



Transcript – Exploring teaching online

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Josephine McNulty: And we're going to do it in a mixture of English and Italian. As we organized this webinar originally for Italian teachers who teach in our Cambridge International schools and teachers who don't teach in Cambridge International classes. So thank you if you're tuning in from outside of Italy, for your solidarity and joining us. Okay, thanks again for joining us in the session this afternoon, we know that it's a really busy time for teachers struggling with the challenges of being faced with Italy on lockdown and schools closed. Our priority of course, is the wellbeing of schools, teachers, students, staff, families. So we hope that all this very worrying and stressful situation ends as soon as possible.

Now, today, it's my self who is speaking Josephine McNulty, the School's Relationship Manager for Italy. And joining me today is Costanza Chirico, an English teacher from the Liceo Enrico Fermi in Aversa, currently teaching IGCSE English as a second language and supporting her colleague doing co-teaching to deliver IGCSE geography. Now Costanza agreed to share her experience in dealing with remote teaching with her classes. So although a challenging and new experience that has turned out to be a very positive one, both for her professionally and most of all, for her students who have really risen to the challenge of distance learning.

Okay the aims for today's webinar is to support you with ideas on resources, practical examples, to help you with teaching and learning online and for us to be able to start sharing ideas with you. So hopefully this will be the first of more webinars that we'll be able to organize. As you can see, we organized it mainly thinking of Italian teachers, but we know that there are teachers across the world now who are having to teach remotely.

Now, as the webinars suggests it's about exploring ways of teaching online. So one of the resources that Cambridge International has got available for teachers is Resource Plus. Now you'll have seen this perhaps in the past or on our website, that it is a resource which you had to pay for. Whereas we've decided that during this period, when it's very difficult for teachers to get resources, to teach online we've made it free for teachers during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Resource Plus just to remind you that you can access high quality videos, ready-made lessons plans and teaching materials to help you deliver engaging lessons and explain challenging topics and skills to your learners. It also includes past paper questions, mark schemes arranged by topic. So you can identify areas where your learners are struggling and help them to prepare for the exams. Currently available for IGCSE exams are Biology, Business Studies, Chemistry, Combined Science, Coordinated Sciences, First Language English, Literature and English,

Mathematics, Physics. They're also AS and A level subjects, mainly sciences. So biology, chemistry, physics, and also mathematics. You can see at the bottom of the page, we've got the link. We'll be sharing these slides at the end. So you don't need to take down any notes about the links. You'll be able to see them at a later stage.

Another excellent resource that we've got, which is available not currently free at the moment, but we are hoping that at some point in the future to make even Test Maker available to teachers. It's a very complicated system to try and make available to teachers for free at the moment, but we are working on it. Just to remind you too, the Test Maker is a new online service that makes it easy for teachers to create a high quality, customized test papers for their learners using Cambridge exam questions. You can choose from 500 past paper questions for each syllabus. You can create test papers easily quickly, search for questions by topic to test specific areas of syllabus content. You can design your own taste for your whole class to create an individual tests so it helps with differentiated learning. You can select questions depending on the level of difficulty and the assessment objectives. The test is going to obviously save you a lot of time on marking too, because we create Test Maker produces a customized mark scheme for each test you build. Log on at any time, wherever you are, and you can access Test Maker using any connected device. You can also share, which is useful for your distance learning remote teaching, share your test with your learners. You can save them for a later date. You can download them as PDFs into word format document, and save them and use them at any time and make a collection. Currently available for Test Maker are the following exams for IGCSE, Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Additional mathematics and Physics.

So although we have limited subjects available for both Resource Plus and Test Maker, we do hope at some point in the future, we'll be able to extend the subject areas.

Instead some of you may have seen recently we've actually in order to try and support teachers who are teaching remotely, we've added a page to our public website in order to support teachers with tools for remote teaching and learning. Here on this particular page on our website, you can find lots of suggestions, all of activities, suggested websites, which offer lots of materials and resources for teachers to use. So we're sharing these links as useful examples. We're not responsible for the content, but we do feel that it's very useful for teachers. So that they're able to create content for the students, even at a distance where they can do discussion, group work, collaborative activities, you can do quizzes and games.

You can find lots of material here to create your own lessons as well. Also formative feedback tools, which could be useful for your students to feedback. Lots of different websites, where your students can find information and do research as well. There's also survey and voting tools and lots of other suggestions to explore through different websites.

Another area which may be some teachers may overlook because they're not teaching the subject is Global Perspectives, and the online learning portal that we have for it. All teachers can access this materials, even if you're not teaching the subject. Since Global Perspectives is about teaching skills through subject topics, through different topics. This could be useful material for all teachers to use with their students. Each of the suggested tools on the online learning area are free to use for teachers and for learners. There are lots of lesson plans, activities, group surveys, suggested support sites, places where students can do their research. And the idea behind all of the activities and the resources that you'll find here are to help develop the core skills that students develop, particularly in this subject area, but across all of the subject areas. Those transferable skills of collaboration, independent research, communication, critical thinking, innovation and creative thinking, as well as reflection on the work that they're doing and their learning, making those students independent learners.

We also have on our website, we do actually have resources specifically created for your students. Students can access study resources, which include past papers and learner guides to prepare for our Cambridge exams. It's a good opportunity for students to familiarize themselves with different styles of exam questions. As this will give them a good understanding of the knowledge and skills they need to develop during the course, the IGCSE or the Cambridge International qualification. Within the resource center, they'll find, your students will find past papers, syllabuses, a list of support materials, which include text books and websites. We also provide learner guides, which are simplified guides that can be very useful, not only for students, but also for teachers as well to use with the students and guide them through them. The guides are for most of our popular subjects, they're available on the website and they include useful advice for how to help students plan their study program. This also includes videos that introduce students to what the learner guides are, and also another video that helps them with revision for exams and revision techniques and study methods in general.

Something else that we shouldn't forget is that we also have high quality professional training available for teachers all year round basically. We have different levels of teacher training, which I believe is essential and needed necessary for success in running our Cambridge International Programs and qualifications that are different levels of introductory for those teachers who have never taught a Cambridge International Program, or who are very new to within the last year or so or extension training, which is for teachers who have been teaching in our programs for at least a year, but a couple of years if not more. An enrichment training, when you want to develop and extend your pedagogical knowledge, and you're training for your own professional development. Our training courses are delivered online and face to face. We also have other Cambridge professional development qualifications too, that you can sign up for. Now you can find our training, the link for the training through our main public website, but I do hope that all of you teachers who are running the programs, the Cambridge International Programs in your schools, you do have the opportunity to take part in training either face to face or online.

And the last, just update for me is make sure that you're checking our website on a regular basis. We have put up an FAQ sheet that addresses some of the issues that we're having to deal with from questions by schools, teachers about the exams, et cetera. And we've created an FAQ sheet on our website, which I hope you will look at from time to time, week to week, because that's where we're updating all our information about what we're doing to try and help support teachers and schools again during this crisis. And you'll notice there just from this slide Resource Plus we recently just made this announcement that we were offering it for free to teachers and the same as well we just developed the page for the tools for supporting remote teaching and learning.

Now, before I hand over to Costanza, I just wanted to let you know that we will be allowing a little bit of time at the end for the question and answer session. So over and above writing to Alessandra, if you're having any technical difficulties. Please do write some questions in the chat box. And hopefully if we'll have time, we'll manage to get to answer some of the questions.

Otherwise we can try and answer them in an FAQ sheet perhaps to include in the slides. But at this time it is my pleasure to hand over to Costanza Chirico from Liceo Fermi in Aversa, who has a few years of experience under her belt now of teaching IGCSE in her school. So prego Costanza. Costanza. Costanza.

Andrew Field: Hi, this is Andrew Field from Cambridge International. So perhaps if Costanza has got a few issues connecting, we can also have a look back at some of those other materials. I don't know if we can try and get the audio working, but we're so pleased to have so many people here today. And also some of those materials that we shared with the previous slides on the public website, the whole idea of this session was to get as many people as possible sharing their ideas and sort

of gathering together ideas from yourselves too. So we'll just make sure, I understand we intend to get our colleague online and we'll be back with you shortly.

Josephine McNulty: Hi everyone, just to let you know that Costanza had some technical issues and she's trying to reenter again and her audio it doesn't seem to be working now. It was working perfectly beforehand. So just please give us a minute of patience, your patience and we'll try to get her connected.

Andrew Field: That's great. Thank you. What would maybe do if we just pop back to the previous slide about the teaching learning ideas. You can have a brief look at that while we were waiting. So with these materials we've had already with the Resource Plus materials, that's immediately available for everyone to have a look and explore. Now here we go, okay.

Costanza Chirico: Josephine, can you here me?

Josephine McNulty: Yes Costanza I can here you loud and clear.

Andrew Field: Perfect thank you.

Costanza Chirico: Oh thank you, I'm sorry. So oh, sorry I don't know why that I could hear you, but you couldn't hear me, anyway okay. Welcome everybody and thank you Josephine. And thank you Cambridge International for this great opportunity to share my experience in Italian school. You know that I'm going to speak Italian because this is a session for Italian teachers. And I want to share with you my opportunity, my experience.

Costanza Chirico: *Italian*

Josephine McNulty: Yes yes, we can here you loud and clear.

Costanza Chirico: Ah okay, okay. Thank you every body. Thank you, Josephine. That's my experience. I'm so happy and proud of this great chance to share with all of you. thank you.

Josephine McNulty: Okay thank you, Costanza, for sharing that experience and ideas with us. I did see that a number of you are asking about us doing this in Italian and some other issues that maybe you would like to be dealt with as well. Let's remember that technology is not perfect. And as we've demonstrated today, it doesn't always work as smoothly as we would like. And you as teachers know that first hand by having to deliver distance lessons, having to deliver lessons through different platforms.

There's only so much we can try to talk about and experience that we can share in one webinar. However, the idea would be, if you all like the idea of us running more of these webinars, of course, we can do them in English in the future. This was a session that was dedicated more so for Italian teachers. And so we wanted to be able to reach out to Italian teachers, even those who are not specifically working on Cambridge International classes as well.

However, if you're interested in sharing your experiences, your ideas, particularly with a lot of you teachers out there who are teaching in primary at Cambridge primary programs, we would love to hear from you. And even when you leave at the end, we will be asking you to fill in a short questionnaire, to leave us your contact details. And we'll be happy to send both the presentation, where you can see the links, but also send you more information, may be facts. And also we would invite you to suggest if you would be interested in also joining us to be one of the teachers to share their experiences of dealing with teaching online with children and maybe even particularly young children. Okay so thank you Costanza again for that. We, I think have exhausted all of our time almost, but I could see that there were some questions coming up that

we can maybe try and answer some questions. Somebody was asking if we can give out certificates for this. And the answer is yes, we can give certificates to everyone who has attended.

The session has been, or is being recorded. So we will be able to share that with you if you'd like. Resource Plus is available to all schools and it is free at the moment. We do hope that soon, we don't know when exactly, but we'll be able to share the Test Maker with you. And also for the schools for the primary and lower secondary schools, maybe we'll be able to get other materials and resources available for you too. That will be useful with your younger children, your youngest students. I'm not sure if there are any other questions that I can see. I'm not sure if Andrew or, if you have seen anything that I haven't seen.

Andrew Field: No, just to say thank you so much for everyone for joining. And it's lovely to hear from all of you and sharing all the ideas. If you do want to get a certificate for this, do as we've put in here, fill in your email address on the survey. I wouldn't put it in the web chat because then everyone else can see it too. But if you fill in the survey, we will send you all the materials, copies of this. And very shortly, this webinar will be available publicly together with all the other links. So thank you very much.

Josephine McNulty: Okay.

Costanza Chirico: Thank you.

Josephine McNulty: Thank you everyone for joining us. We really do appreciate the time that you're taking out. We hope you'll join us in future webinars. For the moment please stay safe. And let's hope that there's a tragic situation that involves so many countries now not just China and Italy that we'll get back to normal as soon as possible. Thank you so much. Goodbye everyone. All the best.

Costanza Chirico: Thank you Josephine, bye. Bye.

Josephine McNulty: Bye bye.