



**acer** The **Transformative**  
**Education** Series

# Transformative Learning Through Technology

by Dr Benson Soong (PhD, Cambridge)



From **XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX**★

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Subject **Request for PhD Supervisor**

**XXXX** 2020, 3:57 pm

To Me <benson@cantab.net> ★

Dear Dr Benson,

I am writing this email to formally request that you serve as one of my PhD supervisors for my upcoming PhD programme with London Metropolitan University. Your expertise and experience in online education has stretch back many years (since your 2001 seminar paper 'Critical Success Factors for Online Course Resources' in the journal, Computers & Education). Even today, your work with mySecondTeacher is making a huge impact in Nepal.

My research interest lies in using technology in education, and I'm particularly instead in how education will be different a post-covid world.

Please let me know if you are agreeable to exploring this idea, and if needed, I will share more information with you.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours Sincerely,

**XXXXXXXXXXXX**  
Rohit Pandey

From **XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX**★

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# Google



schools covid implications



School in the U.S. will never be the same, and that's okay

Education on the other side of this pandemic has a lot of pro think big

Schools are reopening but life will never be the same

Wednesday, September 23, 2020

COVID-19: Why our schools will never be the same again

Kate Ford on How Pandemic Will Impact Public Schools:

"Education Will Never Be the Same"

After the Pandemic, Medical Schools Will Never Be the Same. That Could Be a Good Thing.

Goodbye cadaver lab, hello telehealth?

After This, School Will Never Be The Same



Bernie Bleske

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Mar 31 · 4 min read ★



High School Will Never Be The Same

American Education Will Never Be The Same Again.

Schooling will never be the same again

April 12, 2020, 10:51 AM IST

[ET Edit](#) in [ET Editorials](#) | [HRD minis](#)

Why school will never be the same again for pupils, tutors

Thursday, September 17, 2020



School will never be the same after coronavirus, says head teacher of Grammar School in

"be the same again" says Roar report

Teaching will never be the same again

6 ways learning will never be the same again after Covid-19

Lincolnshire, UK » 13 Jul 2020 » Learning News » First Media

Schools will never be the same

May 21, 2020 10:10 AM EDT



School in the U.S. will never  
be the same, and that's okay

Schools are reopening but  
life will never be the same

COVID-19: Why our schools will  
never be the same again

After This, School Will Never Be

# Schools will never be the same

High School Will Never Be The Same

Schooling will never be the same & why school will never be the  
same again for people, nation

School will never be the same after coronavirus, as the world opens up  
says head teacher

Teaching will never be the same again

6 ways learning will never be the same again after  
Covid-19

schools will never be the same

# COVID-19: Home-based learning begins for some students, 'teething issues' surface

2. With the Multi-Ministry Taskforce's decision to extend the Circuit Breaker (CB) period till 1 June 2020, the Ministry of Education (MOE) will bring forward the June holidays to 5 May 2020. While HBL has been going well, it has been an intense period of hard work and adjustment for parents, students and teachers. An early June holiday will give everyone a respite. It also buys us time for a less restrictive school opening in June.

## MOE suspends use of Zoom for home-based learning after hackers hijack classes

By NAVENE ELANGOVAN

Politics & Policy

# Schools Aren't Ready for Online Learning

On-the-fly experiments forced by the coronavirus shut PH not ready for online schooling

Schools not ready for change to online learning; education experts

BY DAVID ZURA

Posted Mar 30, 2020 11:06 pm PDT Last Up



Universities not ready for online learning – U-Multirank

ic Mitchell 09 June 2020

## Many Districts Won't Be Ready for Remote Learning If Coronavirus Closes Schools

Education

America is about to start online learning, Round 2. For millions of students, it won't be any better.

Cherokee County parents say the school district isn't ready to go virtual

omery County schools not ready ng

## The Results Are In for Remote Learning: It Didn't Work

The pandemic forced schools into a crash course in online education. Problems piled up quickly. 'I find it he and stressful'

## Schools Aren't Ready for Online Learning

BloombergOpinion

Andrea Gabor

Pottsgrove teachers say they're not ready, board makes first week of school half-days to provide more training



COVID-19: Home-based learning  
begins for some students, 'everything  
seems' surface

100% supports use of Zoom for home-based learning after teachers  
report success

Parents & Policy

## Schools Aren't Ready for Online Learning

can the US government handle the coronavirus? FBI not ready for online schooling

# Schools Aren't Ready

Many educators warn it's too early for students  
Learning If Coronavirus Closes Schools

America is about to start online learning.  
Round 2. For millions of students, it won't be  
any better.

every country  
not ready  
%

Schools Aren't Ready for Online  
Learning

many schools are not ready for  
online learning



Schools will never be the same

+

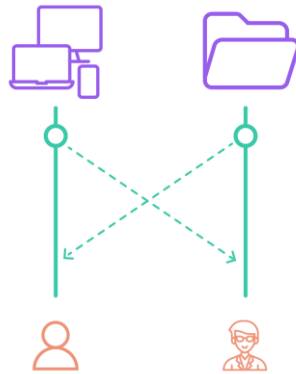
**Schools Aren't Ready**

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Massive **Transformation** Required

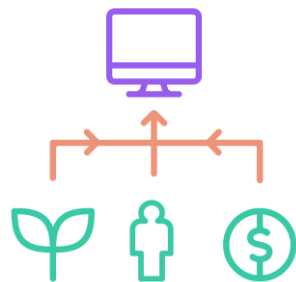
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# What types of Transformation are required?



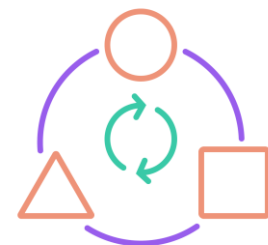
## Operational Transformation

Online-Offline flexibility  
Parents want regular updates



## Resource Transformation

Paper-based to multimodal  
Slow to instantaneous

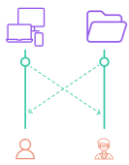


## Role Transformation

Teacher/Students: Insights, and not content-focused  
Principals: Proactive interventions, and not reactive response



## Demonstration of Transformative Learning Through Technology



### Operational Transformation

Online-Offline flexibility  
Parents want regular updates



### Resource Transformation

Paper-based to multimodal  
Slow to instantaneous



### Role Transformation

Teacher/Students: Insights, and not content-focused  
Principals: Proactive interventions, and not reactive response



# Award-Winning eLearning Platform



**Education**  
Technology Insights  
**TOP 10**  
**eLearning**  
**Technology**  
COMPANIES IN APAC - 2020

## mySecondTeacher The Answer to All Core Academic Delivery Needs

Most international schools were caught off-guard by COVID19. With schools closed and many students (with their parents) returning back to their countries, schools need to urgently transit into a 21st-century education mode, whereby they can teach students in both an in-class as well as online environment. Such a transition is driven by social distancing rules being enforced by governments globally, as well as the fact that many students are still overseas or parents are still unwilling to send their children back into classrooms for fear of contracting COVID19. There are also logistical issues with getting and distributing textbooks and workbooks to students who are overseas or who do not wish to go to school. Now, schools can subscribe to Zoom to take care of their live video-based classroom needs or sign up for Google Classroom to manage their assignments. They also have the option to use Slack for their virtual project communication needs. Teachers can work on creating quizzes for students on Kahoot! or Quizizz. Announcements to students are being conveyed via instant text messaging. As for printed books, these may be shipped to students' addresses. For many schools, the above nightmarish scenario of juggling between multiple platforms and managing costs and teacher effort is real. However, schools leveraging mySecondTeacher (MST) do not have to put up with such complexities. MST caters to all core academic delivery needs and combines all the features required for schools to run online classes within a single, easy-to-use platform.

Founded in 2018 by Cambridge University alumnus Dr. Benson Soong, this young edTech company is already profitable, and their platform is being deployed in 20 countries with around 80,000 pre-ordered subject subscriptions. This

feat is impressive for a young education technology company with no VC funding. When asked about the secret for its achievements, Soong attributes the success of his company to the endorsement by its partners, such as London Metropolitan University (UK), Alston Publishing House (Singapore), and the Innovate Nepal Group (Nepal). For instance, LondonMet offers an online degree program in Indonesia using MST; Alston offers schools with access to online versions of their Cambridge-endorsed textbooks and workbooks exclusively on MST, while the Innovate Nepal Group has licensed MST in Nepal for the roll-out of their national curriculum. With further development of partnerships in Indonesia and China, they expect to continue growing in 2021.

So what are the core functionalities of MST that make it the quickest and easiest way for schools to teach online and in-class?

Well, MST provides access to three distinct groups—students, teachers, and principals.

MST allows teachers to schedule, create and conduct live video-based classes for students; create, distribute, receive, grade, and return marked assignments with feedback to students; automatically create mock exam papers based

on topics, question types, and difficulty levels; access learning resources like eTextbooks, eWorkbooks, eTeachersGuides, and interactive videos. The platform also enables teachers to create collaborative virtual communication channels for student project groups; make announcements to students, and obtain learning reports of students. Essentially, the MST platform provides all the core features required for teachers to manage both face-to-face as well as online teaching in a single platform.

MST equips students with eTextbooks, eWorkbooks, and interactive videos, to help them learn and seek answers from live tutors online, take mastery or mock tests and obtain diagnostic reports to find out their strengths and weaknesses,



“We live for the impact that we are making to individual students as well as schools on a whole, and strive to improve the delivery of education globally”

and attend live video-based classes conducted by their teachers. With MST, they can collaborate online in virtual discussion groups, receive and submit assignments, and obtain results and feedback from teachers.

As for principals, MST allows them to gain insights into their schools' performance, including students' online learning activities and their results. The eLearning contents that are available for subscription include Cambridge-endorsed content from Alston (TOP Math and TOP Science series). The interactive videos are of significant educational impact and cover the entire IGCSE syllabus for Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Additional Mathematics. Conducted in a dialogic manner involving a teacher and student, these interactive videos will amaze students and teachers alike.

“We live for the impact that we are making on individual students as well as schools on a whole, and strive to improve the delivery of education globally,” emphasizes Soong, founder of MST. To illustrate the same, Soong narrates the story of Kafia, a student from Pakistan who would tirelessly enquire about the payment options for subscribing to the full-version of different subjects on MST.

“He returned every day to ask various questions regarding payment—one day, it was whether he could do bank transfer and another day, it was whether a UnionPay credit card could be used,” he recalls. Eventually, what MST discovered is that the payment gateways that the company uses (Stripe and PayPal)

do not accept payments from within Pakistan. As such, they began considering options for helping such individual student-customers from Pakistan to make payment. Meanwhile, they received a message from PayPal saying that payment from Kafia has been made. When the company checked how Kafia eventually made the payment, they discovered that he had contacted his uncle in Italy to log into his account and make the payment on his behalf.

Although dramatic in terms of the number of hoops that Kafia had to jump (over several days) to get full access to a specific subject on mySecondTeacher, his struggle mirrors the story of many students—they request their parents to buy—not games or clothes or gadgets—but educational content over the internet. Soong proudly mentions, “When we ask such students for the reasons for their purchase, the answer is usually similar: they learn better from us and as a result, score higher grades in official exams.”

To further extend their platform functionalities as well as increase their eLearning content offerings, MST is in the process of giving parents access to the platform and is working on providing A-Level subjects (Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Mathematics, Economics, Accounting) in an interactive video format. The company is also in the process of onboarding schools globally onto their platform. With so much happening, MST is on its way to make a positive impact on education well into 2021. **ET**



[www.mysecondteacher.com](http://www.mysecondteacher.com)



# Want to be A\*mazed?

Now seeking partnerships - higher impact yet lower costs for schools



[benson@mysecondteacher.com](mailto:benson@mysecondteacher.com)