**Blending Home and School Learning: Hacks to Deliver the Best Experience**

## Stage Four & Five Part One Transcript

Hello, welcome to Blending Home and School Learning: Hacks to Deliver the Best Experience for your students. My name is Adam Watson. I'm a secondary teacher and currently working for the Technology for Learning team in the New South Wales Department of Education. Within the Information Technology Directorate.

We're here to help you guys tackle the current changing landscape of teaching and learning in relation to the COVID-19 outbreak. We're going to be dealing with very different scenarios for our classrooms moving forward, and now is the time when we have to think about ways that we can adapt our teaching and learning in response to this changing landscape. We've developed a three part video series to assist you to understand the changing landscape of teaching and learning and also to understand how technology might benefit you to streamline your workflow and maintain quality teaching for your students.

### Preparation

Part 1 of this session is we're going to look at the preparation for setting up your learning environment in a blended learning scenario for your students. What do you have to prepare as a teacher. What your students have to be aware of? What your parents and community needs to be aware of as you set up your lessons to maintain that quality learning environment. We need to look at the ways that your school is going to prepare on a broader scope with regard to structures, and they're going to put in place so that students can have a consistent delivery of quality learning content and timetable lesson delivery with minimal interruptions and disruptions to their learning. What needs to happen in terms of support staff and assistive devices within the school as well, and how this can assist you in your classroom? How do we communicate to parents as well these changes and the best possible ways that we can set up learning to take place in the home when students are not being sat in a face to face environment in the classroom. How can we ensure access to technology for students and that they have as much equity as possible to achieve the same outcomes as they would in a face-to-face environment? What kind of technology do we need to be using and what is going to be most effective to us to maintain that teaching and learning quality? Now that we've been delivering for so long in the Department of Education?

What do we need to do to ensure our technology has been set upand tested properly? Have we thought about all the possibilities for the actual layout of the technology within the classroom? And how is this going to be replicated in the home so that students can engage with your lesson and maintain that consistency? With regard to student logins, passwords and access to electronic platforms, online learning platforms and things like that, have we thought about all the possibilities? Have we got all of the passwords, the login details and everything sorted out so that we can have as much of a streamlined experience as possible.

What kind of resource are students going to be needing when they're at home to engage with your lessons and continue to learn in a quality, environment, and have quality of content? Are they going to be able to use things around the house, perhaps that they have as concrete resource for undertaking practical experiences that will enable them to meet those outcomes? Can they use simple things from around their home to engage with your lesson? And is this same strategy going to be effective in the classroom as well with similar concrete resources. How can we be flexible as teachers? To ensure that we are presenting lots of possibilities to students to learn within our classroom environment and at home.

### Classroom setup

We're going to have a look at the setup of the physical classroom now and how this is actually going to be able to be set up in the most simple way possible for us as teachers so that we're not too disrupted in our workflow. Many of us have been teaching for a number of years in this profession, and we developed a strategy for teaching and learning that works really well for us. Now is a time and we have to think about ways that we can adapt and include maybe a little more technology in our lessons then what we've done in the past, or what we're comfortable with. So I'm just going to show you a couple of quick tricks that you might employ that might help you to set your classroom up in a way with minimal disruption to you as the teacher with your learning and teaching flow, and enabling students to still engage as if they were in your classroom while they're at home. I have here my laptop. This is going to serve as the main part of my technology in the classroom that's going to take obviously video imagery of me teaching the class and enable students to interact with one another and myself and the lesson content all within this one device. Now I've got this set up on the side of the room here and this laptop is projecting everything that's happening on the screen here onto the white board behind me.

Now if you've been teaching with the traditional white board and a whiteboard marker for sometime. This is now the time where we need to think about how we can redefine the way that we do that by using a digital device, so we can still use applications such as Microsoft Whiteboard to physically draw on our laptop screen. If you have a touch screen device and have it displayed on this whiteboard behind us, and that's not going to really disrupt the way that we've been teaching previously. But what I want to show you here is how we can set it up to have video conferencing happening in our room. I have my laptop set up on the side to simulate where I would be if I were a student sitting on the side of my classroom here still being able to fully see the teacher, see my peers to maintain that social interaction that we love to have in our classrooms as well, so that students feel supported and maintain that social interaction that students love to have in their classroom so that they can have that engaging learning environment. But what I want to do is set this up so that I can make sure that my laptop's in the right place. Now I'm going to just open up my Camera app here. This is a little trick that might benefit you. And if I open up this camera app, I can see that where I want to stand at the front of the room in front of my white board where I want to teach the camera app on the laptop is going to show me what that view is going to look like. Alright, just position this a little bit further away so it captures a little more of the room and I can see some of the students that will be sitting on the other side of the room as well. Doing it this way ensures that the camera is not at the back of the room facing me as a teacher or behind me. Nobody wants to look at the back of your head while you're trying to teach your class.

We want to ensure that we're projecting an image of equity here for students that aren't physically in the room so that they feel included and engaged in the lesson content even though they're not physically here. That's why it's important to have this device situated where we would have a student sitting and projecting the image from that point. Now I'm right handed, so I have my laptop sitting on this part of the room so that I can physically manipulate content that's on the screen or on the device, and I don't have to have my back to the class. And reach across my body to do so, which is what I would have to do. It was on the other side of the room. These are simple things, but we overlook this sort of stuff when we're setting up our classroom for a digital landscape or a blended learning environment. But it's very important to consider.

Another thing we might want to consider as well is accessibility when we look at classroom set up to now being a secondary teacher, some of the class rooms I've taught in the past, they get really echoey. It's very difficult to hear when you're in that environment, let alone if you have to project your lesson through a microphone and have students sitting at the other end listening to it through a pair of speakers or headphones, you may want to consider something like a headphone with a microphone headset here as an Accessibility option, but make sure you test all this stuff out first. Run through some demonstrations or simulations with your audio quality in your room. Check that echo out and make sure that people that are on the other end of that video conference can properly hear the environment so that you're not hamstrung by poor quality audio in your lessons and you can maintain that quality teaching.

Lighting is another important consideration for your classroom. Now we've got a really interesting studio setup here with some lights that are projecting onto me and enhancing the image. But you don't necessarily have to have a professional setup, but certainly consider the placement of lighting in your room and consider the quality of that image that students are seeing on the other end. Consider the resources that you're actually projecting as well and the level of detail that you're going to be expecting students to be accessing when they're looking at a screen, and they may have a device at home with a smaller screen. So that sums up part one, looking at the ways that we set technology up in our classroom for quality teaching and learning, and in the next video, we're going to actually run you through some of the ways that we can use this technology to teach a lesson.