

## Transcription: What are the benefits of Active Learning?

### **Alka Pandey**

Vice Principal at Daffodil International School  
Pune, India

### **Mark Winterbottom**

University Senior Lecturer, Science  
Faculty of Education, Cambridge

### **Michael Palmer**

Deputy Head of Sixth Form  
Chelmsford County High for Girls, Essex

- Alka Pandey:** Getting good scores in summative examinations is very important for the students and we cannot shy away from those facts, and especially in Mathematics is such a subject which the students who have opted for at higher level at IGCSE and A Levels, getting a good score is very important for them. But, at the same time, we need them to know that being an independent learner is important for them, because that in itself will lead to good scores. It will lead to higher achievements and successes in life.
- Mark Winterbottom:** It's extremely difficult to forget something that you've understood. So, if you focus on understanding, instead of simply remembering and memorising facts, then you will be equally as successful, if not more successful, and that's what teachers should keep in mind, the two things are not in conflict at all. Active learning is about learning. Learning is about being good scientists or linguists, good historians. And if you've understood then you will get a good grade, because you will remember it as well.
- Michael Palmer:** I think in the short term, the kind of intellectual engagement the active participation in learning better prepares students for responding to examination questions and actually specifically answering the questions that is set by examiners as opposed to throwing down a pre-learnt answer that perhaps is not to the point. I think in the longer term, active learning speaks to the aims that schools have, the aims that many schools have of developing life-long learners, of developing people who have ownership of their own learning and who are, I keep saying this, who are intellectually engaged in that learning. I think active learning teaches students to ask questions and to interrogate received wisdom and to approach material in a critical and reflective way. Active learning is normally shared learning where progress is often the result of dialogue between the student and teacher, rather than as something that is given to the students on a plate.