
- :: **Launch security**, ensured the safety of spectators at the launch site.

Each student had their own tee-shirt printed up with their name and job title. The tee-shirts were an important element in boosting team spirit and giving the project status.

Adding a cross curricular dimension Home Economics teacher Fidelma Downes based her cookery classes with the students on making Star Rocket Cookies and NASA Buns.

The launch day was a great success. Each student got a memento DVD of the occasion.

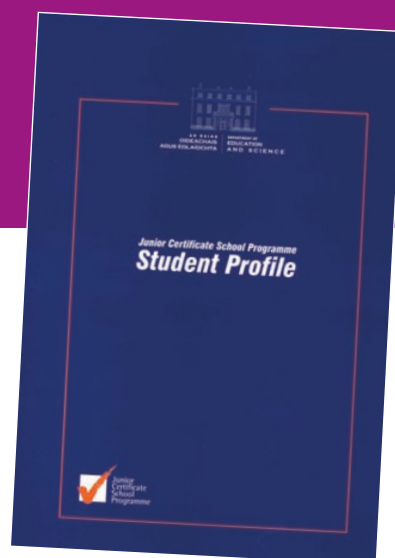
It's onwards and upwards as Helen suggests next time they might introduce a greater challenge by launching their rockets over a target such as the bar of a goal post or trying to make a safe landing with a parachute and an egg!!



# Final Profiling

Well done to everyone involved in returning JCSP students Final Profile data. It is currently being processed and will be returned to you as soon as possible. This year we were delighted that so many of you used the online facility for entering data. Online profiling was piloted last year and proved very successful.

Please note Final Profiles will be available to schools as soon as possible; at a date after May 15<sup>th</sup>.



*Third year JCSP students at Vocational College, New Ross celebrating Final Profiling 2006*

## Co-ordinators Planning Checklist

In planning ahead for September it is time to think about the following:

- ⌘ Student selection
- ⌘ Subject Selection
- ⌘ Timetabled folder class with tutor or co-ordinator
- ⌘ Co-ordinator time allocation
- ⌘ Core team selection
- ⌘ Core team – timetabled meeting time
- ⌘ Arrangements for planning and profiling meetings.

# Summer Celebration

Summer is fast approaching and it is time to think of organising a Summer celebration. This is an opportunity to display student's work, to share the activities, projects and successes of the school year. By presenting awards to students and celebrating their achievements we hope to help them approach the Junior Certificate exams with confidence.

As a positive occasion it attracts many parents who might normally be reluctant to visit the school. It is important for students to have their work affirmed by their teachers, coordinator and principal but most important of all by their parents.

There is a small subvention available to schools to help meet the cost of hosting a Summer Celebration.

**To apply please complete the fax form below and return by May 12<sup>th</sup>.**

**Please include any further information which you feel is relevant.**



## Fax Reply – JCSP Summer Celebration Initiative April 2007

JCSP Fax: 01 402 0435

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Principal: \_\_\_\_\_

Co-ordinator: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Please note that applications for this subvention must be returned by May 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Summer Celebration – €100**

Outline of Proposal \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Proposed implementation dates: \_\_\_\_\_

We will furnish an evaluation report: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Principal: \_\_\_\_\_

JCSP Co-ordinator: \_\_\_\_\_

# Drop Everything and Read (DEAR)

## Larkin Community College, Dublin



*Bill Cullen motivating students and staff!*

This is a great way of promoting reading across the whole school or year group. The idea is that at the same time everyday for a week everyone stops what they are doing and reads for fifteen minutes. As all students and staff are reading together it creates a great buzz across the whole school and raises the profile of reading. The project can be tailored according to a school's particular needs and resources. Support in organising a Drop Everything and Read event is available from the JCSP Support Services.

Larkin Community College in Dublin recently held a Drop Everything and Read. While it was a one day event it was very ambitious. Everyone in the school community was involved; the administrative staff, the porters, teachers, parents, students and local guests. It was held on March 1st, World Book Day.

Visitors to the school on the day read to the students and staff and spoke to them about the value of reading.

Primary school students were invited and Larkin's own students read picture books to them.

Among the guests were author and director Peter Sheridan who spoke to students in the library. Local TD Tony Gregory and local youth worker Paddy Malone read from local interest books. Local librarian Terry Wogan from Charleville Mall librarian also joined in. In the assembly hall where the first year students were gathered, author and business man Bill Cullen read from his book.

Then when all the talks were over at 12.30 the librarian Eileen Holihan announced that it was time to DROP EVERYTHING AND READ. The staff and students, parents and guests in every room in the school had a plentiful supply of books and newspapers to get stuck into and everyone participated.

A special lunch was held to say thank you to the staff for getting on board and helping to make sure everything ran smoothly.



Manager of the Dublin football team Paul Caffrey spoke to students about the importance of developing an interest in reading.



The Star and The Independent newspapers also gave the school free copies of their newspapers.



John Tracey from IES kindly donated the specially produced World Book Day books for the event and World Book Day tokens were given to all the students.



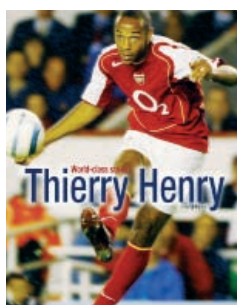
*Celebrating World Book Day with Samba music.*

# Cool Reads for the Summer



**Title:** Speed  
**Author:** Alison Prince  
**Marks out of Ten:** 10  
**Name the main characters:** Mam, Ted, Alan and Deb  
**Who is the main character?** Deb, she is in every part of the story.  
**What was the story about?** A young girl who lost her father who was a mechanic.  
**Do you like the book?** Yes  
**Why?** Because it is for my age and I learned if I get a car not to drive too fast.  
**Would you recommend the book to your friends?** Yes because I would think they would like it too.

*Amy Keohane, Colaiste Cathail Naofa, Dungarvan*



**Title:** Thierry Henry  
**Author:** Andy Croft  
**Marks out of Ten:** 9  
**What was the story about?** It is about a famous Arsenal striker called Thierry Henry who plays for France and is the top scorer in the Premiership League.  
**Do you like the book?** Yes  
**Why?** Because I love soccer.  
**Would you recommend the book to your friends?** Yes because they like soccer too.

*Gary Crotty, Colaiste Cathail Naofa, Dungarvan*



**Title:** Grandmother's Secret  
**Author:** Richard Kemble  
**Marks out of Ten:** 8 out of 10.  
**Why did you choose this book?** Because of the title I wanted to find out their secret.  
**What was the book about?** A woman who kills a man and doesn't tell the police and calls her grandson by using the power of love over him to help her because she is dead.  
**Who is the main character?** Des. I don't like this character because it took him so long to help his gran and at first he didn't believe her and he was always scared of everything.  
**Who would you recommend this book to?** Both boys and girls of around 13-16 years of age.

*Christopher O'Dowd, Colaiste Cathail Naofa, Dungarvan*

*All of these series are excellent books and suitable for JCSP students.*

**Speed** is from the GR8Reads series published by Barrington Stoke.

**Thierry Henry** is from the Livewire Real Lives series published by Hodder Murray.

**Grandmother's Secret** is from Spirals, a series by publisher Nelson Thornes.

# New JCSP Libraries Announced

This following is the text of a press release issued by the Dept of Education and Science announcing the schools which are to join the Demonstration Library Project.



President McAleese visits the JCSP library at St Paul's, Waterford

## 20 December, 2006 – Minister Hanafin extends Demonstration Library Project to 10 more second level schools – A further 50 schools set to be included under DEIS.

Junior Certificate Support Programme (JCSP) Demonstration Library Project for ten more post primary schools as part of the DEIS Action Plan. The Demonstration Library Project began in 2001 as part of the Department of Education and Science Early Literacy Initiative to provide literacy and numeracy support for students up to Junior Certificate level

Introduced in 1996, the JCSP is aimed at providing support for Junior Certificate students who are experiencing difficulty or who may be at risk of leaving school early.

Speaking today, Minister Hanafin said "this project is just one in a broad range of supports this Government has introduced to provide additional supports for children who are at risk of leaving school early. These students need extra help to make the most of the opportunities available to them in school.

Ten extra schools will now benefit from quality school libraries staffed by professionally qualified librarians who will have professional research support. Last year almost 3,700 students benefited from these enhanced supports. In order to further support numeracy and literacy initiatives, funding will increase from €2.5million to €4million next year."

Launched last year, the DEIS Action Plan (Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools) is a comprehensive programme involving over €40million extra each year, aimed at providing all of the supports that children from socially and economically disadvantaged areas need to make the most

of the educational opportunities available to them.

Under DEIS the Demonstration Library Project will be extended on a phased basis to an additional 50 Post-primary schools.

These schools, catering for disadvantaged students, will be encouraged to reinforce the concept of the whole-school approach and will be supported to:

- \* set up and equip high quality school libraries
- \* develop structured library based strategies with ICT support for JCSP students with literacy difficulties
- \* employ professionally qualified school librarians who will work with the teaching staff to develop and implement the JCSP Literacy Strategy and who will be supported by the Project Librarian and the JCSP Support Service
- \* participate in an ongoing monitoring and evaluation process which is a major part of the project

### The following schools will be joining the project.

<a href="#">Abbey Community College</a>	Co. Wicklow
<a href="#">Colaiste Dhulaigh</a>	Dublin 17
<a href="#">Enniscorthy Vocational College</a>	Co. Wexford
<a href="#">James' Street C.B.S.</a>	Dublin 8
<a href="#">Jobstown Community College</a>	Dublin 24
<a href="#">Kylmore College</a>	Dublin 10
<a href="#">Mount Carmel Secondary School</a>	Dublin 1
<a href="#">St. Kevin's Community College</a>	Dublin 22
<a href="#">Trinity Comprehensive School</a>	Dublin 9
<a href="#">Killinarden Community School</a>	Dublin 24



Reading the paper at Colaiste Eoin, Finglas

# The Support Team

## Our Contact Details:

Name	Phone number	e-mail <a href="mailto:jcsp@iol.ie">jcsp@iol.ie</a>
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### JCSP Library Project

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Tommy Doonan	01 453 5487	<a href="mailto:tommy.doonan@cdu.cdvec.ie">tommy.doonan@cdu.cdvec.ie</a>
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Fax Number:	01 402 0435	

### Do Get in touch...

...if we can support your school in any way in implementing the JCSP. We are available to visit your school, as well as engage in a process of professional development with the team of teachers or the full staff. We can provide inputs on any aspect of the JCSP, as well as the JCSP Literacy and Numeracy Strategy, in the context of a process of professional development.

Additionally, please let us know of your views or comments on any aspect of the Student Profiling System. We need to hear how you are finding the use of statements in your classroom and how the process of positive feedback to the students is going.