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supporting teaching and learning
tacú le teagasc agus foghlaim

February 2012

Hot Topics

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NCCA

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Leagan gaeilge

Welcome...

to the February issue of info@ncca, keeping you up to date with what's new in the NCCA.

Follow us on Twitter...

The NCCA is now on Twitter! Regular updates will be tweeted as well as links to other tweets about curriculum and assessment. And when you **sign up to follow us** and your friends start commenting about how well informed you are, you can say a little bird told you.



Junior cycle news

A Junior Cycle Network of 40 schools will shortly begin its work in supporting the planning and development of the new Junior Cycle. The Network will be directly involved in contributing to curriculum and development and in generating exemplification for itself, other networks and schools. Keep an eye on our web site for further developments.



The review of Junior Cycle subjects has begun with the development of a new format for the specification of courses. As the subject to be introduced first (2014), English will be the first subject to be revised in the new format.

The NCCA is setting in motion the development of short courses in a number of areas. The initial set will consist of 6 or 7 courses and the areas under consideration include Chinese, Sustainability and Programming.

Keep an eye on the **Junior Cycle** website for future developments.

Assessment for learning

If you're keen for children to be more involved in self-assessment and curious about using smiley faces, traffic lights, thumbs or coloured counters for this purpose, have a look at the Assessment for Learning (AfL) resources at <http://action.ncca.ie>.

Report card templates

In the coming weeks and months we will be reviewing and further developing the **nine report card templates** currently available on our website. The updated templates will provide greater control and flexibility

to schools and will available online from the beginning of May 2012.

Language matters

As reported in our last issue, the NCCA has begun the process of revising the primary language curriculum, starting with the infant years. More recently, we've done some interesting work with teachers that you might like to check out on our **ACTION** site.

Play in infant classes

Growing numbers of teachers are using play for up to an hour (or more) per day to support childrens' learning. Take a look inside some classrooms by visiting the Play resources section of the **Aistear Toolkit**. Also, you could check in with your local Education Centre for information on Aistear workshops in your area.

European key competences network

The NCCA has been invited to join a new European Key Competences Network. So far ten countries are participating. We'll be looking for examples of good practice in key competences from schools, teacher educators and other education groups over the next year or so. Watch this space for more information and details of how to report on an initiative that you're involved in.

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