BRITISH COUNCIL

Regional webinar programme for teachers in MENA

Webinar#3 Asynchronous platforms – getting the most out of Edmodo

Webinar 3 August 2020

Ask Hala

Thank you for your questions from our last webinar

If you'd like to look into Hala's suggested resources to help answer these questions, then click on the links below:

Assessing learning in the virtual environment

Motivating learners

Preparing learners for remote learning

Identifying suitable platforms for remote delivery

Involving parents in the learning process

And here is the link to the previous webinar if you missed it

Using WhatsApp and Facebook in teaching.

Flashback

In our last two webinars, we had a look at synchronous teaching platforms, with a focus on MS Teams & Facebook and WhatsApp

In today's webinar....

We're going to have a look at:

- What is asynchronous teaching?
- Why &When to use asynchronous teaching?
- Top tips for asynchronous teaching?
- Key considerations when moving asynchronous
- Edmodo technical and pedagogic uses + practical teaching ideas

Synchronous vs. Asynchronous teaching

Synchronous teaching happens in real time, you and your learners interact through the same virtual space at the same e.g. Zoom

Asynchronous teaching occurs through online channels without real-time interaction, you and your learners interact but not at the same time e.g. Edmodo

Synchronous vs. Asynchronous teaching?

Synchronous vs. Asynchronous teaching?

There's no **'good'** or **'bad'** approach. The **'ugly'** is when we don't keep an open mind for available options

It's Not Either Or….

Effective remote teaching requires a combination of both synchronous and asynchronous learning.

Why asynchronous platforms?

It promotes **peer collaboration**, outside the confines of a class schedule.

It allows learners to **reach out** for help when they need it.

It allows learners to work with the materials **in depth and as long as needed** before sharing their thoughts with others.

It is a richer, more **personalised** experience overall

Accessing materials, readings, assignments, quizzes and lesson recordings in **a single place** allows learners to explore topics **effectively** and at their **own pace.**

Supported by discussion forums and one-to-one communications, it creates **engagement** and a sense of **community**

It helps learners become more **independent/autonomous.**

It allows the teacher to pack more into the class and ensure their learners are getting **enough practice. (extending learning)**

When to use asynchronous platforms?

Learners and teacher are located in different time zones, **(flexibility)**

There is poor internet connectivity where streaming video is impossible, **(affordability)**

There are very large groups of learners, or when it's hard or impossible to assemble a group at a particular time **(practicality)**

It's difficult for your learners to keep to a specific schedule due to family issues or disabilities, **(inclusivity)**

Top pedagogic tips for asynchronous teaching

Revisit your syllabus and learning objectives for the term.

Without the benefit of live interaction, **it's especially important to communicate**

Making time to **set expectations**, provide **clear instructions** and **respond** to learner discussion threads is critical.

Create a comfortable environment: a safe space for learners to ask questions and let off steam, if they're finding some aspects of the course difficult. **A little humor** can go a long way here, too.

Apply (3 Rs): Rules, Routine, Reward

Steer back to the forums/**Encourage a group dynamic**

Give your learners a push

Set tangible **deadlines** and **check-in points** that will keep everyone on track.

Don't forget to praise learners

Key consideration when moving to asynchronous:

How and when will you provide feedback?

How will you make lessons accessible and entertaining?

How will you promote higher order thinking? HOT/LOT

How will you divide units into smaller lessons?

Hear from the teachers….

There are a lot of students that have opened up to me on the Edmodo platform and told me things they may not have told me on another platform that was less inviting to more personal conversation. Unlike other platforms, Edmodo can be MORE than just a place for teachers to post assignments– it can be a place that helps facilitate the kinds of personal interactions that students need in their lives– particularly those that come from poverty, those that are introverts, and/or those on the autism spectrum. Mr. Fairfield

Hear from the teachers...

You know, it is kind of corny but the Facebook like features are what gets the students attention when they first start their account. I think the familiarity gives them some confidence in the process of online instruction.—Chef Carrie

How to create Edmodo account:

You can create a free account on Edmodo by following the below steps:

- Go to www.Edmodo.com website and then click Sign Up button in the top right.
- You will find 3 account types, choose the right one for you.

How to create Edmodo account:

1- Teacher Account:

- You can sign up using your Gmail/Microsoft email address or you need to fill some tabs manually like “Your email address – Password – Confirm password – School code”.
- **School code:** This is optional, you do not need to fill it except if you receive it from your school’s admin user.
- Then you need to activate your account by click the link in the verification email that will be sent it to your email address. If you did not find it in the inbox, please check the spam/junk mail section.

Teacher Account can:

- Create and join classes and groups.
- Add student accounts or invite members with a code/link.
- Post to a class or group and like/comment on posts.
- Manage class and group members and moderate posts.
- Create and administer digital assignments and quizzes.
- Share folders for all class or group members.
- Discuss ideas and share resources with other teachers.
- Explore free teaching resources and educational apps.
- Get unlimited file storage in their Library.
- Send message to their students, parents, or and teacher.
- Create a group conversation with multiple students.

Teacher Account cannot:

- Send messages to students they are not connected to through their Classes.

How to create Edmodo account:

2- Student Account:

- You can sign up using your Gmail/Microsoft email address or you need to fill some tabs manually like “Class **or** school code – Username – Email “optional” – Password – Confirm Password”.
- **Class code:** The teacher can send the class code to their students.
- **School code:** The school’s admin can send the school code to their students.

Note: Filling the code is required in order to register.

Student Account can:

- Join a class and group with a private code or invitation.
- Post to a class or group and like/comment on posts.
- Take and submit digital assignments and quizzes.
- Access folders shared by their teacher.
- Explore free learning resources and educational apps.
- Get unlimited file storage in their Backpack.
- Organize tasks and set custom notifications with the Planner.
- Send a direct message to their teacher or parent.

Student Account cannot:

- Create their own classes or groups.
- Post to a class or group if they are set to “read only”.
- Send direct messages to other students unless in a group conversation created by the teacher.

How to create Edmodo account:

3- Parent Account:

- You can sign up using your Gmail/Microsoft email address or you need to fill some tabs manually like “Your phone number with the country code or your email – Password”.
- Then you need to fill you first and last name.
- Enter the parent code to stay up-to-date on your student’s class activities: You can find it on the bottom left corner of the student's profile home page.
- You can add more than one parent code if you have more than one child.

Parent Account can:

- Connect to their student with a private code or invitation.
- View posts created by the teacher or their connected student.
- View upcoming and completed tasks in their student’s Planner.
- Connect to more than one student account if they have multiple children using Edmodo.
- Send a direct message to their student’s teacher.
- View conversations between their student and teacher.

Parent Account cannot:

- Create their own classes or groups.
- Post to a class or group.
- Like/comment on posts not directed to parents.
- View posts that are hidden by the teacher.
- Send messages to other students or parents.

Practical teaching ideas!

Setting up a class – a suggested work plan

Step 1: Create Your Class

Step 2: Add Learners to Your Class

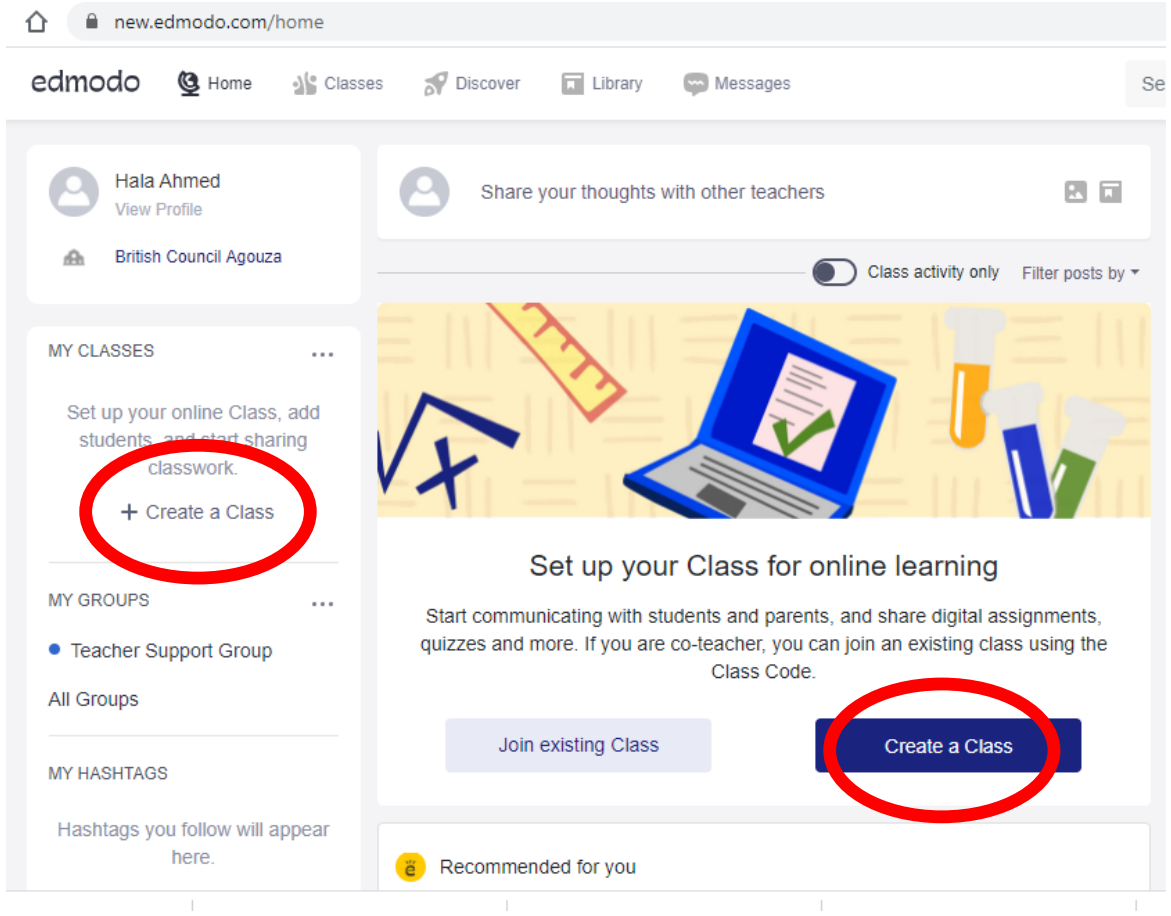
Step 3: Load Your Class with Resources and Learning Activities

Create **pinned posts** for Announcements, Agendas, and Class Discussions

Create a **Poll** or Wellness Check for a Quick Class Check-In

Create a **Quiz** to Check Understanding

Create an **Assignment** for Capturing Learnings



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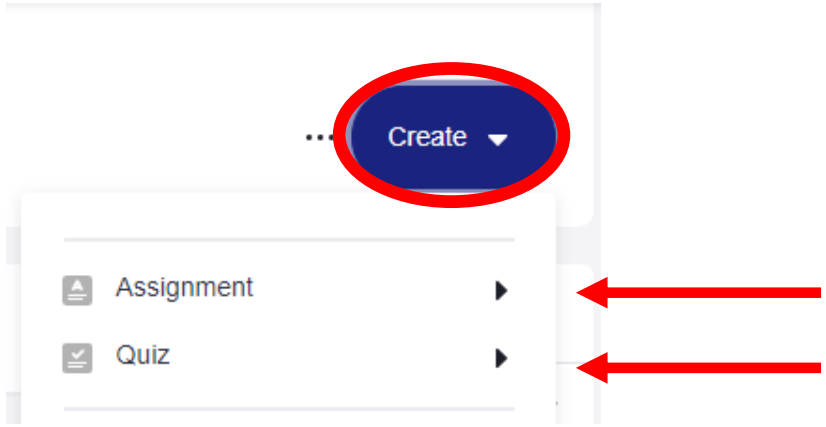


Edmodo and learner engagement

First things first:

Bring learners on board

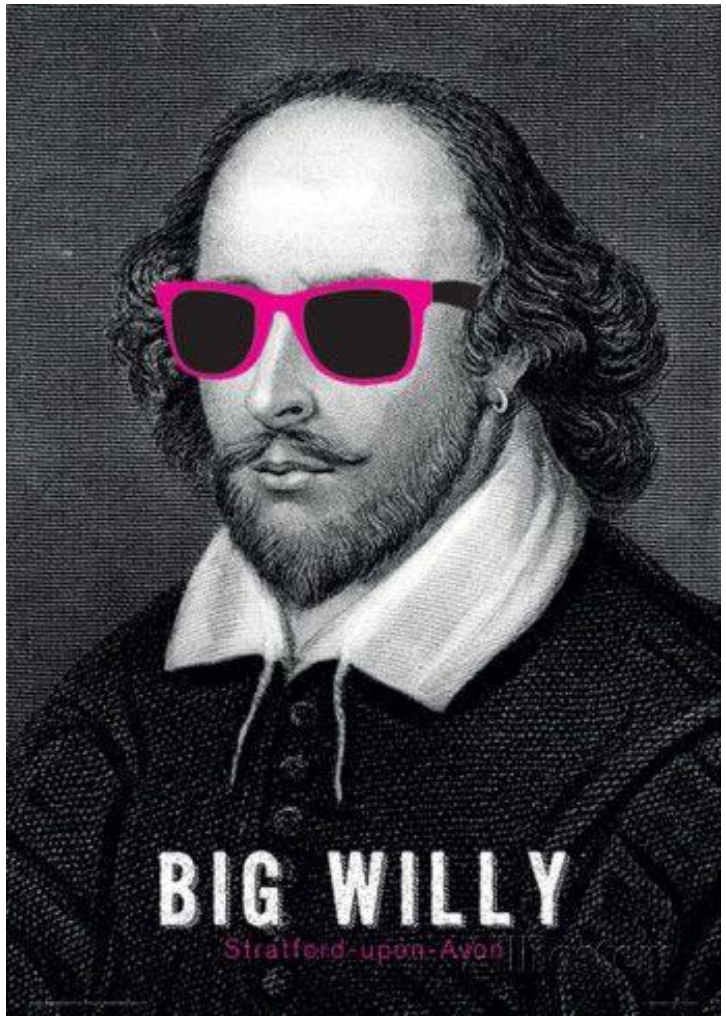
Learner training

Digital literacy

Three activities to get your learners on board

- Digital Treasure Hunt
- Digital Resource Comparison
- Mini Presentation Piece

Treasure hunt



Digital Scavenger Hunt: William Shakespeare

- To complete the scavenger hunt below, you will need to be curious and resourceful, as well as apply what you have learned about "skimming and scanning" the text for information you need.
- Read the question, click on the link, and look for your answer! Once you have the information you need, write your answers on this document, using complete sentences and direct evidence from the website.
- Remember, you do not have to read *everything* on the page, just look for the answers to the questions.

1. Click here to learn about William Shakespeare's life and death.
   - When was Shakespeare's birthday?
   - When did he die?
   - Where was he born?
   - How would you describe the community in which he lived?
   - How was his life as a child and young man different from your modern life?

2. Click here to learn about Shakespeare's family life.
   - What was Shakespeare's wife's name?
   - How old were they when they got married?
   - How many children did Shakespeare and his wife have?
   - Describe a difficult family situation the Shakespeare family experienced.

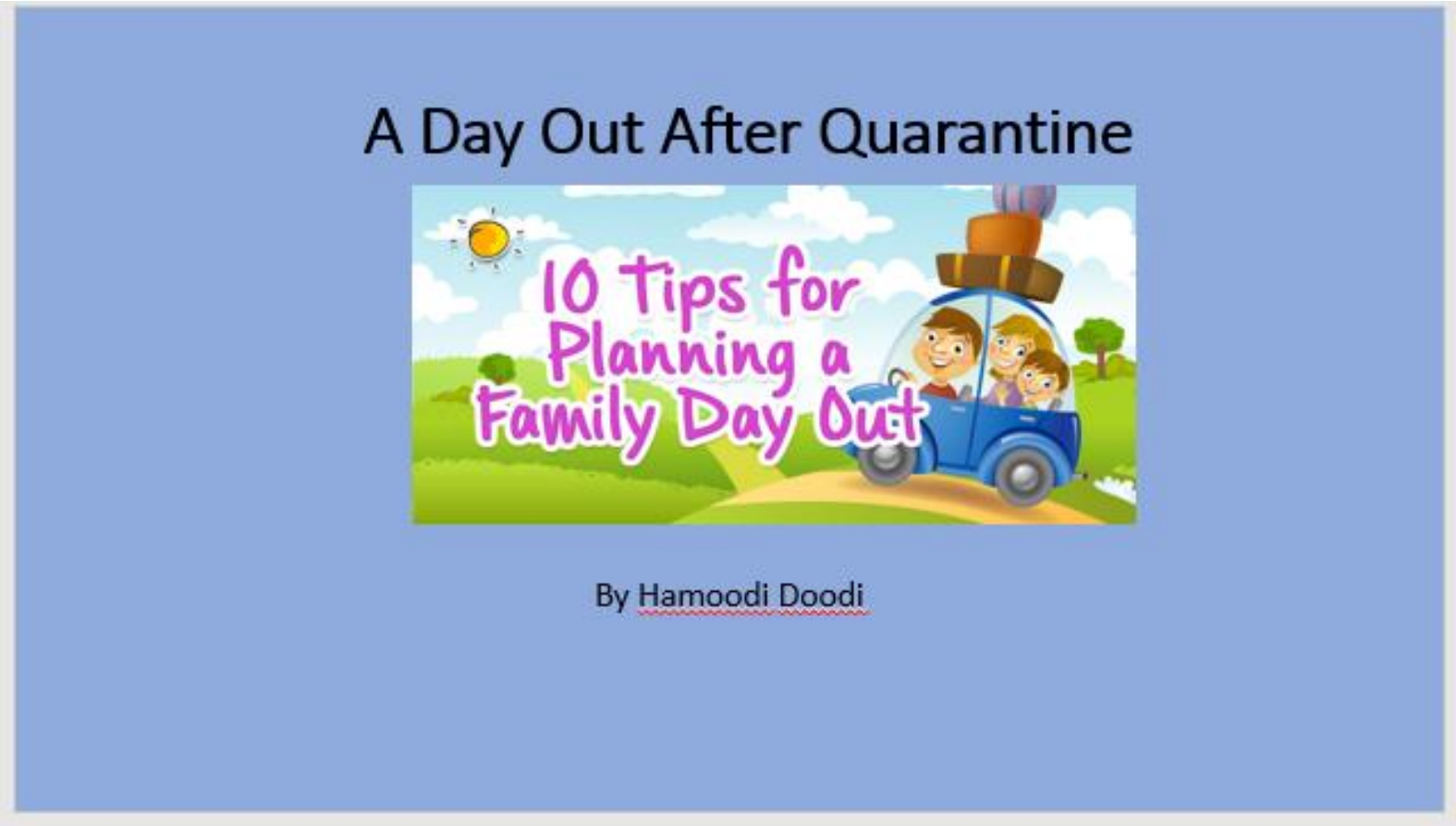
3. Click here to read a few of Shakespeare's sonnets.
   - Choose a sonnet and rewrite it in your own (modern) words.
   - What do you think about the theory that Shakespeare was not the actual author of these some of these sonnets? Use evidence from the website to support your opinion.

4. Click here to read about London and Stratford during Shakespeare's time.
   - Describe the original Globe Theater's location and layout.
   - Describe how the audience viewed performances at the original Globe Theater

Graphic organiser

Topic (Advice to tourists xx)	video	article	textbook
format			
audience			
Learning points			

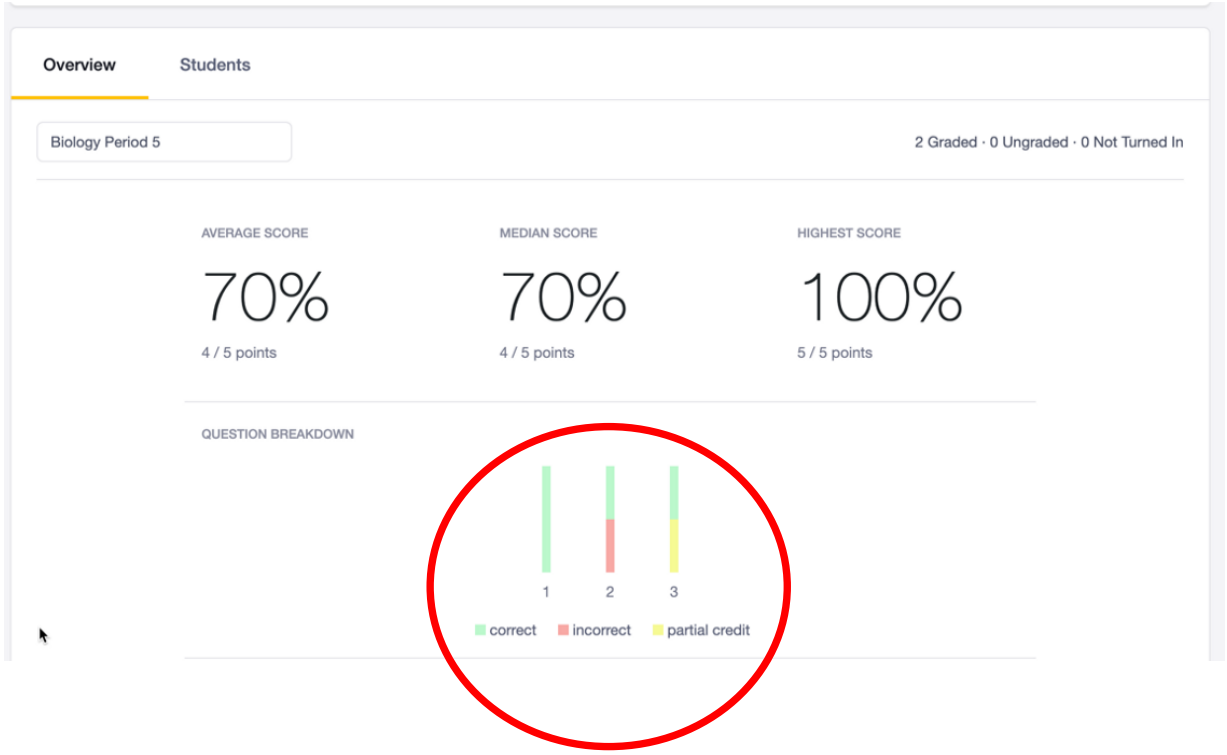
Mini presentation piece



Edmodo and AfL (Assessment for Learning)

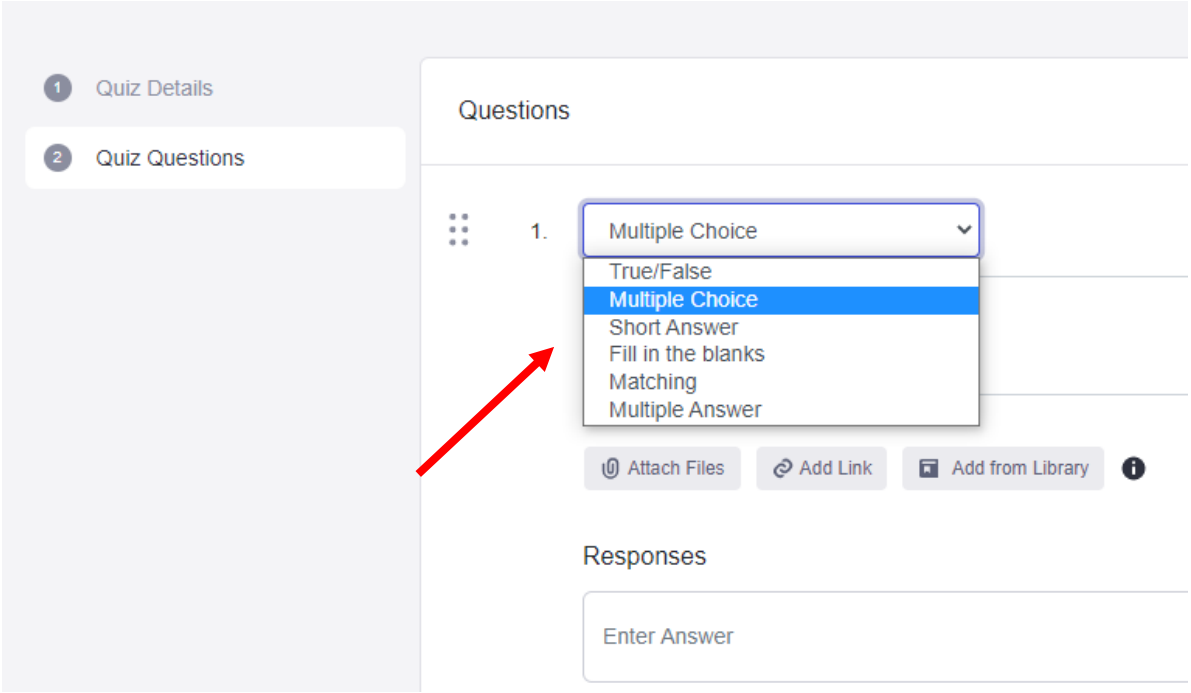
Edmodo's Quizzes offer a variety of question types (most of which are automatically graded) and allow you to attach images, videos, sound clips, and PDFs, to the questions.

The Quiz results are automatically tallied and you can see at a glance whether any particular concept requires a bit more focus.



Edmodo and AfL (Assessment for Learning)

1. Conduct a **“Get to know you”** survey
2. Create a **reading companion** for the class syllabus
3. **Daily exit tickets or bell-ringers**
4. Give **practice quizzes** before the big test!
5. **“Trivia Quiz”** about your learners! (find someone who)



Edmodo and building learner community

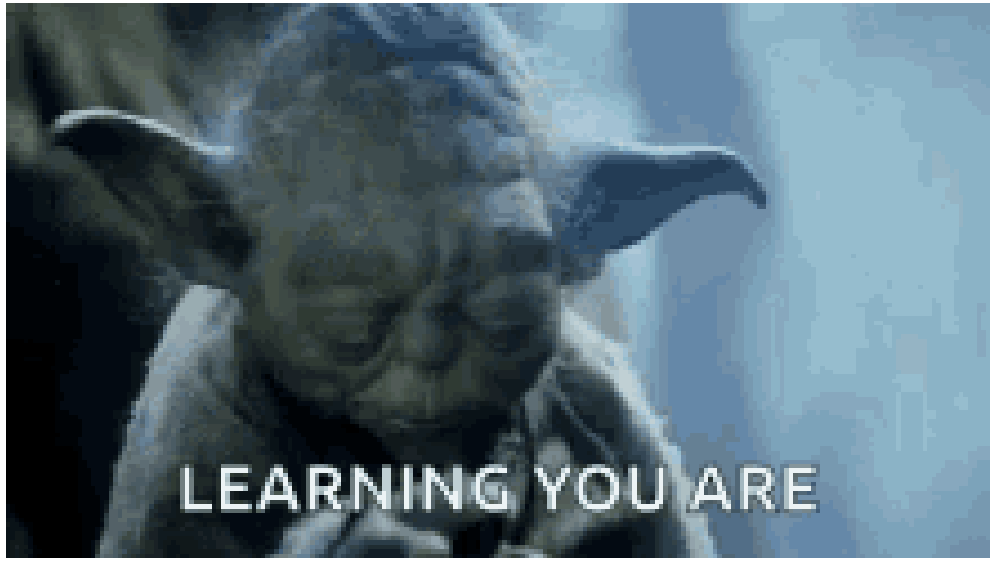
1. Meet your learners where they are

You're teaching Gen Z/post millennials

You can use GIFs for: daily check-ins, celebrate success, informally check for understanding.

Your learners can share GIFs to: models their reaction to the end of a novel, explain how they feel about an upcoming test, illustrate their opinion in a debate or discussion.

"I believe GIFs are a great way to express how we feel, which is vital to building classroom culture and positive relationships within the learner community."



Edmodo and building learner community

2. Create a sense of community

Don’t give up your daily **routines**

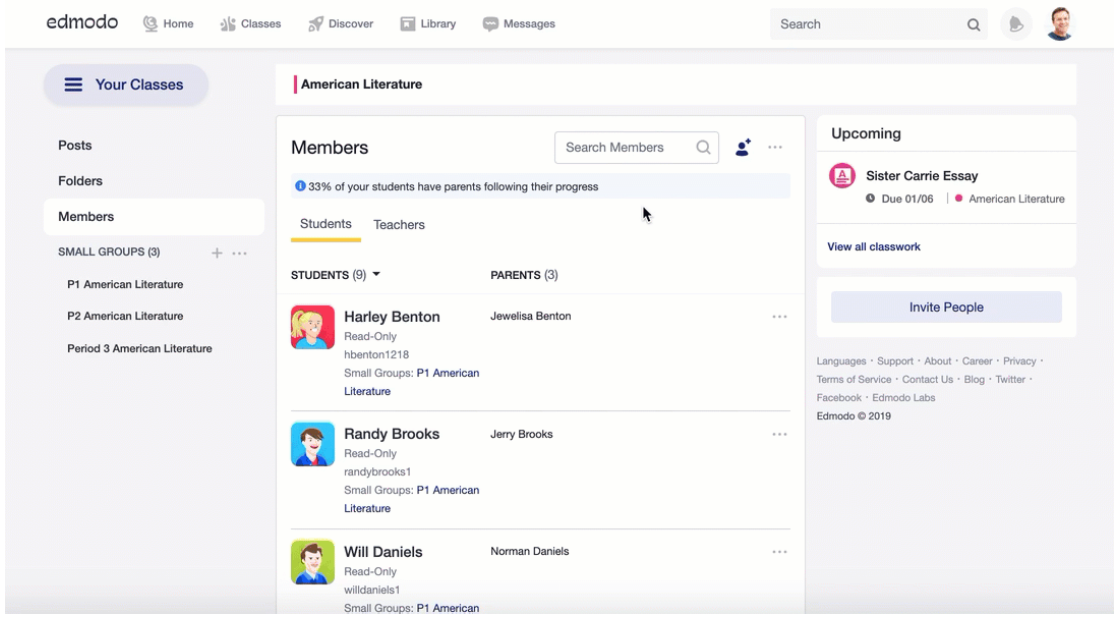
Find ways for learners to showcase parts of **their lives**

Respect learner **choice**

Continue your inside **jokes** using memes

Maintain a respectful digital **environment** for discussion

Recognize and **reward** positive learner behavior

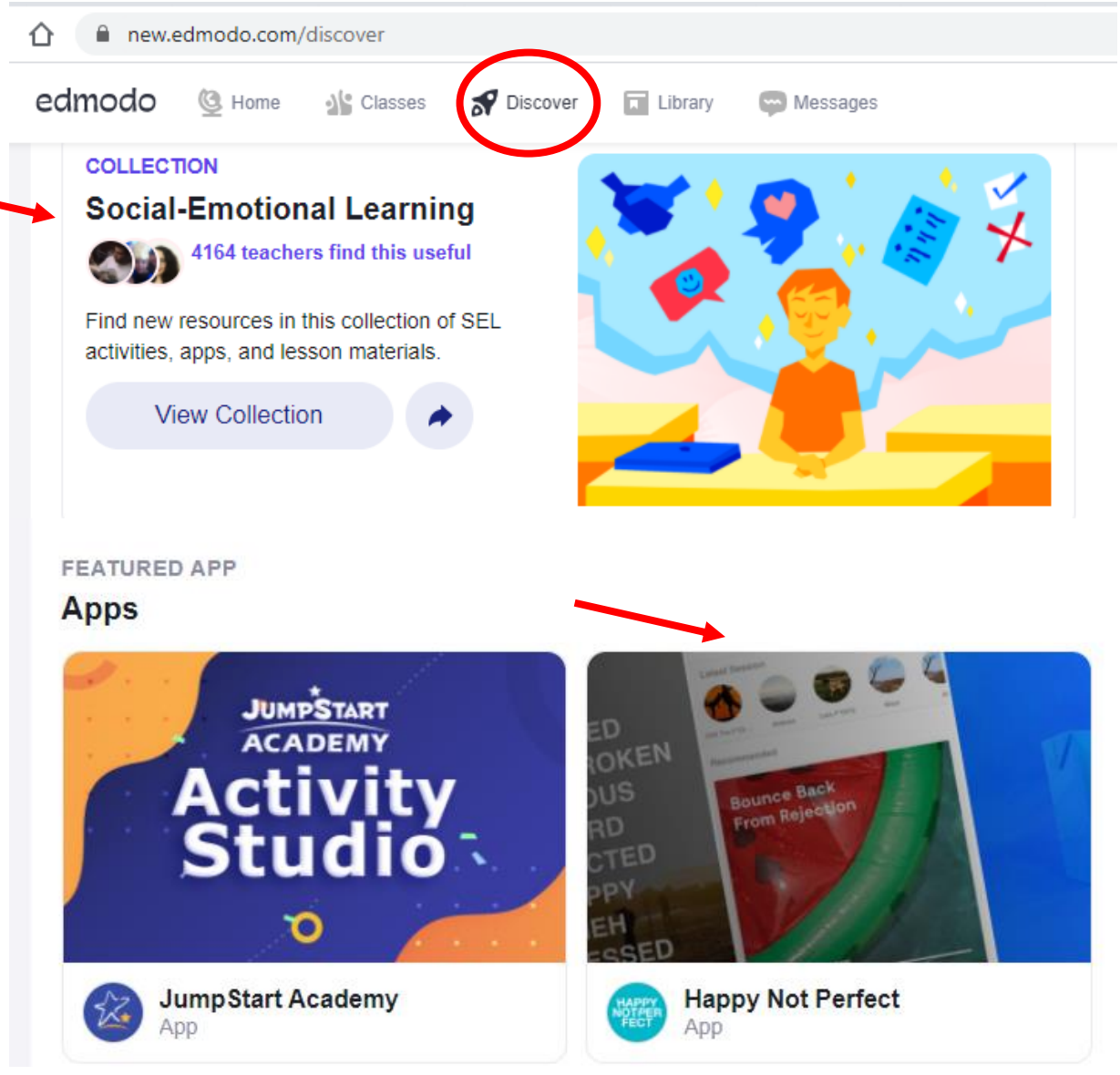


Edmodo and building learner community

3. Social emotional learning resources

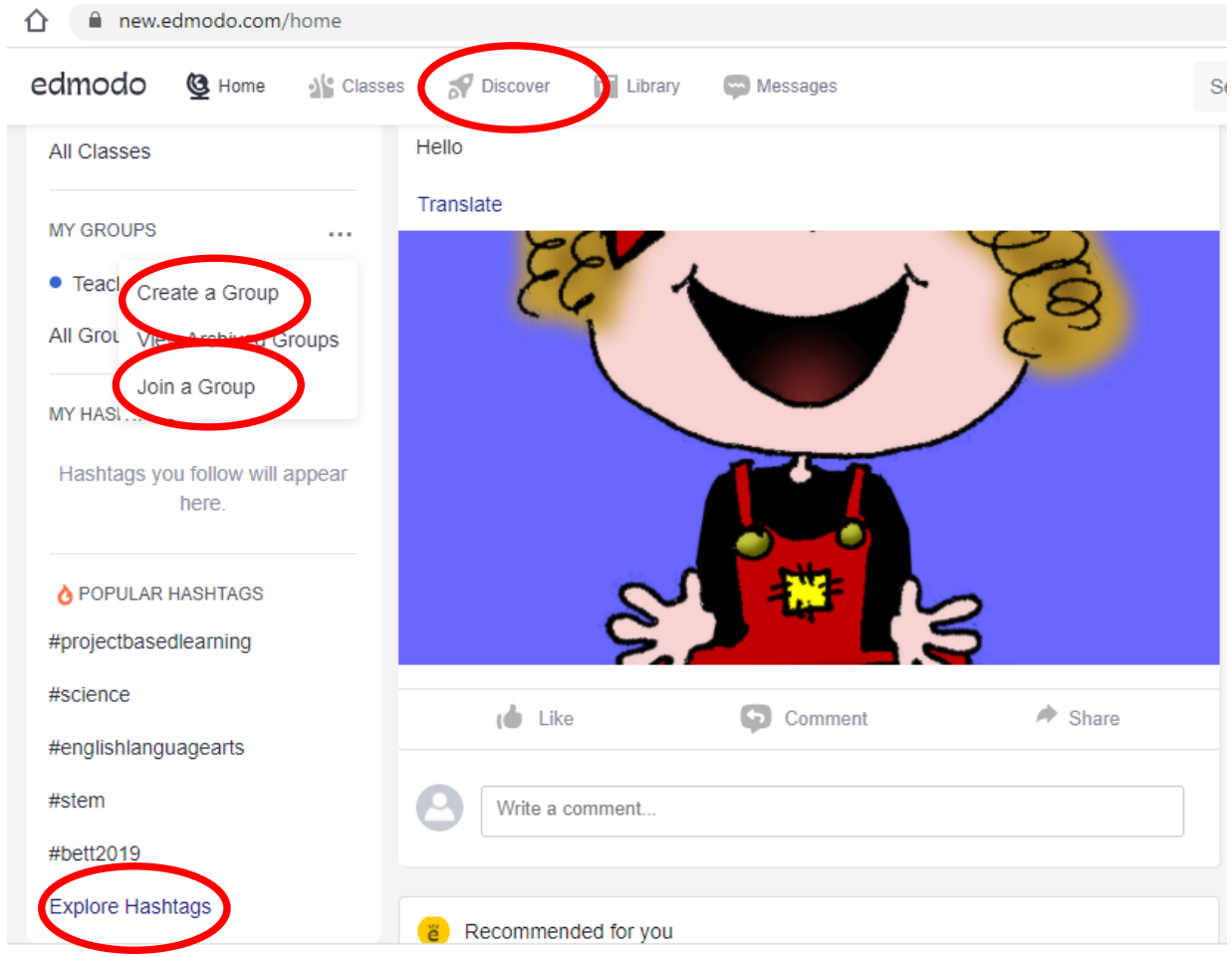
Go to **'Discover'** and find:

- SEL collection
- Happy Not Perfect



Edmodo and teacher collaboration

- **Create or Join** a Professional Development Group
- Search for and Follow **Hashtags** (#edmodotips)
- **Discover!**
- **Connect** with Teachers
- #Edmodochat on Twitter!



Online safety (recap)

On Edmodo, there is **no direct messaging** between learners

Do not post **group codes** publicly

Lock group codes after all learners have joined

Monitor learner posts

Use **“read-only” status** when needed

Use code of conduct/**Netiquette**

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We've looked at:

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- Why &When to use asynchronous teaching?
- Top tips for asynchronous teaching?
- Key considerations when moving asynchronous
- Edmodo technical and pedagogic uses + practical teaching ideas

- **Next webinar we'll be talking about 'Blended Learning'**

Useful resources…

TeachingEnglish British Council Facebook

TeachingEnglish British Council website – Covid 19 page

British Council Teacher Educator community site

British Council Teacher Community Group

https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/blogs/milica-vukadin/setting-a-classroom-or-teacher-training-lms-learning-management-system-edmodo

https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/blogs/nelson-arditto/online-learning-communities

https://www.commonsense.org/education/digital-citizenship/curriculum

https://www.english.com/blog/asynchronous-online-learning-1-managing-forums/

https://go.edmodo.com/teachers/

Thank you