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

## Stage Six Part One Transcript

Welcome to Blending Home and School Learning, Part 1. Hacks to deliver the best learning experience. Today, in part one, we're going to be going through preparation and setup of lessons, how to support stage six learners and feedback and assessment.

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We're going to get into preparation. You need to look at the things that you need to prepare for getting your blended learning for want of a better word where you have got local students sitting in your classroom and remote students sitting at home.

For Stage 6, there's that bit of maturity, so we should be able to have that interaction with no problems happening there. How are you going to actually organize your time tables so that your students that are still at home know when, the lessons are going to be on and your local students know what's going on as well. Communicate that very clearly. And the most important thing is to make sure that your students have access to the technology, both your students at school and the students that are at home.

Have they got reasonable Internet to be able to connect and see what's happening with you at the same time. There may be compromises so you need to know what those compromises are with some of your students before you start delivering a super feature rich lesson, if they can't see what you're doing, so make sure you've got all of those areas sorted out.

### Preparation and testing

One of the big things that you need to make sure is that you've also tested your environment. We're going to go through a classroom setup, but I would suggest that before you kick off, your TSOs are going to be spending quite a bit of time with each of the teachers setting you up so that you know what's going on. You need to be comfortable with what you are using.

We're going to try and keep it as simple as possible so that you're not making major changes with the way you would normally teach. If you've got interactive whiteboards, main learning displays, or MoCows. That might make it easier for you. If you're not familiar with those, you are probably better off just staying with the laptop. But make sure that both you and your students are well resourced.

If you're setting up a lesson where you need concrete bits and pieces for them to work with, you might need blocks to understand some math problems, whatever it is, if the students at home need to get those things prior, get that information to them before the lesson, so they've got that stuff in front of them, ready to go. They've got to be ready to go with that.

### Accessibility

The other thing that you may need to look at is any support that you need for your learners.

Accessibility is something that you need to look at so that they need to be able to see the text. Tools like Immersive Reader, maybe something that the students could use, it's available in most of the Microsoft products and if they need to have a better text, consider those things for your Accessibility students as well.

### Classroom setup

So what we're going to move now to, is classroom setup, and this is most important.

So. With your classroom setup, you've got to be aware of the fact that you have got students in your class and they're going to be online. If you're going to be presenting to a white board or an interactive panel, then you need to be in a position where the students that are online can see you. The way I would be setting that up would be at the simplest level, a laptop with a webcam. The webcam is going to be pointing to you little things, like if you're right handed you will tend to teach this way. Your laptop needs to be on the left hand side of the classroom. As you're facing it, pointing to you because, it will see this. If I was left handed with the computer over here, all you're seeing is the back of my head. We don't want that. Conversely, if you're a left-handed teacher, your laptop should be on the right hand side of the screen, pointing to you. Put it in a position that would be where a student would sit normally on the side of the class.

Audio is probably one of the most important things. This is why I want you to get in your tech person to have a look at the tech that you're using. If the microphone on your laptop works effectively, make sure that you've tested it with a teacher that's not in the room and see if they're picking up your audio really, really well from your laptop. A normal whiteboard would be great, but how do your kids online see what's going on? So now we've got to look at digital whiteboards. Microsoft Whiteboard is a great product, easily downloadable on Windows, iOS devices, and there are online versions of it as well, which allow you to use it on any platform. Being able to have that and write up like you normally would in a classroom really, really good tools. VC options are Teams and Zoom, they're the medium you'll use to actually connect to your kids.

So In summary, the sorts of things that you need to consider are preparation, make sure that you've got everything ready to go. Make sure that your students are prepared and they've got all the resources that they need for the particular lesson. Communicate with them. Make sure that you've tested everything and its working correctly. You may be able to get away with simply a laptop that is all you need.  Get yourself a decent little microphone setup. A little Lavalier Mic might be something if you've got those resources.  Make sure that you've got everything prepped up on your screen, ready to go. So if you want to be able to show the kids a video, have that preloaded. If you want to use the whiteboard, have that preloaded, make it so much easier for you to use. Choose which of the video conferencing tools you're going to use, be it Zoom or Teams, and stick with that, and then also communicate with your students what it is that you're going to be using. They need to be familiar as well as you.

Screen sharing is the best way to actually use both of those tools, and once you enter screen sharing, everything that's appearing on your laptop screen. Both your local students in your room and your remote students at home are both seeing the same thing. Make sure that you have a look at the Learning From Home website because there are a tonne of little helpful tools in there for you and so that's basically the end of part one here, and we're going to be moving on to Part 2. I'll see you in that area.