

# College Life

2020-2021 Vol.1

## Education in online learning

Reporter : Heigen Lam 5C (18)

How was your performance in the first term exam after months of learning on the Internet? Compared with the period attending lessons online, did you find yourself more capable of handling the knowledge taught in actual face-to-face classes? According to a recent research conducted by CUHK, over 50% of Hong Kong secondary school students expressed the need for extra assistance for online learning. However, can we truly say that e-learning has a dimming future?

Delving into the period during remote learning, online platforms like Google Classroom and Google Meet have become imperative for both teachers and students. Teachers have to know how to use video-recording and editing software, then post them on Google Classroom. For some schools, students have to get used to half-day learning and also submitting their assignments online. Hence teachers and students have to adapt to a new mode of learning and teaching. Classroom interaction has changed and it seems that there's a gap between the expectation of what online education is between

teachers and students: About 67% of students feel bored with online lessons, to ensure the progress of students, assigning homework has become more frequent, probably because this is considered one way of monitoring students' progress by teachers. On the other hand, it means that teachers have to put even more effort in preparing for lessons, and students have to put more effort to cope with the workload and therefore the soaring stress that comes with that. Yet the problem of overdue homework is in fact worsened at most cases.

Undeniably, it would totally be a plight for those underprivileged students who do not have a pleasant learning environment (i.e. quiet environment) at home or who do not have sufficient electronic devices. From an article from the South China Morning Post: 'Experts have also warned of a widening gap between more well-off pupils and those from lower-income families, with studies during the pandemic showing about 10 percent of students had no electronic devices at home.' It may make a huge difference between both kinds of students. Thus,

some suggest that 'making free Wi-fi available across the entire city can help those who cannot afford electricity fees'. Moreover, students from primary school and kindergarten often require assistance to set-up their electronic devices for them or follow the teacher's instructions to complete classwork from family members. Family members' role in students' education has become more important and more demanding. Students' health has become a concern because of the lack of physical exercise and the long duration of watching (small) screens of electronic devices.

To end this article, I'll use two quotes from the newspaper and magazine respectively. "Still, amid the pandemic, we could see many pupils yearned for face-to-face classes. Therefore, I believe the future for education will be blended learning, with a combination of both online and on-site lessons for students.", "We have to embrace technology. It's coming our way whether we like it or not."



## Safety of using Zoom/ Google Meet

Reporters: 4C(17) Wan Sum Yee 4D(10) Liu Ling Chi

Since the spread of the pandemic, online tech associated learning has become our recent daily routine. Undoubtedly, video conference platforms, like Google Meet and Zoom do make our days easier. However, in the meantime, some online safety concerns have been raised. Zoom had a rapid increase in usage when global lockdown occurred. Users were not aware of cyber security issues. After users realize the problem, Zoom's security problems soon grabbed our attention and have gone viral. According to the BBC news published in April this year, Zoom has been criticized for a range of privacy issues. Sending user data to Facebook, wrongly claiming the platform had end-to-end encryption, and allowing meeting hosts to track attendees etc. were some problems that was brought up. And yet, many people believed that Google Meet would be safer, but in fact, it had the same potential dangers that its competitors had. While Zoom was grappling, Google provides hosts the ability to remove participants and prohibits anonymous users without Google accounts from joining meetings in order to prevent meetings from being vulnerable to brute force hacks.



On the other hand, we should protect our own privacy ourselves and not just relying on the security softwares. If we are using the online platforms, make sure that we secure a meeting with encryption as to avoid Zoombombing, or our efforts to protect the call from trolls will be in vain. Frankly, it is so important to raise the awareness on online privacy on the internet. We all should take one step more. As students, we may not feel the importance of this as much as the professionals or company owners, but it doesn't mean that we can be ok with the problems as online privacy is so important and consequential that everyone has an opportunity to be negatively affected by cyber security issues. Meaning everyone is involved and possibly being exposed to threat. So we should always pay attention to potential cyber security problems and proactively learn about how to protect ourselves.

One example of cyber crime that we could face in our daily life was Zoombombing. So what actually is zoombombing? It is a new type of harassment caused by people logging into a meeting and hijack that meeting by being the host of the meeting and, sometimes, show obscene videos. So let us try not to be bombed or trolled when learning online.



## Interaction between teachers and student during online learning

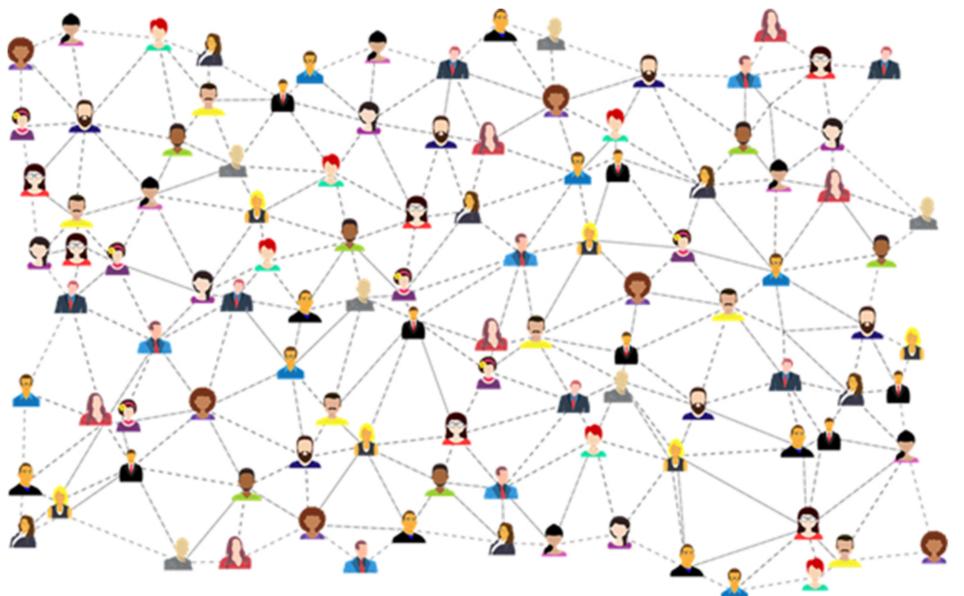
Reporter: 5D(6) Eunice Lo

During the epidemic, online platforms became the only way for teachers to keep up with their teaching progress. On the first day of this school year, students had to meet their classmates and teachers using Google Meet, and can only greet each other through the screen. Students still have to attend lessons according to the school timetable using different electrical devices at home.



Not seeing each other face to face, there must be more inconvenience than the previous for both teachers and students. The most noteworthy thing is the relationship between teachers and students. Although seeing the reaction of students or not easy. As a result, teachers may have difficulty in get a good grasp of all student's interactions during the lesson. Some may think that the interactions between teachers and students still keep constant as there is a function in which students can directly speak through the microphone. But actually, most of the students feel shy and embarrassed to speak directly using the microphone. How about using the "chat room"? Yes, it is another way for sure. However, time is needed for typing which leads to delayed response. In addition, teachers may not always pay attention to the 'chat room' and hence miss the messages.

In a nutshell, online learning drastically lowers the interaction between teachers and students. Just like they are doing their own things in a different area without interruption.



## Funny things happened during online lessons

Reporter: 2C(17) Heidi Wan



Giving responses and talking to a computer for a few hours is sometimes a necessary evil. However, you may find that jokes and funny incidents might suddenly pop up and bring you a joyful online lesson.

Once, while we were having our lesson that was drawing to a close, a very familiar and catchy music was played straight away, "Baby shark du du du du. Baby shark du...". This virtual and funny nursery rhyme was accidentally played by our classmate just at the moment he forgot to mute his microphone. The whole class burst out in laughter after hearing it and kept singing the song. We could not help stop laughing and hiding our smiles on our faces. The teacher may resent him since he disrupted the lesson. Nonetheless, he was the life of the party in our class. Let's see what songs he will show us next time! :)

During the lesson, we suddenly heard a woman shouting impatiently, 'Wash the dishes now!' All the classmates were startled and started to wonder what was going. Eventually, a girl un-muted herself and whispered, 'I'm sorry. My mom doesn't mean it'. Afterwards, the teacher nodded and said that she may leave and go clean the dishes first. It was a little awkward, but it's still a special online lesson experience.

Despite the heavy workload especially during the epidemic, trying to look for fun in it may help you to relieve stress. When work is pleasure, life is also a joy!



## Online PE lesson

Reporter: 2C(8) Angela Li



Because of Covid-19, students need to stay at home for school. Chinese, Mathematics, English lessons etc. they are not difficult for online learning, but how about PE lesson?

In the words of our classmates, online PE lessons are comical and not as exciting as before, lacks running and jumping. The lesson has lost its soul!

But by using Google Meet to have our lessons, compared to physical courses, we know more knowledge in the sense of sport, for example, F.2 students have just learnt about different name, location and features of the muscles in our body. We make videos to submit as homework (students might edit their videos and add in some fun for the 'boring' lessons which often make the teachers feel funny).

The epidemic has let us know that some seemingly ordinary things are not inevitable, just like going to school and physical lessons. We hope that we can go back to school, and that the playground are full with laughter again! Let's cherish and enjoy the life in college together!

## Our Team

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# Economics: Online teaching has become a new kind of job

Reporters:  
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Because of the Coronavirus, schools were closed and everyone has online lessons at home. Same as tutorial schools, they needed to stop all the business thus no income was received. At the same time, some tutorial schools saw the opportunity of online teaching and started their business online.

Some tutorial schools and private tutors continue their lessons by using Zoom, Google Meet or other platforms similar to them. The lessons are not really different from the live lessons students usually have. The procedures are almost the same: the teacher teaches the knowledge, and the rest of the time students will do practice paper. Students do not need to go out for lessons, which saves their precious time to study. The teachers seized the chance and organized online live lessons, which attracted quite a large number of students to participate. In addition, some teachers sold their teaching videos on online learning platforms, such as AfterSchool and Skillmove. The benefit of teaching videos is students can learn everywhere and at anytime they want. It does not matter if you don't have

time to take part in online live lessons in a specific period of time. The teachers really find an impeccable way to receive a stable income during the pandemic.



Besides, the income of online teachers varies. Most tutors teach on online platforms, such as iTutorGroup and Open English, ranges from \$90 to \$120 per

hour or even more. Among them, the price and the number of applicants are still related to exam-oriented education online course, correspond teachers can get a higher income. For online teachers, their income depends on the online platform they choose, the base salary offered by the platform, the rewards or bonuses they can get on top of the base salary, and the hours they are available to work. Moreover, tutors' hourly rate will vary depending on their qualifications, and how many people subscribe to them. For many teachers around the world, teaching online has become their only job and online tutoring is their sole source of income.

Online learning has become increasingly common, and this kind of teaching mode is a new way to make money. However, Online teaching, not like face-to-face lessons, lacks interaction between teachers and students, causing teachers not to receive feedback from students in time. This is not a good phenomenon. We hope that the pandemic will disappear soon.

## Sudoku

8	1		3	4	6	7		2
2	4	5				3	6	
		6	5	1			8	4
	6	7						
1								
	3	4				5		6
	9	2	1			6	4	
			4	9	7			5
4		3	2	6		1	9	7

### Solution

7	6	1	8	2	3	5	4	9
4	2	7	6	8	1	3	9	5
5	3	2	4	9	7	8	6	1
7	9	2	1	5	3	6	4	8
6	3	4	8	7	1	5	2	9
9	4	8	7	1	5	2	6	3
6	1	2	8	6	3	5	4	7
3	6	7	9	2	4	8	1	5
5	8	1	3	4	7	9	2	6
8	4	4	8	1	2	9	6	3
2	4	5	7	8	9	3	6	1
8	1	9	3	4	6	7	5	2