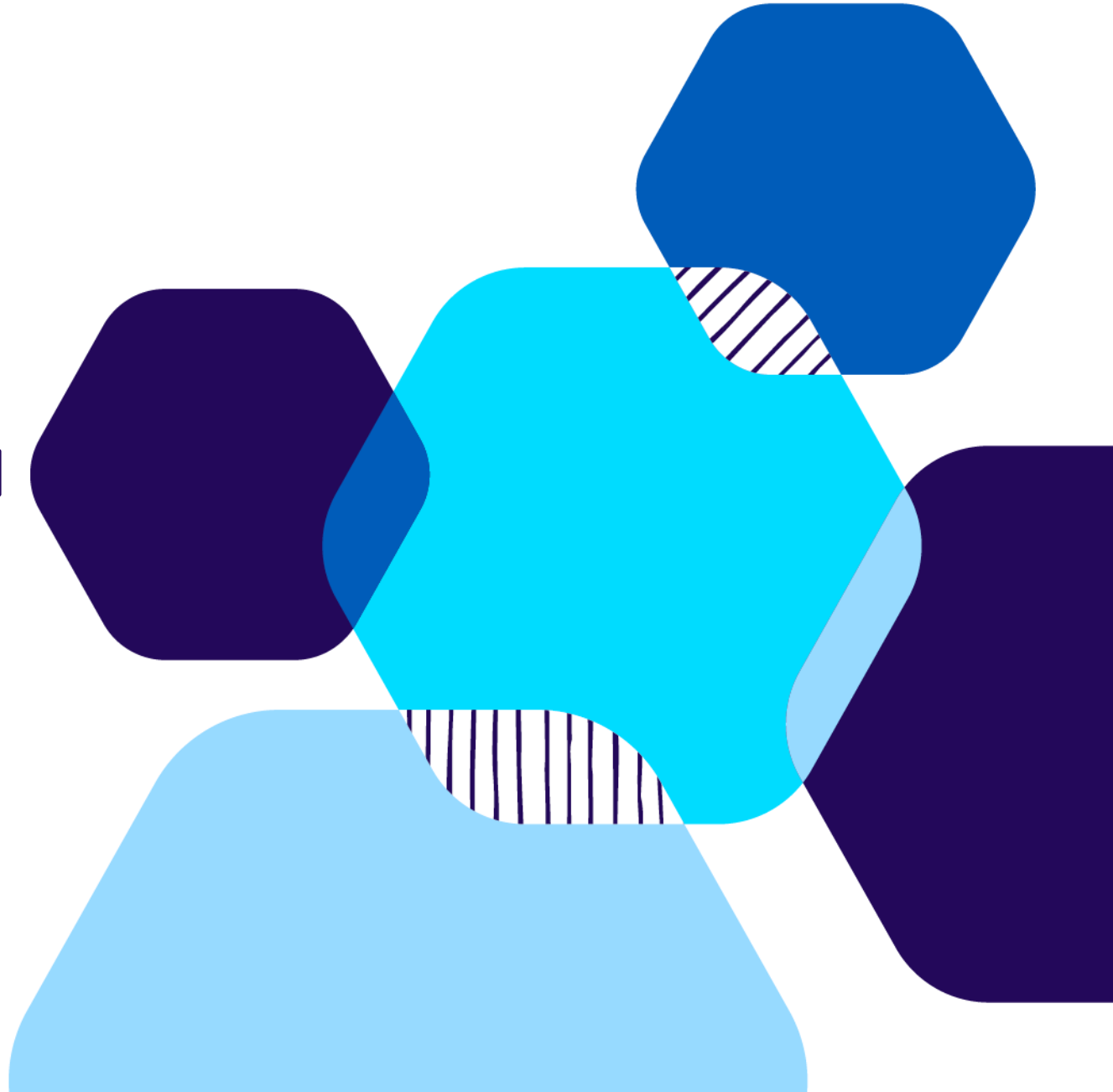


English Connects

Making the most of the English Connects Offer for Professional Development

Steve Diop

Saturday 20 April 2024



About the speaker

- Steve Diop is the Open Learning Manager for the English Connects programme in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- +8 years working in the British Council
- Manages the Teaching English Africa website
- Runs promotional campaigns to teachers across SSA

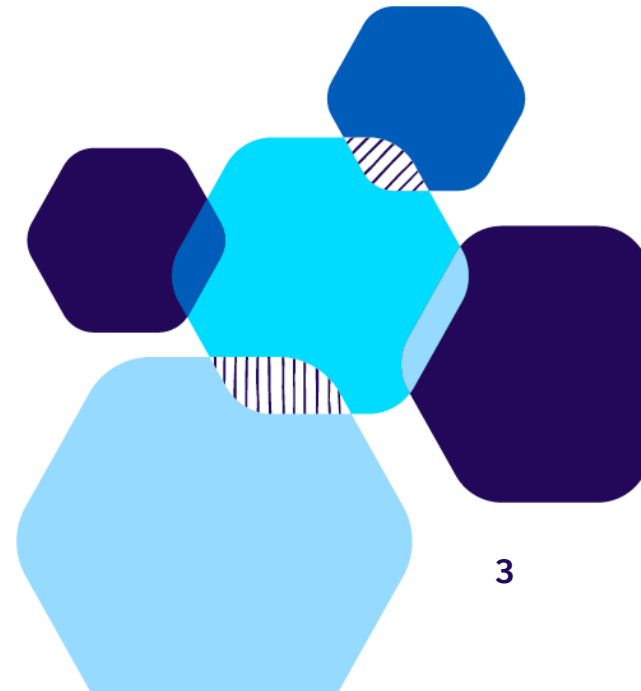
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/steve-diop-is-marketing/>



About the presentation

By the end of the session, you will:

- discover the English Connects offer and what the offer for 2024-25 means in terms of professional development
- have a clear understanding of how to use the English Connects offer to take charge of your professional growth and inspire others to do the same.



About English Connects

TeachingEnglish
website

<https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/>

TeachingEnglish
Social media

<https://www.facebook.com/TeachingEnglish.BritishCouncil>

Teaching
English
Africa website

<https://africa.teachingenglish.org.uk/>

About English Connects

English Connects is our global programme designed for English language teachers and teacher educators. English Connects is a vital part of the British Council's efforts to enhance education systems, promoting inclusive, high-quality teaching, learning, and assessment of English.

In every country, English Connects plays a key role. At regional and country levels, our focus is on promoting the global offer and fostering networking to boost individual engagement among teachers and teacher educators.

The core of English Connects lies within the TeachingEnglish ecosystem. This includes our most popular global website, TeachingEnglish, along with our social media platforms, such as Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and Twitter.

TeachingEnglish serves as an online hub for teachers and teacher educators, offering a vast array of resources, articles, and professional development opportunities. Our social media channels serve as avenues to share program updates, news, and tips while facilitating engagement with our teacher community: <https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/>

If you are new to this, I encourage you to explore the TeachingEnglish website and connect with us on social media to stay informed about the latest program developments and resources.

In Sub-Saharan Africa, we've recently introduced Teaching English Africa, a tailored platform addressing the unique challenges and needs of educators in the region. This platform provides a wealth of resources, including teaching materials, professional development opportunities, and support for English language teaching and learning. One of the benefits of Teaching English Africa is that the website was designed with connectivity challenges in mind, so it's accessible even with low bandwidth: <https://africa.teachingenglish.org.uk/>

We work closely with educators in the region who contribute to resource development. We are able to do that via the various regional projects that we deliver every year. We have a team of three in SSA and we aim to develop project with high potential to develop the skills and exposure of teachers and teacher educators in the region. We look forward to collaborating closely with educators in the region to ensure they have the necessary resources and support for success.

The five elements in our offer

Six teacher educators and teacher professional practices organised as six bi-monthly themes and four evergreen themes



Examples from our five elements

Online
training
courses

Motivating activities for primary – free course (open until 24 May 2024)

<https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/training/motivating-activities-primary>

Online
events

Stress-free teaching through strategic resource management (webinar for teachers) – will be presented by Salome Ikokoyo (27 April 2024)

<https://africa.teachingenglish.org.uk/events/stress-free-teaching-through-strategic-resource-management>

Online
resources

Sports in (climate) crisis – lesson plan for secondary learners to celebrate World Earth Day on 22 April

<https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/teaching-resources/teaching-secondary/lesson-plans/advanced-c1/sports-climate-crisis>

More examples

- Teaching tips: <https://africa.teachingenglish.org.uk/skills/tips/accountability>
- Webinar recording: <https://africa.teachingenglish.org.uk/skills/webinars/leadership-skills-teachers-and-teacher-associations>
- Professional development resource: <https://africa.teachingenglish.org.uk/skills/professional-development-resources/supporting-secondary-efl-teachers-video-teacher-training-series>
- Classroom activity: <https://africa.teachingenglish.org.uk/classroom/activities/mothering-earth>
- Grammar lesson: <https://africa.teachingenglish.org.uk/classroom/grammar/expressing-ability>
- Pronunciation lesson: <https://africa.teachingenglish.org.uk/classroom/pronunciation/assimilation-d-and-j>
- Live event: <https://africa.teachingenglish.org.uk/events/teaching-grammar-communicatively-how-situational-approach-helps>
- Publication: <https://africa.teachingenglish.org.uk/education/publications/exploring-gender>

Our professional development themes for 2024/25

	April 2024	May 2024	June 2024	July 2024	August 2024	September 2024
Teacher educator professional practices	Supporting ongoing teacher professional development		Adopting inclusive practices		Supporting remote learning	
Teacher professional practices	Managing resources		Understanding educational policies and practice		Integrating learning technologies	

	October 2024	November 2024	December 2024	January 2025	February 2025	March 2025
Teacher educator professional practices	Knowing the subject		Understanding teacher learning		Planning teacher learning	
Teacher professional practices	Knowing the subject		Taking responsibility for professional development		Planning lessons and courses	

Evergreen themes consistently integrated into our work and highlighted to our audience	Gender
	Inclusion
	Climate
	Assessment

Case Study

Fatou is an English language teacher with several years of experience working in a secondary school in her community. Despite her dedication to her profession, she feels that she could benefit from additional support and resources to enhance her teaching practice and further her professional growth.

What resources would you recommend Fatou to engage with?



Here is how Fatou can benefit from the English Connects Offer

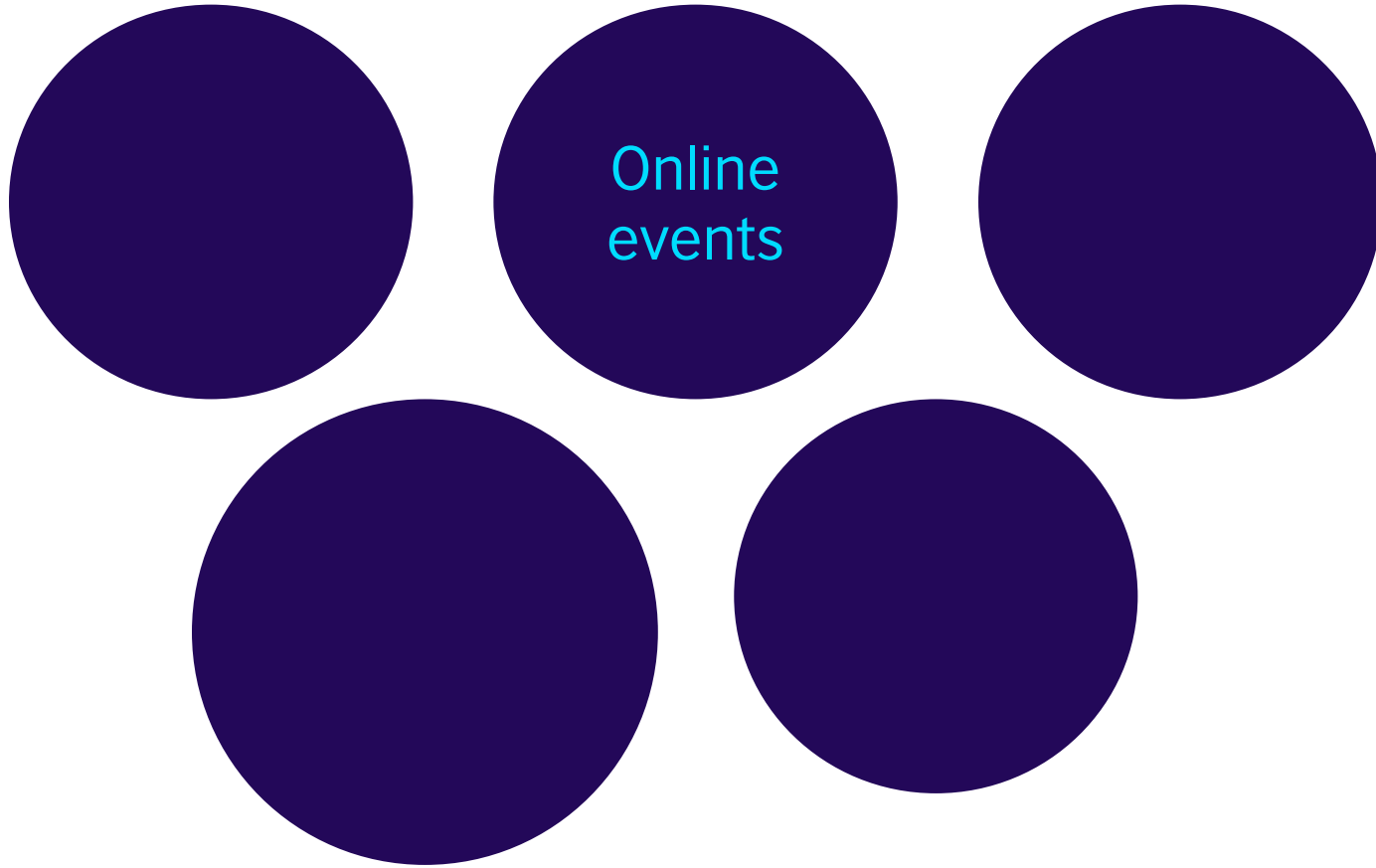


Online
training
courses

Key benefits for Fatou

- Flexible course modules allow Fatou to learn at her own pace while managing her teaching responsibilities effectively.
- Accessible resources on differentiated instruction empower Fatou to cater to the diverse needs of her students.
- Completion of the course equips Fatou with new knowledge and skills to enhance her teaching practice and student engagement.

Here is how Fatou can benefit from the English Connects Offer



Key benefits for Fatou

- Participation in webinars provides Fatou with opportunities to engage with teachers worldwide and exchange innovative teaching strategies.
- Networking events broaden Fatou's professional network, facilitating collaboration and knowledge-sharing among educators.
- Insights gained from fellow educators during networking events inspire Fatou to explore new approaches to classroom management and student engagement.

Here is how Fatou can benefit from the English Connects Offer



Online
resources

Key benefits for Fatou

- Discovering downloadable articles and lesson plans on the TeachingEnglish website enhances Fatou's lesson planning and teaching effectiveness.
- Access to a variety of teaching resources empowers Fatou to experiment with different teaching methods and create dynamic learning experiences for her students.
- Incorporating resources into her teaching practice helps Fatou address the diverse learning needs of her students and foster an inclusive classroom environment.

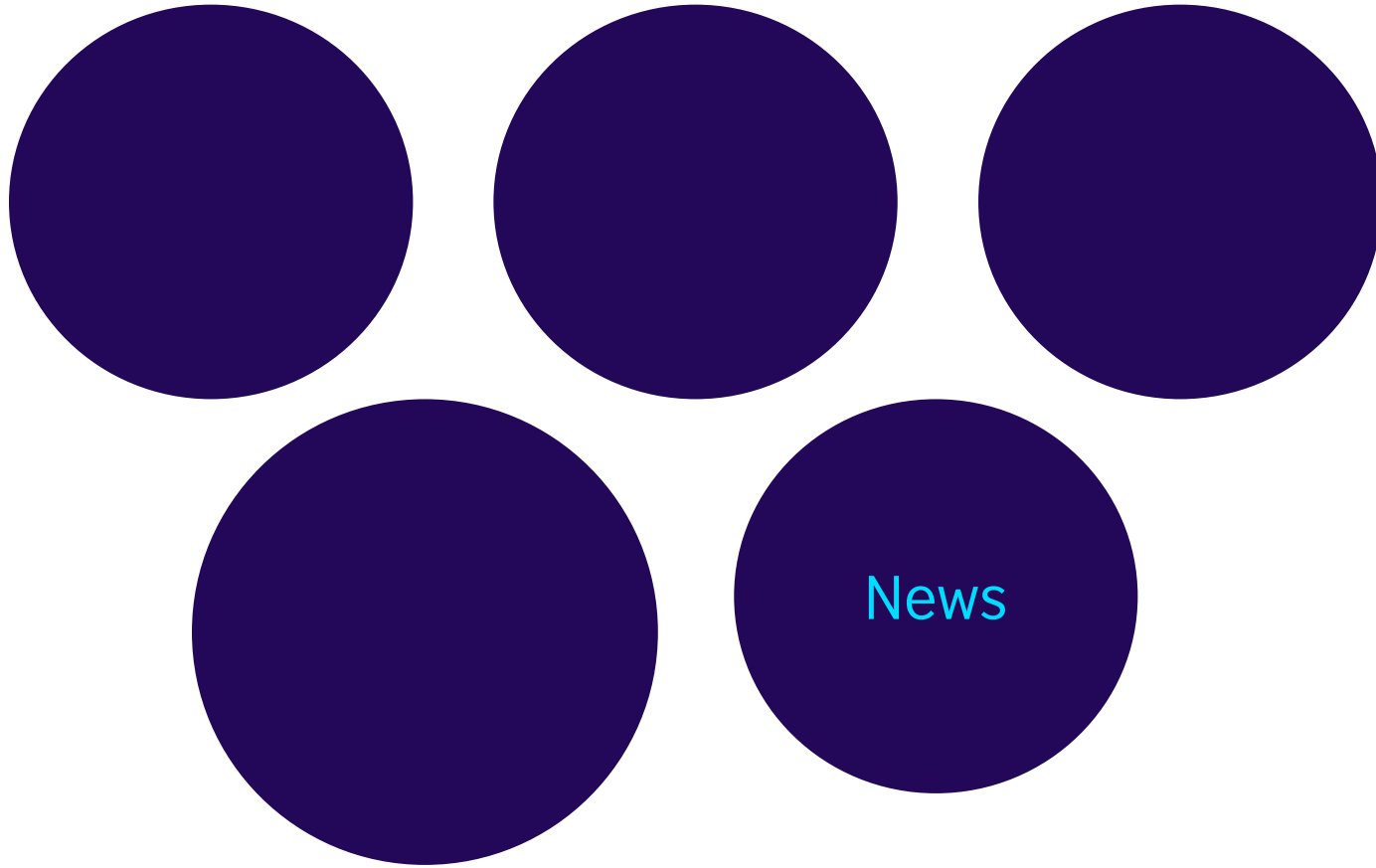
Here is how Fatou can benefit from the English Connects Offer



Key benefits for Fatou

- Active participation in discussion forums provides Fatou with a platform to share expertise and seek advice from peers.
- Engaging with fellow educators in the Teacher Educator Community of Practice fosters a sense of community and support in Fatou's professional development journey.
- Collaborative exchange with peers enables Fatou to gain valuable insights into effective assessment practices and refine her teaching strategies accordingly.

Here is how Fatou can benefit from the English Connects Offer



Key benefits for Fatou

- Subscription to the English Connects newsletter keeps Fatou updated on the latest developments in English language teaching.
- Timely updates on new resources and events enable Fatou to stay informed and proactive in her professional development.
- Access to relevant news and resources through the newsletter enhances Fatou's teaching effectiveness and supports her continuous growth as an educator.

Here is how Fatou can benefit from the English Connects Offer

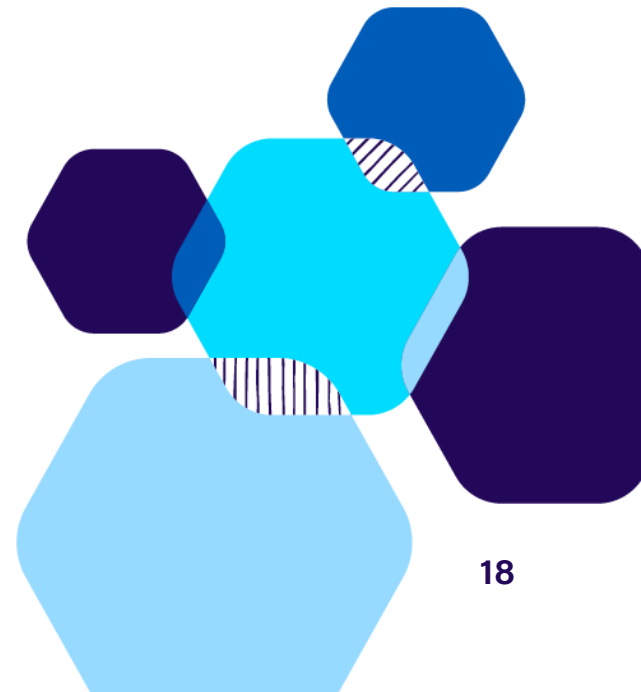
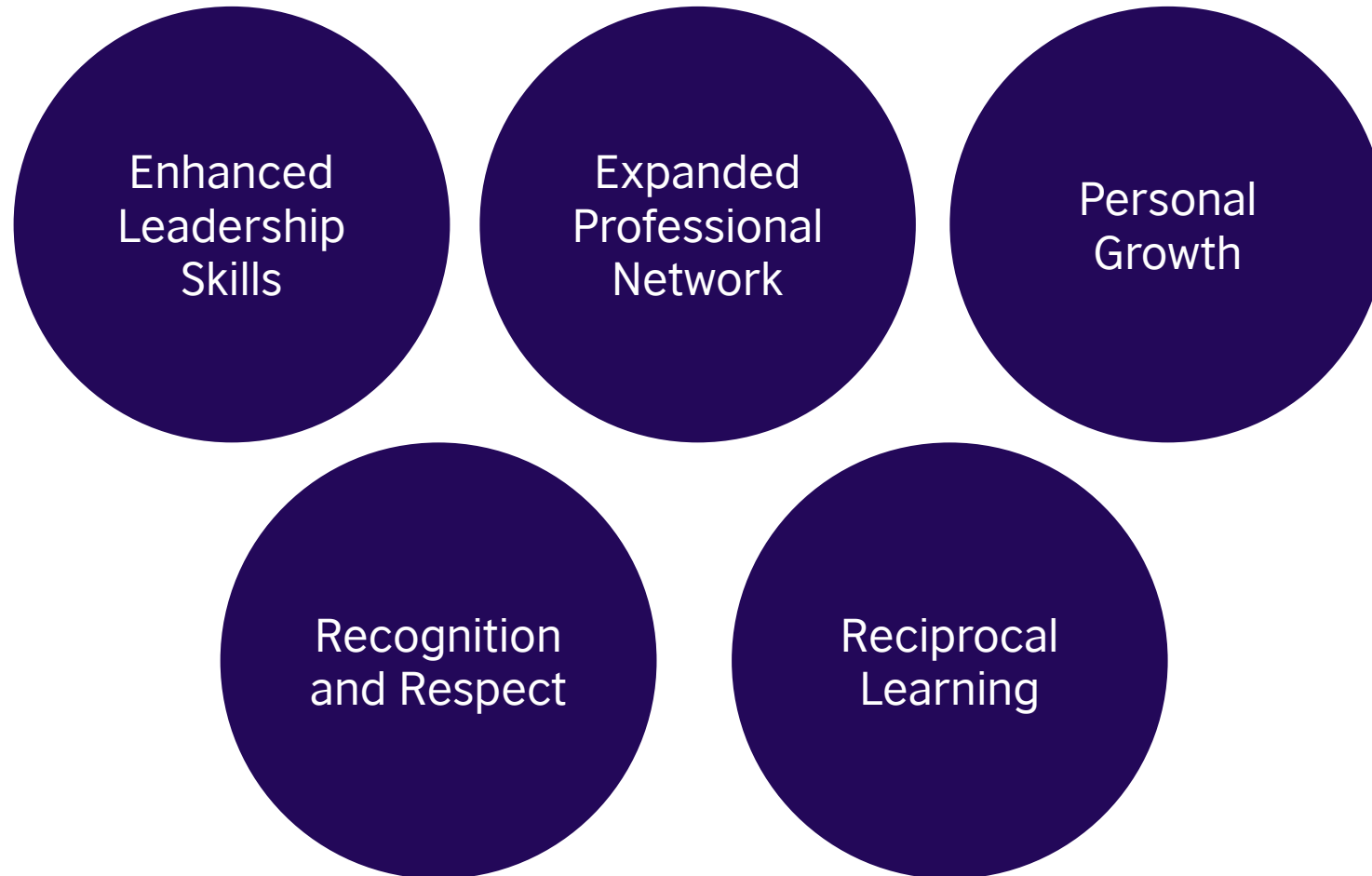


Example of how this can be achieved within your ELTA, CoP or community



Groups can engage by organising viewing sessions followed by structured discussions. First, the group selects a relevant webinar or recording from English Connects and encourages participants to watch it beforehand. During the viewing session, held at a designated time and place, participants ensure everyone has access to necessary equipment. After watching, the facilitator leads a discussion exploring how the content can be adapted to their context. Guiding questions may include key insights, application to their teaching context, and considerations for implementation. The group then reflects on the discussion, identifying concrete actions and next steps. By watching together and discussing, groups can apply insights to enhance teaching and address specific needs effectively.

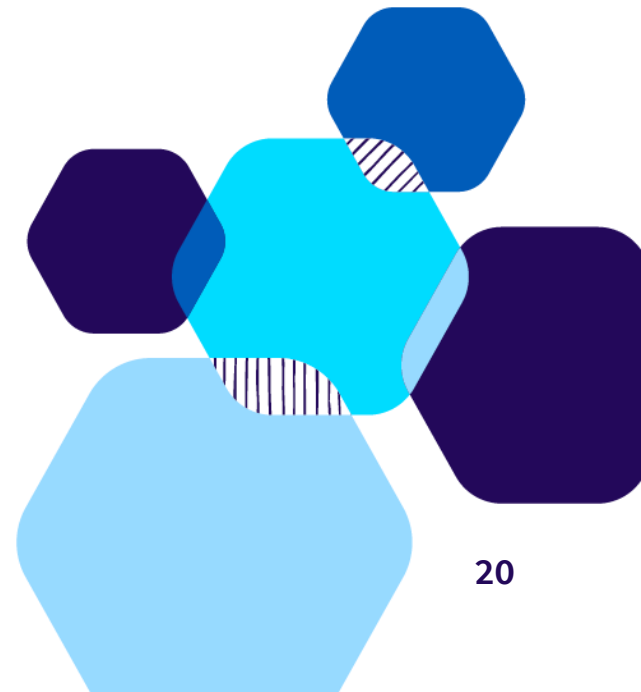
The impact of sharing information about professional development opportunities – **for you**



The impact of sharing information about professional development opportunities – for you

Sharing professional development opportunities with colleagues yields several benefits for educators. **Firstly**, it enhances leadership skills by showcasing initiative and knowledge, setting one as a proactive member of the educational community. **Secondly**, it expands professional networks, fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange. **Thirdly**, sharing prompts personal growth through reflection on teaching practices, deepening understanding and refining skills. **Additionally**, sharing fosters recognition and respect within the professional community, enhancing reputation and credibility. It also cultivates a culture of reciprocal learning, where mutual feedback and resource exchange contribute to continuous improvement. **Finally**, contributing to colleagues' growth enhances job satisfaction and fulfillment, reinforcing the value of one's role as an educator. Witnessing positive impacts on colleagues' practices reinforces passion and motivation for teaching.

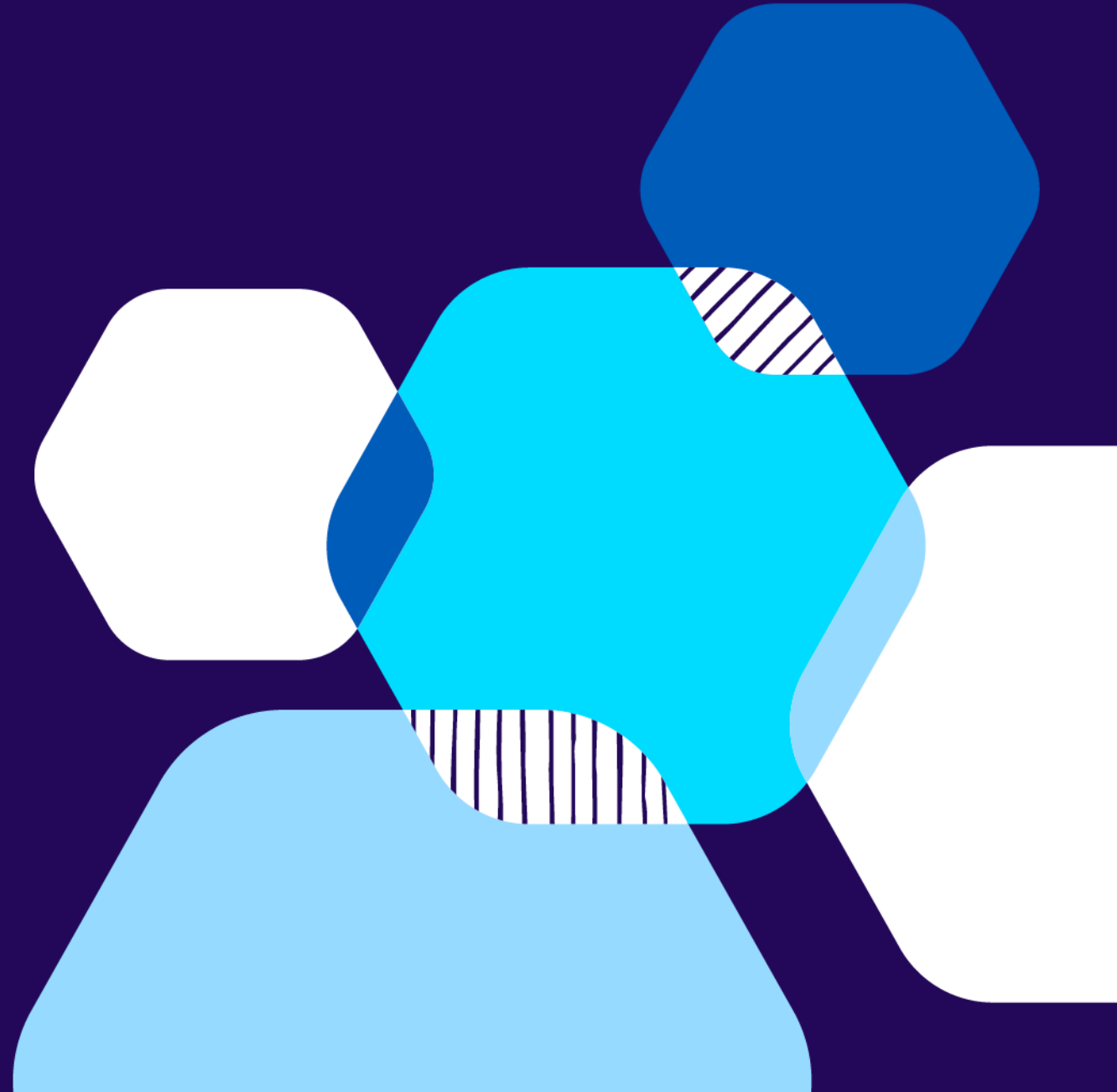
The impact of sharing information about professional development opportunities – **for your community**



The impact of sharing information about professional development opportunities – for your community

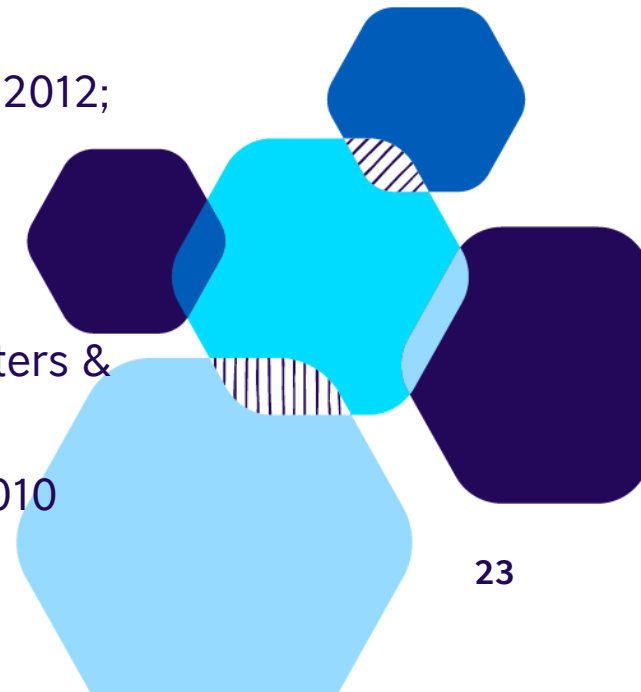
Sharing information about professional development opportunities with colleagues can greatly benefit the teaching community in several ways. **Firstly**, it increases awareness by keeping educators updated on valuable resources and educational advancements, such as the TeachingEnglish website and upcoming webinars by English Connects. **Secondly**, it promotes collaboration and networking through engagement in community forums and online events, fostering the exchange of ideas and experiences among educators. **Thirdly**, it builds capacity by providing access to training courses and lesson plans, equipping teachers with new knowledge and strategies to enhance teaching practices and student learning outcomes. **Additionally**, it boosts motivation and engagement by facilitating participation in teaching webinars and sharing success stories, fostering a culture of continuous learning and growth among educators. **Lastly**, it strengthens the professional community by promoting collaboration on projects and participation in online communities, creating a supportive environment for mentorship and empowerment, ultimately enhancing resilience, innovation, and teaching excellence.

**Were you inspired?
Ready to inspire more
colleagues?
How many colleagues will
you share the information
with, and which
communication channels
are you going to use?**



References

- Teacher Leadership and Knowledge Sharing: A Review of Empirical Studies (Harris, Muijs, & Chapman, 2013; Spillane, Reiser, & Reimer, 2002)
- Expanding Professional Networks in Education: The Role of Knowledge Sharing (Borgatti & Cross, 2003; Moolenaar, Daly, & Slegers, 2010)
- Promoting Personal Growth Through Knowledge Sharing in Education (Hattie, 2012; Moon, 2004)
- Recognition and Respect: The Impact of Knowledge Sharing Among Educators (Tschannen-Moran & Barr, 2004; Van Veen, 2016).
- Reciprocal Learning in Education: The Role of Knowledge Sharing (Hargreaves & Fullan, 2012; Stoll, Bolam, McMahon, Wallace, & Thomas, 2006)
- Job Satisfaction and Knowledge Sharing: Evidence from Educational Research (Bryk & Schneider, 2002; Darling-Hammond, 2003)
- The Impact of Knowledge Sharing on Teacher Awareness ([F Lin](#), S Lin, T Huang - Computers & Education, 2008)
- Collaboration and Teacher Development (Sandra I. Musanti & Lucretia (Penny) Pence, 2010)



Thank you

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