

19th October, 2021.

**The Secretary,
Board of Management and
School Principal in
each Community and Comprehensive School.**

Members of the Executive of ACCS.

ACCS/Info Bulletin 39/21

Re: 1. Circular Letter 0045/2021 (CLASS Hours). 2. Department Survey for Unmet demand for teachers in schools 2021/2022. 3. Draft Specifications for Leaving Certificate Irish L1 & L2. 4. School Placements. 5. PDST Online Courses. 6. Junior Cycle 7. NCCA.

1. Circular Letter [0045/2021](#) (CLASS Hours) Covid Learning and Support Scheme:

Under the Covid Learning and Support Scheme (CLASS) additional teaching hours are being provided to schools for the 2021/22 school year. The purpose of the CLASS programme is to provide additional teaching support to students who are at risk of learning loss and/or at risk of early school leaving arising from the impact of COVID-19. The additional hours were allocated to schools on Monday, 11th October via the On-Line Claims System (OLCS) as part-time hours. (Guidance for Post-Primary Schools attached)

Key points:

- Circular letter 0045/2021 gives details of the number of additional hours being provided to schools and the criteria applicable for the utilisation of these hours.
- Schools will have received a new staffing schedule with the allocation appearing under the heading Covid Learning Support Scheme.
- The new staffing schedule does not affect the allocation of Assistant Principal posts for the 2021/22 school year as the allocation of posts in CL 23/2021 is based on the WTE for the previous school year (i.e. the teacher allocation for the 2020/21 school year). However, this allocation may affect next year's POR allocation as the new staffing schedule/increased allocation for this year may move schools into a new threshold in the context that the number of Assistant Principal posts in a school is determined by reference to the final approved teacher allocation for the previous school year excluding supernumerary posts and substitution allocation.
- The CLASS teaching hours are a once off temporary allocation for the 2021/22 school year only.
- The hours must be provided during the normal school day and can be used at any time (including bundling the hours at certain times in the school year) over the course of the 2021/22 school year.
- Teachers undertaking these hours should be registered teachers. Circular letter 0045/2021 provides for these hours to be offered to teachers currently on part-time contracts who may provide additional teaching hours up to a full teaching week of 22 hours or a school may employ a

substitute teacher in the same manner in which it engages substitute teachers.

- A template contract for a registered teacher undertaking CLASS teaching hours is attached.

2. The Department of Education issued a **Survey of Unmet demand for teachers in schools 2021/2022 last week**. The purpose of this survey is to collect information on the subjects for which schools could not fill vacancies OR used “out-of-field” teachers to fill vacancies for the 2021/2022 academic year. For the purposes of this survey, “out-of-field” teachers are defined as teachers, registered with the Teaching Council, who are deployed to teach subjects for which they are not qualified.

ACCS is requesting that all schools complete the survey because your answers will form an important part of the DE's subject teacher projections, which in turn will inform teacher supply planning. The data provided as part of this survey will be used for statistical purposes only. Schools will not be identifiable in outputs.

The survey is being hosted by the EU portal. Each school has received a message from DIGIT-EUSURVEY@nomail.ec.europa.eu containing a unique link to the survey. Please add this email address to your safe senders list and check spam folders where necessary. If a school did not receive the email, please contact Teacherdemand@education.gov.ie as soon as possible referencing the school roll number.

3. **Glac páirt anois!**
Tá dréachtsonraíochtaí do Ghaeilge na hArdteistiméireachta T1 agus T2 ar fáil anois le haghaidh chomhairliúchán poiblí.

As you are aware the draft specifications for Leaving Certificate Irish L1 and L2 are now available for public consultation until the end of November (see attached posters). The draft specifications, information on the consultation, and online surveys can be accessed on the NCCA website at <https://ncca.ie/en/senior-cycle/curriculum-developments/gaeilge/>.

Based on feedback to-date, stakeholder requests and the challenging contexts of schools, the consultation period has been extended until the end of November 2021. We would ask you to bring this to the attention of all teachers of Irish in the school and strongly encourage them to participate. ACCS will also be making a submission to the NCCA and would welcome any points that you may wish to send for consideration on or before October 22nd.

4. **School Placements**

The attached Guidance Note sets out a clear and flexible framework for schools and HEIs in relation to the planning and facilitation of school placement for the academic year 2021-2022 In the context of COVID-19.

5. **PDST Online Courses**

PDST Technology in Education's autumn online courses are now available for enrolment and immediate access on [TeacherCPD.ie](https://www.teachercpd.ie) at [this link](#). Teachers and school leaders will be particularly interested in the following **new** course, which is available until 10th December, 2021.

What is Digital Citizenship and How to Teach it

The aim of this course is to provide teachers with the knowledge, resources and confidence to teach digital citizenship and to empower their students to be safe, ethical and responsible online. Developed with Webwise and drawing on

relevant online safety resources and activities from Webwise, participants will explore what it means to be a good digital citizen and identify opportunities for the teaching and learning of one or more of the 10 domains of digital citizenship in their specific subjects. Topics explored include online wellbeing, news and information literacy, privacy, communication, ethics, empathy and more. The course contains new good practice videos filmed in three post primary schools and makes specific links to SPHE, CSPE and the Digital Media Literacy short course. It also includes templates for your digital citizenship audit and action plan. Teachers can enrol in these, or any of PDST's other free online courses, on TeacherCPD.ie, using their Scoilnet account to login.

Note for school leaders: For planning purposes, a breakdown of available courses by sector is available on the [Coming Soon/News](http://www.TeacherCPD.ie) page of www.TeacherCPD.ie. School leaders may wish to consider these courses as part of their plans for 'Croke Park' hours. Courses vary in terms of the required study time (duration) from 1.5 to 4 hours. All courses can be completed in teachers' own time and are available 24/7, once open (there are no 'live' elements). A certificate is available to participants who complete the course.

6. Junior Cycle

i. JCT and Registration:

To facilitate planning for JCT CPD events, it is essential that all teachers in the school are registered with JCT. Schools should visit, the portal at www.jctregistration.ie and update the classroom teacher details for your school, e.g., remove the names of any teachers who no longer work in your school, and add the names of newly appointed teachers.

A screencast explaining how to update teacher details will soon be circulated to those teachers with management resource hours for whom we have contact details.

Schools are asked to pay particular attention to the contact email address that is inputted for teachers. Only school-based email addresses are acceptable. Please ensure correct spelling of email addresses entered, as any errors will result in teachers not receiving important email communications from JCT, including the link to their relevant online workshop.

ii. Junior Cycle National Research Project:

Exploring the implementation and impact of the Junior Cycle Framework (JCF) in post-primary schools is a longitudinal study over 4 years and is being conducted by a team of independent researchers from University of Limerick. Using a stratified random sample, the research team has selected 100 schools to participate in the schools' element of the study and the researchers will be contacting these schools over the coming weeks seeking their participation.

This study aims to explore the implementation and impact of the Junior Cycle Framework (JCF) in post-primary schools in Ireland. The study is not evaluating the roll-out of the curriculum rather it is to enable our schools and teachers to tell their stories of working with this curriculum change and to capture their views on the opportunities and challenges it presented. You can access further details on the study at the following link.

<https://www.ul.ie/ehs/junior-cycle-national-project>.

7. NCCA:

Consultation is an important part of the work of the NCCA. Currently there are a number of open consultations including Leaving Certificate Classical Languages, Junior Cycle Physical Education (135 hours) and Junior Cycle SPHE (100 hours). These are in addition to Leaving Certificate Irish L1 and L2 as mentioned above. Schools can access these on the NCCA website at [Consultations | NCCA](#). Consultations on LC Physics and Biology, and Arabic will open soon.

Is mise,
Le mór mheas,



John Irwin,
GENERAL SECRETARY.