**Better than before: Building the hybrid school**

Hybrid learning, involving a blend of school-based and home-based learning is becoming increasingly prevalent. Learning from home includes students receiving remote instruction from school, as well as taking responsibility for their learning using Internet-based resources not available through school. The recent transfer to remote learning has normalized hybrid schooling; it is imperative that schools embrace further changes that lie ahead.

There is a distinction between hybrid *schools* and hybrid *learning*. Hybrid schools offer opportunities for remote, personalised learning. Hybrid learning need not offer a contrast to schools, but alternatives of virtual schools, online lessons and tuition exacerbate parents’ growing ambivalence about schools.

Considering the potential value of educational qualifications, parents justifiably reason that subscribing to digital sources of learning are worthwhile financial commitments. Given the qualifications ‘arms-race’ that now dominates the schooling of older teenagers, it seems inevitable that many families will supplement or even replace state education with online alternatives.

Many students have fared well during ‘lockdown learning’; they manage their work and time well, use digital resources extensively and have become better learners. When the pandemic has passed, these students will continue to supplement their education through online alternatives. If schools simply return to the ‘old normal’, these students will make more progress than peers relying only on traditional school-based learning.

Schools must become more hybrid to mitigate against the threat of a widening learning gap between students from homes valuing education and those where education is not valued as a driver of social mobility.