



# JMB EDUCATION CONFERENCE 2016

## SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

UNDERSTANDING POLICY – UPDATING PRACTICE – UNLOCKING POTENTIAL

Full Day Event 9.00am – 4.00pm • Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2016  
The Hogan Suite, Croke Park Conference Centre

The theme of the JMB Education Conference this year is **Special Educational Needs: Understanding Policy – Updating Practice – Unlocking Potential**. The aim is to offer peer and specialist-delivered workshops on emerging developments in special needs education as well as offering opportunities for you to interact with policy makers, practitioners, specialists, support services and commercial enterprises.

We intend to leave our participants – principals, chairpersons, deputy principals and teachers – with greater clarity around policy, practice and possibilities for inclusive and innovative teaching and learning for all our students.

As well as a series of relevant workshops, we will hear from Adam Harris, Founder-CEO of *As/Am*, an organisation working to educate, empower and advocate for the Autism community in Ireland.

Key to the policy perspective will be the new school-profile model of allocating resources, which will be introduced and explored by the CEO of the National Council for Special Education, Teresa Griffin.

### Conference Workshops

Two concurrent workshop sessions will be presented in the morning and afternoon

Each Conference participant may choose two workshops

1.	A Year in the Life of a Learning Support Department	8.	The CAT4 Test
2.	Special Educational Needs and the New Junior Cycle	9.	An Inspector Calls
3.	Keeping up with 'Best Practice'	10.	Gifted and Talented Children
4.	Two Specific SEN Conditions	11.	Team Teaching
5.	The Special Needs Assistant	12.	Level 1 and 2 Learning Programmes
6.	ASD Special Classes	13.	The Accelerated Reader Programme
7.	Assistive Technologies		

See reverse for workshops descriptions

### Timetable (subject to change)

9.00 – 9.30	Registration–Tea/Coffee
9.40 – 9.50	Welcome by Fr. Paul Connell, President JMB/AMCSS
9.50 – 10.50	Keynote Address: Adam Harris, Founder-CEO of <i>As/Am</i>
10.50 – 11.15	Coffee Break
11.15 – 12.30	Workshops: Session 1
12.30 – 1.40	Lunch
1.40 – 2.55	Workshops: Session 2
3.00 – 3.55	Keynote Address: Teresa Griffin, CEO of NCSE
3.55 – 4.00	Close of Conference



JMB Joint Managerial Body  
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Secretariat of Secondary Schools

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## Workshop Details

1	<b>A Year in the Life of a Learning Support Department:</b> <i>A Case Study from Colaiste Bride, Clondalkin</i> Orla Coughlan, Ger Harris, Claire Comerford	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adapting our practices to meet the needs of parents and students</li> <li>Building leadership capacity among the SEN Team</li> </ul>
2	<b>Special Educational Needs and the New Junior Cycle:</b> <i>The Inclusive School: Embracing Diversity in Learners</i> Judith Callan-Gough, Team Leader, Level 2 Learning Programmes and Lorna Lavelle, Regional Leader, Whole School Support – Junior Cycle for Teachers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Examining our attitudes towards SEN</li> <li>Working towards an inclusive education experience in our schools</li> </ul>
3	<b>Keeping up with ‘Best Practice’:</b> <i>From policy to practice: What does a school-wide approach to inclusive education look like?</i> Johanna Fitzgerald, lecturer in Special Education and Tom Prendergast, Principal, CBS Sexton St., Limerick	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This workshop will explore how a school-wide approach to inclusive education can be developed</li> <li>Influential factors promoting such an approach include:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strong leadership, from principals and SEN coordinators</li> <li>Collaborative approaches</li> <li>Development of effective school-wide systems</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
4	<b>Two Specific SEN Conditions:</b> <i>Dyslexia and Dyspraxia</i> Trevor O’Brien, Lecturer in Special Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understanding the challenges</li> <li>Finding effective classroom interventions</li> </ul>
5	<b>The Special Needs Assistant:</b> <i>Bridging the gap between research, theory and practice</i> Claire Griffin, Educational Psychologist and Lecturer in Educational and Developmental Psychology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A review of policies relating to the role of the Special Needs Assistant in the Irish education system</li> <li>Maximising the effectiveness of the SNA role, in light of theory, research and experience</li> </ul>
6	<b>ASD Special Classes:</b> <i>Optimal Models of Provision</i> Patricia M. Daly, Ph.D., Head of Department of Special Education, (Mary Immaculate College)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Autism Competent Environments</li> <li>Anxiety support for students with ASDs</li> </ul>
7	<b>Succeeding with Assistive Technology:</b> <i>Making the Most of ICT for Special Needs</i> Eileen Murphy, M.Ed. (Autism) – <i>UrAbility</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Learn how technology/Apps can change a student’s life</li> <li>Discover 10 tips for using Apps with SEN students</li> </ul>
8	<b>The CAT4 Test:</b> <i>Using Results for Analysis, Tracking and Planning</i> Angela Martin, Special Education Support Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identifying gifted and talented pupils and those who may not be reaching their potential</li> <li>Pinpointing underachieving pupils and helping in setting targets for future attainment</li> <li>Identifying a pupil’s strengths, weaknesses and learning preferences</li> </ul>
9	<b>An Inspector Calls:</b> <i>Preparing for an SEN Evaluation</i> Maree O’Rourke, Principal of Maryfield College, Drumcondra & Emer Ring, former Senior SEN Inspector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A school’s experience of an SEN evaluation</li> <li>Sharing and exploring key signposts for evaluation</li> </ul>
10	<b>Gifted and Talented Children:</b> <i>The Neglected Special Need</i> Dr Colm O’Reilly, Director of the Centre for Talented Youth, Ireland, at DCU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understanding the needs of gifted students</li> <li>Designing an appropriate curriculum for high ability pupils</li> </ul>
11	<b>Team Teaching:</b> <i>Building Staff Capacity</i> Dr Finn Ó Murchú, Senior DES Inspector SEN Tony Lee, Education Officer Le Chéile	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff capacity – what might it mean?</li> <li>...and why bother with team teaching?</li> </ul>
12	<b>Level 1 and 2 Learning Programmes:</b> <i>What, How and for Whom?</i> Denise Kelly, Education Officer, NCCA and Rita McCabe, Principal, St Mary’s College, Naas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Making Junior Cycle more inclusive</li> <li>Policy and practice perspectives</li> </ul>
13	<b>The Accelerated Reader Programme:</b> <i>A Targeted Literacy Intervention</i> Orla Walsh, Deputy Principal, and Laura Jones, St. Vincent’s Secondary School, Dundalk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accelerated Reader makes student-centred growth in literacy levels attainable for all students. AR engages the reluctant reader and empowers the emergent reader</li> <li>This evidence-based literacy intervention facilitates SEN student-directed learning and affords solid incremental growth that supports literacy across the entire curriculum</li> </ul>