

# NABMSE NEWSLETTER



Welcome to the latest edition of the NABMSE e-newsletter. Please feel free to forward this newsletter to your BoM.

## Full Reopening of Schools



### Assessment and reporting on students' learning: Junior Cycle 2021

Dear Member Schools,

At this stage all phased reopening of our schools is complete. The heroic efforts of our children and their parents, not to mention the incredible staff should not be forgotten. Our school leaders have gone above and beyond to ensure that Covid compliance and control measures in all areas has taken precedence in order to keep our schools as safe as possible. Our challenge is to keep it that way. Our vigilance must continue, and with the compliance of staff and parents, we will be able to remain open.

It is important to remember that we must all hasten slowly, as there is no learning without wellbeing first, the wellbeing of our pupils, and most importantly the wellbeing of all the staff in our schools, who have worked under enormous pressure for most of the last year. We must go forward gently and remember that Maslow's hierarchy of needs must keep us all grounded in what is important and what is necessary to work our way back towards some sort of normality.

If you are experiencing any challenges, please let us know through the NABMSE office and we will assist and advise you in any way possible. In the meantime, Charlie Mackesy, in his wonderful book, "The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse", reminds us not to be worried that we are behind, but rather see how incredible it is that we have got this far.

Caroline Quinn  
Chairperson, NABMSE

These guidelines set out arrangements to support schools and centres for education in their approach to reporting on the learning achievements and progress of students who are completing their [Junior Cycle programme of study in 2021](#)

## Employee Assistance Services – Spectrum.Life



Spectrum.Life provides Employee Assistance Services on behalf of the DES. Their services are open to all school staff.

### Employee Assistance Service (EAS)

- 24/7, 365, unlimited in-the-moment first contact clinical support.
- Up to 6 counselling sessions, where clinically appropriate.
- Access is via:
  - **Free phonenumber:** 1800 411 057
  - **SMS:** Text 'Hi' to 087 369 0010
  - **WhatsApp:** Text 'Hi' to 087 369 0010
  - **Email:** eap@spectrum.life

Spectrum.Life also provides access to online CBT and a well being together online platform, which provides content on wellbeing, fitness and nutrition, as well as access to E-learning courses.

- Register: <https://wellbeingtogether.spectrum.life/login?org=yLVIIU17>
- Log In: <https://wellbeingtogether.spectrum.life/login>
- Or download Spectrum.Life on the App Store/Google Play Store. Org. code: [yLVIIU17](https://wellbeingtogether.spectrum.life/login?org=yLVIIU17)

## Post-school transition for students with intellectual disabilities



The Trinity Centre for People with Intellectual Disabilities has published research (01 March 2021) on 'Post-school Transitions for Students with Intellectual Disabilities' which has found that there is limited guidance for children with intellectual disabilities in Ireland as they prepare to leave school, contributing to a significant underrepresentation within the workforce and further and higher education in the State.

Policy recommendations include the implementation of a whole-school approach to guidance provision and an expansion of post-school options from traditional health-based settings to further and higher education.

Download the full/easy-read report here:  
<http://www.tara.tcd.ie/handle/2262/94978>

## Autism spectrum disorder research

NUI Galway is conducting a research study on the 'Impact of Pain in Autism Spectrum Disorder'. If you would like to find out how you could become involved in this study, please contact [r.fitzpatrick7@nuigalway.ie](mailto:r.fitzpatrick7@nuigalway.ie)