



CAMBRIDGE

# A global conversation

Listening to and learning from our community of schools worldwide

**Ian Harris**

April 2025

# What can we talk about?



**Research**



**Community**



**Big conversation**

# Research

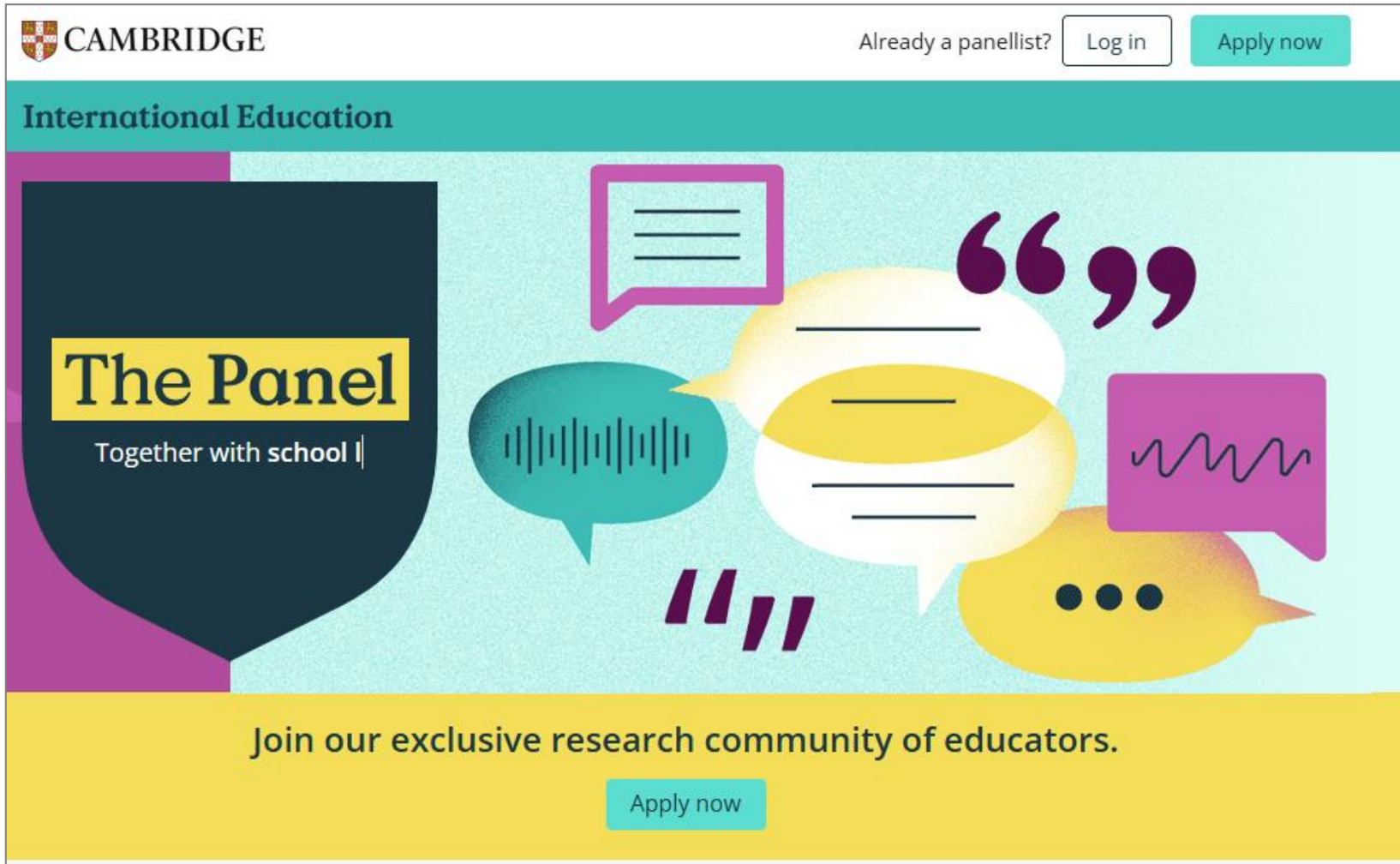
# Listening to your feedback

- We are a research-led organisation
- 100+ feedback projects a year – 25 running at any one time
- Makes sure we hear and understand schools' views clearly as we develop our programmes
- Uses feedback from schools to make good decisions
- We keep requests for feedback manageable for schools.





# Cambridge research panel



The screenshot shows the Cambridge research panel website. At the top left is the Cambridge logo. To the right, there is a link "Already a panellist?" followed by a "Log in" button and an "Apply now" button. Below this is a teal banner with the text "International Education". The main content area features a large dark blue shield on the left with a yellow banner inside that says "The Panel" and "Together with school |". To the right of the shield are several colorful speech bubbles and quotation marks, some containing icons like a list, a waveform, and a bar chart. At the bottom, a yellow banner contains the text "Join our exclusive research community of educators." and an "Apply now" button.

- Launched in 2017
- Currently 300 participants
- 15,000 responses to surveys, polls and discussions
- Many different topics
- Take part in what you're interested in
- Let us know if you'd be interested in joining.

# Putting your feedback into practice

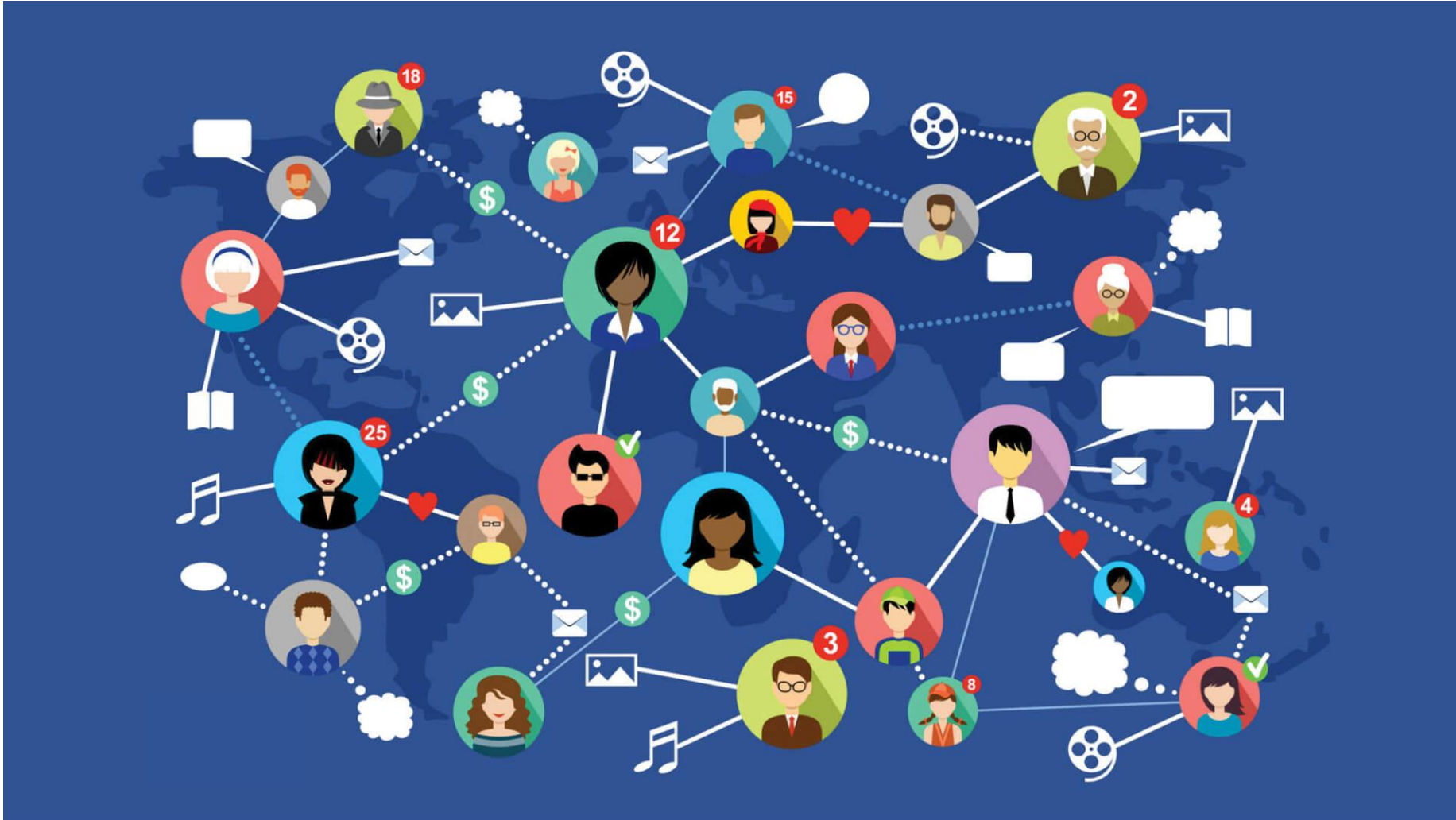
## Cambridge IGCSE Literature in English

- Syllabus now in review for first exam in 2028
- Consultation with schools began in 2022 – including whether to discontinue open text exams, changes to coursework, and to the types and numbers of set text.
- Over 350 teachers shared their views - and their feedback made us reconsider!
- Both Paper 1 and Paper 2 will now be open text exams - because teachers told us they are more progressive, better at testing the right skills and reduce students' anxiety during the exams.



# Community

We work with an ecosystem of Cambridge educators worldwide







# Cambridge communities worldwide

**37+**

school communities

**13+**

countries

**500+**

member schools

**5-80**

members per  
community

## Our communities are organised by:

- location
- audience
- programme or qualification
- subject.

## Why do **community members** join – and stay?

- Connect with other Cambridge schools
- Professional development
- Share challenges and solutions together
- Influence and contribute to Cambridge decision-making
- Strengthen association with Cambridge.



# School communities in China have led the way

- Communities for school development, exams officers, teacher development, counselling and recognition
- 5-10 community board members and Cambridge staff meet face to face and online, supported by WeChat groups
- Discuss key topics and feedback from schools - university admissions, curriculum development and more
- Board members contribute to Cambridge community events and webinars
- We keep building these communities in China...and sharing the model with other countries.





### Cambridge International Counsellors Café


UCAS application system  
counsellors practical supports

**Speaker**  
**Steve Hodgkin**  
Assistant Director for Upper School at  
Dulwich International High School Suzhou

**Time**  
19:00-20:00 (Beijing time)  
30 Nov 2022 Wednesday

**Language**  
English

Please be noted that the webinar is on Zoom  
The webinar will not be recorded





Our current conversation: preparing learners for the future



# We live in a time of change

Tech advances



Climate change



Mental health and wellbeing



Geo-politics



At Cambridge we are exploring the impact these rapid changes are having on students and the classroom, and – together with our community - considering how these changes affect how students prepare for the future.

# Balancing perspectives

- We all experience change differently depending on our local context – that's why it's important for us to engage our global community in this conversation.
- How?

Public  
conversations –  
like this!

Global surveys –  
for educators and  
for students

# What have we heard so far?

Students are quick to learn how to use AI. As a teacher, our role is to ensure advances like AI are approached with a critical spirit. I want my students to see technology as a way to work smarter, not a way to work less.

**Teacher, Italy**

Students find friends and create relationships with people all over the world who have the same mindset as them – building relationships in a virtual context.

This is great, but they are communicating more through words and writing. What does this mean for tone and body language?

**School leader, MENA**

The real trick with managing wellbeing amid study pressures is to know when to take a break and when to dive back in. It's about balancing the downtime to ensure you don't burn out before you've run the race.

**Student, India**

# More opportunities to join the conversation

- If you teach Cambridge IGCSE or International AS & A Level, you will shortly receive an invitation to complete our survey – please look out for it!
- You can ask your students to share their views, too! Your school admin will receive an email about the survey, asking them to share it with students aged 16-19 years old - please encourage them to circulate it!
- Any questions – talk with us!





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