

## Summer Term June 2020



Dear Colleagues,

I hope this finds you all well.

I thought we should begin this term's newsletter with a TEAMS picture of the Infinite Learning Team! We are all smiling - which could possibly have something to do with the fact that the end of term is nigh!

I am sure this is a most familiar image – one representing a way of working for all of us, that has completely become 'the norm' in recent months. Thank goodness for TEAMS and Zoom keeping us all connected! There is no doubt that despite the challenges of recent times, there have also been opportunities. As life slowly starts to creep back to normal, we can reflect and acknowledge that we have all learnt so much from this entire experience and one hopes that many of these learnings will influence the future in positive ways.

As a parent, I have been extremely impressed with the level of education my children have received during this period. Schools have done an incredible job and, **you**, the teachers and leaders of these schools, are to be congratulated. The online provision has been outstanding and if my children are anything to go by, students have quickly adapted and continued studying to the high levels we have come to expect of education in this region.

That said, I do not believe that any of us would ever wish for this way of living and learning to continue on a long-term basis. We are human beings. We naturally crave that social contact and connection with one another. This is never more true than with children, teachers, schools and education. Whilst Infinite Learning is expanding its online professional learning portfolio and whilst schools across the world continue to climb that technological learning curve, I do not believe online learning, in child or adult learning, will or ever should fully replace that face to face experience that is so fundamentally important to effective learning and teaching. I am sure we all hope for as normal as possible a return to school in September.

In the meantime, as always, Infinite Learning is here to support any professional learning needs you may have. We are now offering a wide range of **virtual courses** and many of these will continue to run over the summer. Of particular interest may be the **15 Safeguarding courses** we are offering in partnership with The Safeguarding Alliance: <https://www.infinitelearning.ae/el-safeguarding/> We can also arrange any virtual training for your **August INSET** week. Our latest '**Heads Up!**' has all the details on this, as well as details of all forthcoming professional learning opportunities for next term - both online and, we hope later into the term, F2F. You can access the Heads Up! here: <https://www.infinitelearning.ae/heads-up-28-06-20/> Please visit the eLearning area of our website and if you have any queries or would like some bespoke training for August, please do not hesitate to email me directly: [rebecca@infinitelearning.ae](mailto:rebecca@infinitelearning.ae).

Another reminder that the next **NPQH, NPQSL and NPQML Application Windows are now open**. For further information please visit <https://www.infinitelearning.ae/npqhnpgslnpqml/>

We obviously do not have our usual Face-to-Face course feedback for you this term, but we do have some wonderful testimonials from attendees of our free Webinar series, as well as from our online courses. Please take a look below.

## **DELEGATE FEEDBACK - ELEARNING VIRTUAL COURSE**

### **COACHING SKILLS FOR UNCERTAIN TIMES**

#### **MAKING STUFF BETTER – MATT HALL & GILL KELLY**

##### **MAY 2020 COHORT 1**

*'As a senior leader to work through this light touch course with Matt and Gill was incredibly useful and not an imposition. It was a great opportunity to reflect on whether I really am 'listening' to my staff and helping them find their own solutions and ways forward. Refreshing and reflective - I recommend working with Matt and Gill.'*  
Shane O'Brien – Director of Jumeirah English Speaking School, Dubai

*An empowering experience for all involved! The shift from mentor to coach is very significant and quite challenging when, as a teacher, you are so familiar with giving advice. The coaching techniques facilitated by Matt and Gill develop you as a coach to listen carefully, look for other signals and ask the right questions so the clients find their own answers. Matt and Gill modelled great coaching and provided a learning environment where you felt comfortable to 'have a go'. The homework tasks were very useful in reinforcing the coaching techniques and allowed us a space to reflect on our coaching and feedback from our clients. Discussing the homework task in the next session also helped us to share and improve on our coaching experiences. David Annand, Head of Year, Rashid School for Boys, Dubai*

## **DELEGATE FEEDBACK - WEBINARS**

### **SCHOOL REINTEGRATION AND SAFEGUARDING PREPARATION – COVID-19**

#### **THE SAFEGUARDING ALLIANCE – EMILY KONSTANTAS**

##### **19.05.2020 – 140 ATTENDEES**

*Thank you for the webinar Emily and Rebecca. I've been Deputy Head and a DSL in teaching internationally for 40 years and this was one of the most important and informative sessions I've attended. Very good indeed. Kim Holmes*

*It was a valuable and wonderful webinar organised by Infinite Learning in preparation with Covid-19. Ramya Vijayan*

*Thank you for organising the webinar and adding me to the webinar. It was a sum up of so many key points which otherwise would have been overlooked in regard to the pupil's safety. Dr Hera Chaudhry*

### **SCHOOL RISK ASSESSMENT DURING COVID-19**

#### **THE SAFEGUARDING ALLIANCE – EMILY KONSTANTAS AND PAUL READ**

##### **02.06.2020 – 85 ATTENDEES**

*Thank you again for yesterday webinar, very useful. Valerie Sanspeur Favre – Senior School Nurse, Horizon English School*

## **GROWTH MINDSET – DISPELLING THE MYTHS AND MISUNDERSTANDINGS. CREATING STRATEGIES THAT WORK!**

**JAMES ANDERSON**

**16.06.2020 - 93 ATTENDEES**

*I had the pleasure of attending your webinar this morning (evening for you) and am so grateful you shared this opportunity with so many educators and leaders around the world. Thank you for creating free opportunities and resources to help educators, parents, and students become more growth-oriented. Brittany Rehal*

*Thank you for the wonderful experience. I thoroughly enjoyed the session with James. Rinkle Jadeja*

*James Anderson is 'a natural' in front of the camera - we all felt we were in the room with him despite being miles apart! His delivery is relaxed yet engaging and one feels immediately at ease and fully involved. He is clearly extremely knowledgeable in his field and, as attendees, we were instilled with a great sense of confidence that we were learning from an expert who has 'walked the walk' and not someone who just 'talks the talk'! His findings are based on in-depth research and he was extremely generous to share multiple resources with us for free. Ultimately, it was a fun, thought-provoking webinar which left us wanting to know more and wanting to learn about Growth Mindset in greater depth. Thank you James! Brenna Candace*

*Thank you for the Growth Mindset webinar! It was extremely helpful and eye-opening. I'd like to thank James and the team at Infinite Learning for taking the time to deliver this webinar and answer related questions. Batool Hasan, Bahrain*

*This webinar has really taught me how to readjust my thinking and how to set my mind on things that can bring growth in my life. Manu Emmanuel*

*Excellent presentation with some pertinent matters raised. Nair Naela*

## **LEADERS WHO LEARN – LEARNERS WHO LEAD**

**NATALIE CROOME**

**22.06.2020 - 120 ATTENDEES**

*It was a wonderful experience listening to the lecture resonant with experiential authenticity. Leading and learning go hand in hand, a dynamic leader never ceases to be learner; in fact leadership skills are honed by the constant and consistent urge to learn. The recordings mean a lot to me. thank you once again.*

*Dr. Subodh Kumar Jha, Associate Professor & Head, Dept of English, S.N. Sinha College, Jehanabad, Magadh University, Bodh Gaya*

*I found this training very insightful and engaging. Truly do appreciate the free webinars, since we are still working from home. Look forward to future trainings. Kim Migneron*

*It reinforced my belief into how leaders should be an exemplar role model by true engagement in the learning process to inculcate that culture in his /her school. Agarwal Vandana, Al Salam School*

*I just want to thank you for this seminar. I have learned a lot. It is very helpful for a teacher like me who would want to instil and develop leadership skills on kids. My question is, could the current situation (digital teaching and learning) be a hindrance to this type of mindset or does it transcend any situation? Leslie Anne Dizon*

*Resilience and its importance in day to day life especially in this pandemic situation. Ashref Vaheeda*

## MANAGING CHANGE - HOW COACHING SKILLS CAN SUPPORT THE RETURN TO SCHOOL MAKING STUFF BETTER – MATT HALL & GILL KELLY 24.06.2020 - 64 ATTENDEES

*This is to thank you for this valuable lecture. It was indeed insightful. Looking forward to attending the upcoming webinars and participating in the survey of this webinar. Greetings from Morocco. Hajar Ourich.*

*One of the most informative webinars I have attended this period. Nancy Eldars*

*That was one of the most informative and thought-provoking webinars I have attended. Thank you. Love the real-life coaching example. Vikki Sarpong*

So, as we now approach the end of what has been a long and challenging summer term, The Infinite Learning team would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a wonderful summer holiday. You have earned it!

### Shades are on! Happy Hols! Keep safe and keep learning!



Rebecca Annand  
[rebecca@infinitelearning.ae](mailto:rebecca@infinitelearning.ae)



Paola Wingrove  
[paola@infinitelearning.ae](mailto:paola@infinitelearning.ae)



Sarah Munday  
[admin@infinitelearning](mailto:admin@infinitelearning)



Sharon Erlank  
[adminassistant@infinitelearning](mailto:adminassistant@infinitelearning)