

Getting started with online teaching and learning

Transcription: Video 2

Interviewees:

Andrew Field

Senior Education Manager
Digital Innovation, Teaching and Learning
Cambridge International Education

Constant Bester

Headteacher
Boston Online Home Education

Laura-Lee Morin

School Education Manager
Cambridge International Education

Kirstin Coughtrie

Chief Innovation Officer
Gaia Learning

What are some challenges and common misconceptions?

Andrew Field

Online learning should never replace a teacher. This is about enhancing our teachers. The teacher is the most powerful commodity within education. It even seems wrong talking about them as a commodity, but they really are. Schools, online tools, online services, the education system globally is all around teachers and learners. A skilled teacher can transform a lesson, whether it's in a traditional classroom, or an online environment.

Constant Bester

I think one of the major misconceptions is that the child gets isolated, so there isn't a socialisation when they do online schooling. And I do not think that's the case - because when an online school is done correctly, there is a lot of chance for socialisation either in the live classes where the student can communicate with other students and the teacher as well as what we offer is like forum discussions, where there's a page where they can interact with each other and send each other messages, and for example, discuss a topic that's given to them, for example, a physics concept, and then they must discuss it with each other. So I do believe there is space for the socialisation, which a lot might think will go missing online.

Laura-Lee Morin

You know, you can still do effective questioning, you can still do group work and breakouts and a lot of activities. You know, you just have to really think about how you're going to change it up a little bit to fit that medium of delivery. As a teacher, you're putting so much energy out there, but you're getting energy back from that interaction with students. And in a virtual environment, you're not getting that same, you know, feedback from students in the same way. And so you find that you're just putting out all the energy. And so you kind of have to find a way to conserve a little bit of energy, but still make it engaging. And I think one of the, you know, one of the things that I often see is there are so many resources. And with COVID, you know, we developed all these different resources to use online to make online learning more engaging.

Kirstin Coughtrie

As a geography teacher, there's always an opportunity in class to be like, *Right! Let's see, where is this in the world? Let's zoom into the map! What can we see?* And, it's not about the technology; it's about: *How is that classroom space being used / How is behaviour being managed? / How can we utilise this for good?* Rather than schools having huge budgets to have all the whizzy stuff, just let kids use what they've got, you know.

Andrew Field

It isn't about high costs of technology. It's about the powerful use of technology. It's fantastic if you can afford some of the latest materials and resources and technology, but you don't need to get those. All of our online providers offer opportunities regardless of what the technology actually is. We're here about supporting high quality teaching and learning, not buying the latest kit.

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