

Agile communicative styles

Agile communication tools
(and how to effectively use them)

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Agile communication tools

First of all, let us recall that instruments may be **synchronous** or **asynchronous**.

By **synchronous** we mean the tools, the softwares that allows us **'live' communication**. **Asynchronous** means those tools that allow communication or activities **deferred in time**.



Videoconferencing

- This is one of the best tools for **synchronous** communication.

Advantages:

- maintains live **visual and auditory contact**;
- Enables **two-way communication** (pupils also take part);
- Offers the possibility of sharing the teacher's (but also the student's) screen in order to show learning material, schedules, etc...;
- Allows live lessons to be developed in “frontal” or traditional” way, so that teachers can provide **immediate clarifications if requested**.

Videoconferencing



- The most important thing is to **avoid**: “**rally effect**”, on the teacher side (e.g. teachers explains a topic without engaging students) ; “**TV effect**”, on student side (e.g. they have not the possibility to interact with teachers).

In short, it is necessary to be **engaging**, activate students, to properly **balance the time** of the teacher's lecture and the **time of the students' interventions**. In other words, agile communicative strategies can be easily applied through videoconferencing tools.

- Most frequent tools used: Skype, Google Meet, Cisco Webex, Zoom, Teams.



Instant messaging (IM)

- It is a **synchronous tool**, within everyone's reach and used daily by many people. Very useful for **short communication channel**; also used for communication between teachers.

Then there are also chats, which can be used within the videoconferences or virtual classes. They are very useful for short interventions and clarifications, i.e. to collect questions during the lecturer's presentation.

E-mail and groups

- These are **asynchronous tools**, as communication takes place with rapid time but not live like video conferencing.

In order to smooth cooperation and communication within the classroom, it would be useful to organise a mailing list, so that to send their messages to a single address.

- Beside the e-mail, the creation of **Groups** allows to initiate discussions between teacher and students or between students (with teacher supervision); in practice, the lecturer opens a Topic and then the students post their interventions, which can also be their interventions, which may also be responses to previous interventions by fellow students.



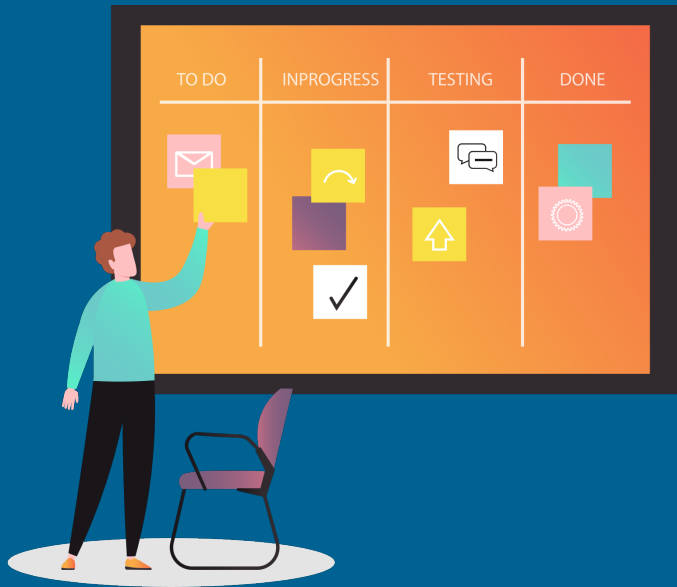


Cloud resources

- We can have various types of cloud resources: **utility software** (word processing, calculations, presentations, etc.) and **file storage spaces** for sharing at a distance. In general, these are tools that we can define as **asynchronous**.

Document sharing is an excellent teaching tool, in particular to: receive students' documents; return students' assignments corrected and annotated by the teacher; allow groups to collaborate on the creation of the same document (or 'artefact').

Educational resources on the web



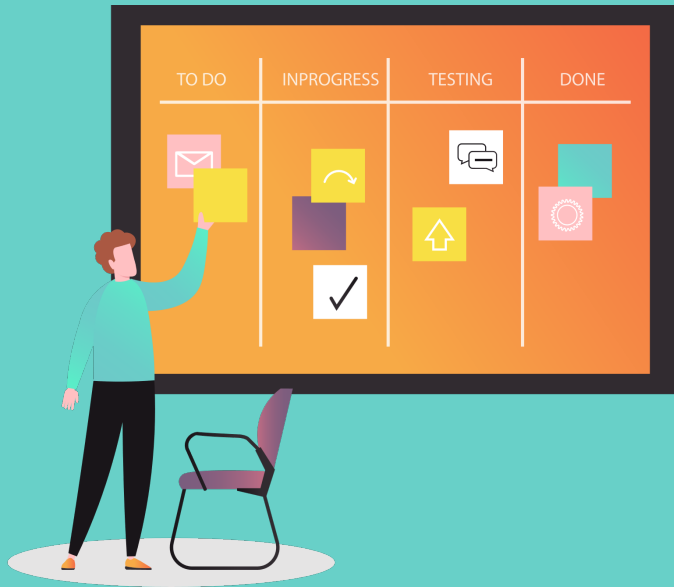
- A good strategy is to coordinate with all the teachers of **the same subject area** (department) and find ways of collecting together sites deemed to be of particular **educational use**. A disciplinary “**Blog**” is excellent for this purpose, easily created on Blogger, also from Google.
- **Ebook**: in addition to activating the digital text, by registering the code, it is possible to access multimedia contributions designed by the publishers to promote the development of digital at school

Educational resources on the web

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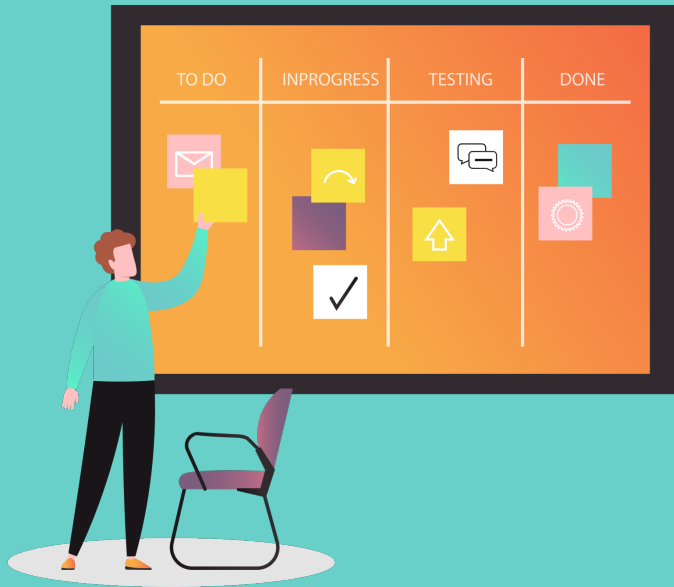
Some ebook platforms: **bSmart**; **Hubscuola**; **Booktab Z**; My **Pearson place**.

- **Online libraries**: these are an aggregator of hundreds of thousands of resources free or paid web resources;
- **Youtube and Ted**: Here one must indulge one's curiosity, carry out multiple searches, check the quality of what one has found, then propose the resources to other colleagues, and then assign them to students perhaps by linking an assignment or a test with open or closed answers



Educational resources on the web

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TED is an American platform (but there are contributions from all parts of the world) with an impressive list of resources that can be used for the school: these are mainly **short speeches** of scientists, inventors, intellectuals of particular importance and success in their **fields of specialisation**.

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