Building an open school community

Cambridge Schools Conference, Dubai
Breakout session

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Venue: The Winchester School, Jebel Ali – Room 12
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- Benefits of establishing a community
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It always seems impossible until it’s done.
- Nelson Mandela
Introduction

- Worldwide education community
- Range of events
  - Cambridge School Conferences
  - Face to face training
  - Forums on Teachers Support website
  - Social media forums
- Launch of Cambridge School Communities
- Create a local support network
Why Cambridge school community

- Networking
- Collaboration
- Sharing best practice
- Mentoring new schools
- Advocacy
- Expansion of professional development
- Shared events for students
Benefits of establishing a community

For schools:
- Increased collaboration
- Sharing best practice
- Improved quality of member schools
- Less isolation, more networking
- Better support from a wider network of colleagues
- Shared teachers training and events for students

For Cambridge:
- Feedback from one /big platform
- Increased understanding of local context
- Better support for schools
Aims of Cambridge School Community

- Support schools in the effective delivery of Cambridge curriculum and assessments
- Help shape the learning agenda in their area
- Be a source of communication between schools and between the schools and Cambridge
Cambridge school community in Pakistan

- Formed nine communities in October 2017
- Welcomed by majority of member schools
- Active participation
- Community spirit

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Human resource development</th>
<th>Teaching and learning</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Draft an HR policy with some common key elements</td>
<td>- Quality of education (policy) in detail</td>
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<td>- CPD policy</td>
<td>- Sharing ideas &amp; best practices</td>
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<td>- Collaborative activity</td>
<td>- Sending teachers’ expertise</td>
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<td>- Sharing resources (tangible / non-tangible)</td>
<td>- Teachers training</td>
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<td>- Observation (by others)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Holistic growth of students</th>
<th>Voice</th>
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<td>- Curriculum (policy)</td>
<td>- Values agreed</td>
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<td>- Enrichment (policy)</td>
<td>- Standards agreed (to the policies) for registration as Cambridge International school</td>
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<td>- Shared calendar of events</td>
<td>- Platform for approaching local authorities</td>
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Cambridge School Community in India

- Seven communities in India
  - Four in North India
  - Three in South India (one more to follow)
- Two communities had three meetings since November 2016 in North
- In South, one meeting in each quarter
- Each community has a WhatsApp group
Some examples of informal collaboration

**China:**
- Collaboration on WeChat e.g. PD Group, Exam Officer Group since 2016

**Sub-Saharan Africa:**
- Ghana, Zambia, South Africa, Zimbabwe

**Europe:**
- Facebook group in Italy (two years)

**India:**
- Informal WhatsApp groups (each prog)
- Cambridge Exams Officers group

**Pakistan:**
- Schools holding subject-specific trainings, student events and exhibitions
- PDQ PL community on Facebook
Future

- Subject network groups
- Calendar of teachers trainings by the community
- Established mechanism to advise Cambridge (Advisory Councils)
- Annual events for students
- Periodic meet ups by school leaders
- Collaboration with other school communities
Reflection

- One aspect that the school community must focus on

- How do you think being part of Cambridge School Community can benefit your school in your local context?
Next step for you

- If interested, you can contact your local Cambridge Representative to seek help in formation of Cambridge School Community in your country / region (formal or informal)
Thank you
Any questions?