Building an open school community

Cambridge Schools Conference, Dubai
Breakout session

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IT ALWAYS SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE UNTIL IT'S DONE.
-NELSON MANDELA

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Introduction

▶ Worldwide education community

▶ Range of events

  ▶ Cambridge School Conferences

  ▶ Face to face training

  ▶ Forums on Teachers Support website

  ▶ Social media forums

▶ Launch of Cambridge School Communities

▶ Create a local support network

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Why Cambridge school community

▶ Networking

▶ Collaboration

▶ Sharing best practice

▶ Mentoring new schools

▶ Advocacy

▶ Expansion of professional development

▶ Shared events for students

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Benefits of establishing a community

▶ **For schools:**

  ▶ Increased collaboration

  ▶ Sharing best practice

  ▶ Improved quality of member schools

  ▶ Less isolation, more networking

  ▶ Better support from a wider network of colleagues

  ▶ Shared teachers training and events for students

▶ **For Cambridge:**

  ▶ Feedback from one /big platform

  ▶ Increased understanding of local context

  ▶ Better support for schools

Aims of Cambridge School Community

▸ Support schools in the effective delivery of Cambridge curriculum and assessments

▸ Help shape the learning agenda in their area

▸ Be a source of communication between schools and between the schools and Cambridge

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Cambridge school community in Pakistan

- Formed nine communities in October 2017
- Welcomed by majority of member schools
- Active participation
- Community spirit

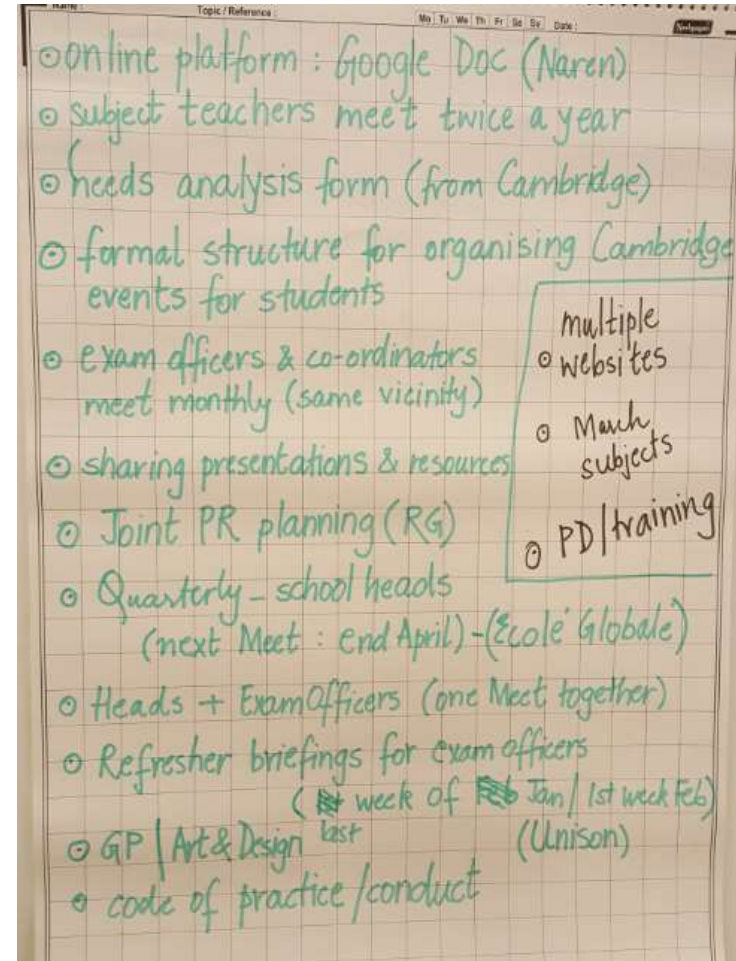| Human resource development	Teaching and learning
• Draft an HR policy with some common key elements • CPD policy • Collaborative activity • Sharing resources (tangible / non-tangible)	• Quality of education (policy) in detail • Sharing ideas & best practices • Sending teachers' expertise • Teachers training • Observation (by others)
Holistic growth of students	**Voice**
• Curriculum (policy) • Enrichment (policy) • Shared calendar of events	• Values agreed • Standards agreed (to the policies) for registration as Cambridge International school • Platform for approaching local authorities

Cambridge School Community in India

- Seven communities in India
    - Four in North India
    - Three in South India (one more to follow)
- Two communities had three meetings since November 2016 in North
- In South, one meeting in each quarter
- Each community has a WhatsApp group

Some examples of informal collaboration

China:

▸ Collaboration on WeChat e.g. PD Group, Exam Officer Group since 2016

Sub-Saharan Africa:

▸ Ghana, Zambia, South Africa, Zimbabwe

Europe:
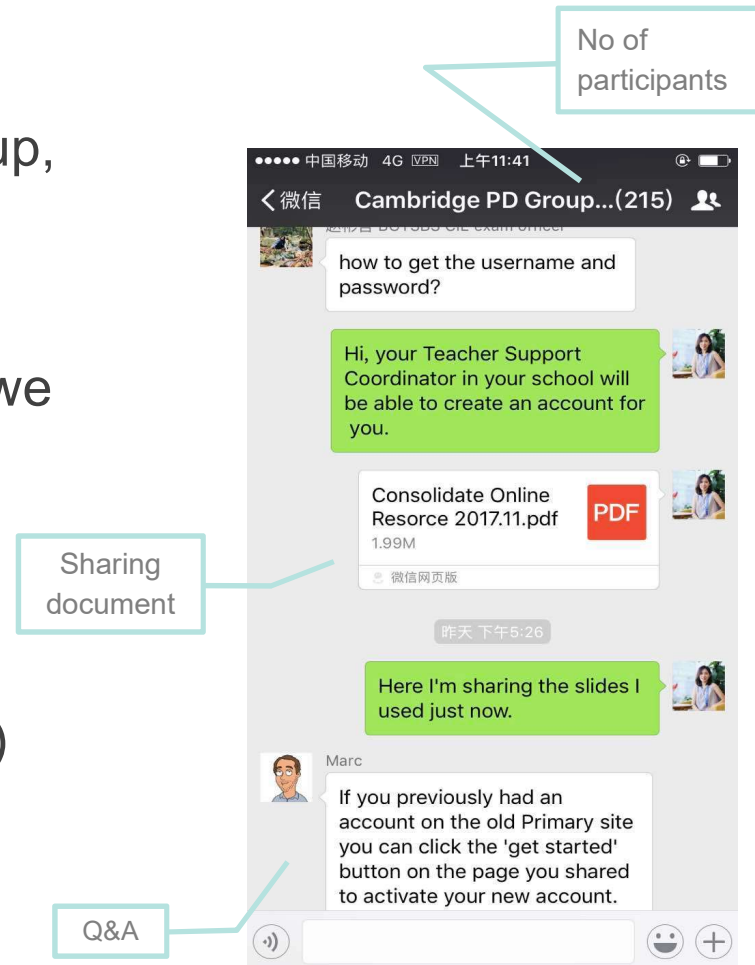
▸ Facebook group in Italy (two years)

India:

▸ Informal WhatsApp groups (each prog)

▸ Cambridge Exams Officers group

Pakistan:

▸ Schools holding subject-specific trainings, student events and exhibitions

▸ PDQ PL community on Facebook

No of participants

Sharing document

Q&A

Future

▸ Subject network groups

▸ Calendar of teachers trainings by the community

▸ Established mechanism to advise Cambridge (Advisory Councils)

▸ Annual events for students

▸ Periodic meet ups by school leaders

▸ Collaboration with other school communities

Reflection

▶ One aspect that the school community must focus on

▶ How do you think being part of Cambridge School Community can benefit your school in your local context?

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Next step for you

▸ If interested, you can contact your local Cambridge Representative to seek help in formation of Cambridge School Community in your country / region (formal or informal)

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Thank you
Any questions?