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When DAS first implemented the home based learning, I was still trying to adjust to this new working format. It has been a totally different ball game for teaching. I was constantly changing my protocol based on what works and what does not work. It is a constant process of learning, and re-establishing routines - which can be very frustrating.

However, it gave me a chance to creatively leverage on technology to arrive at a win-win situation, for both the students and teacher. The students got the hang of this online learning experience right after the first few weeks. I have incorporated online virtual elements into my lesson planning and lesson execution. The students enjoyed it. They had fun and at the same time were able to grasp what they had learnt for the day. That is what matters the most.

Responses from the students

I felt that the students took to the new way of teaching rather quickly. They were largely on task and managed to complete their work with minimal problems. This was because the students were no strangers to the use of technology in class.

Tan Yu Han Tenaya, one of my students, said, "I like it that even when Mdm Sofia could not be in school, we could still continue learning with her. It was interesting that we could also use Google Meet and Google Jamboard to make our lesson more fun and lively"

However another student, Ho Ai Shu Aiki reflected, "I still prefer having face-to-face interaction. I miss the personal touch when Mdm Sofia teaches us in class."

There is also a limit to what technology can do. As an educational therapist, I missed being able to touch base with my students. We can give instructions and feedback using technology but we do not really experience the warmth of speaking to them directly.

In conclusion, with this experience to remote teaching, I can finally have a grasp for home-based learning in the future. When more people get into a rhythm and become more comfortable with this home based learning experience, it will get better. I also think there are a lot of opportunities for us to learn, innovate and become more efficient during this period. It has forced us to try new things and build a better functioning pedagogy that works for us and the students.

While it has been stressful, it is also a new chance that I have never had before and that gives me a very positive feeling about the future of our education.

