



Professional Development
Service for Teachers

An tSeirbhís um Fhorbairt
Ghairmiúil do Mhúinteoirí



Creating an Online Community of Practice using Edmodo

www.pdst.ie

Post-Primary Resource



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PLEASE NOTE

This publication, ***Edmodo: Virtual Learning Environment***, is part of a suite of publications, created to guide and support teachers in using online tools in order to support teaching and learning.

Introduction to Edmodo

What is Edmodo?

Edmodo is a free social learning platform for teachers, students and also parents. It offers a safe and easy way for students and teachers to exchange ideas, share content or information and access homework.

Why use Edmodo?

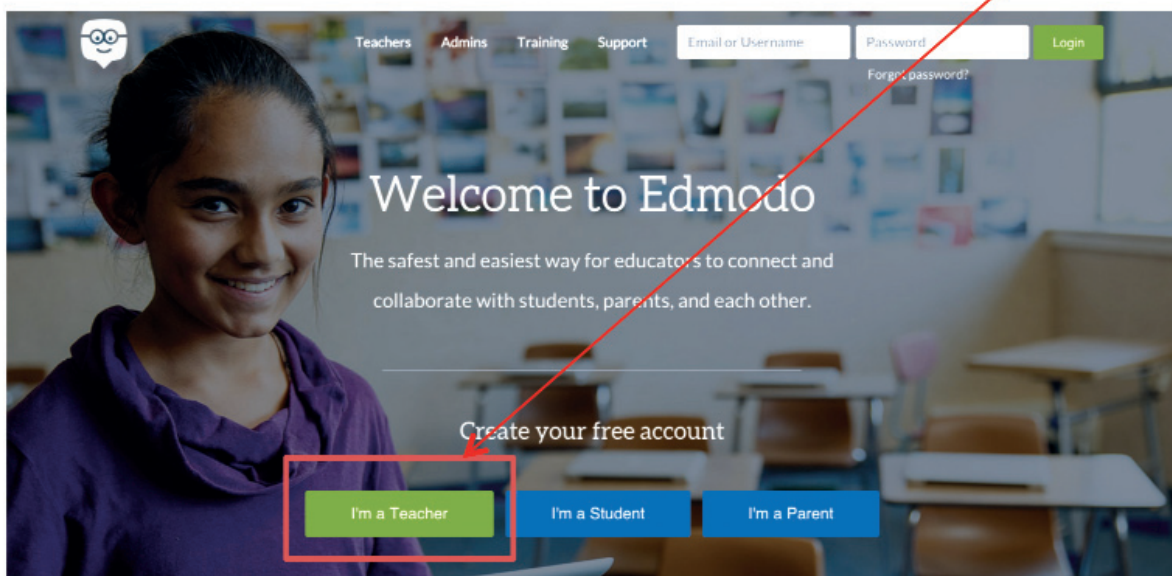
One of the benefits of Edmodo is that it is a closed environment which requires no personal information from students. Students can only join at the invitation of their teacher and require a group code or URL to join a class. All communication is archived by the teacher and no private chat is allowed between students.

Suggested Teaching Strategies

- Teachers can start discussions with individual students or groups. Students can critically engage with questions posed and can easily access the knowledge of other class member. Student knowledge of a topic can be gauged by the teacher
- Past class discussions can be later referred to and used as a revision tool for students
- Post links to what previous students have completed through Edmodo such as presentations, videos, photos and podcasts
- Post “how to” videos from YouTube to help students when they are doing their homework at home
- Set up monthly calendars in advance indicating holidays, assignments, tests, upcoming events
- The poll feature can be useful as an Assessment for Learning tool or as an exit ticket from the class
- Teachers can create badges to motivate and reward students
- Edmodo can facilitate a flipped classroom as notes, links, presentations and useful videos can be quickly and easily shared with students. This is particularly useful if a student is absent for a significant period of time due to illness

Joining Edmodo as a Teacher

Go to <https://www.edmodo.com/> If you don't already have an account, click on “I'm a Teacher”.



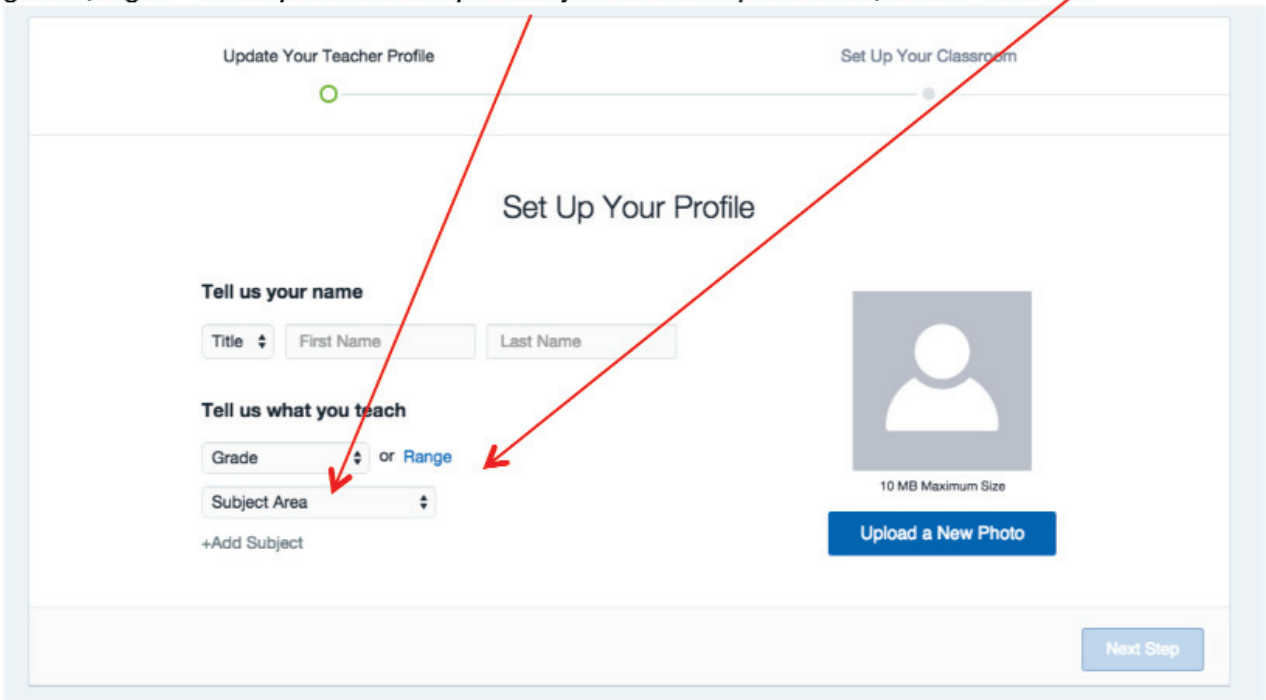
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Enter your details in the spaces provided, then click “Sign Up”. Remember to keep a note of your password.



The image shows a sign-up form titled "Edmodo for Teachers". The form includes a text input field for an email address, a password input field, and a prominent green button labeled "Sign Up for Free". A red box highlights the "Sign Up for Free" button, and a red arrow points from the text above to this button. Below the form, there is a small line of text: "By signing up, you agree to our [Terms of Service](#) and [Privacy Policy](#)".

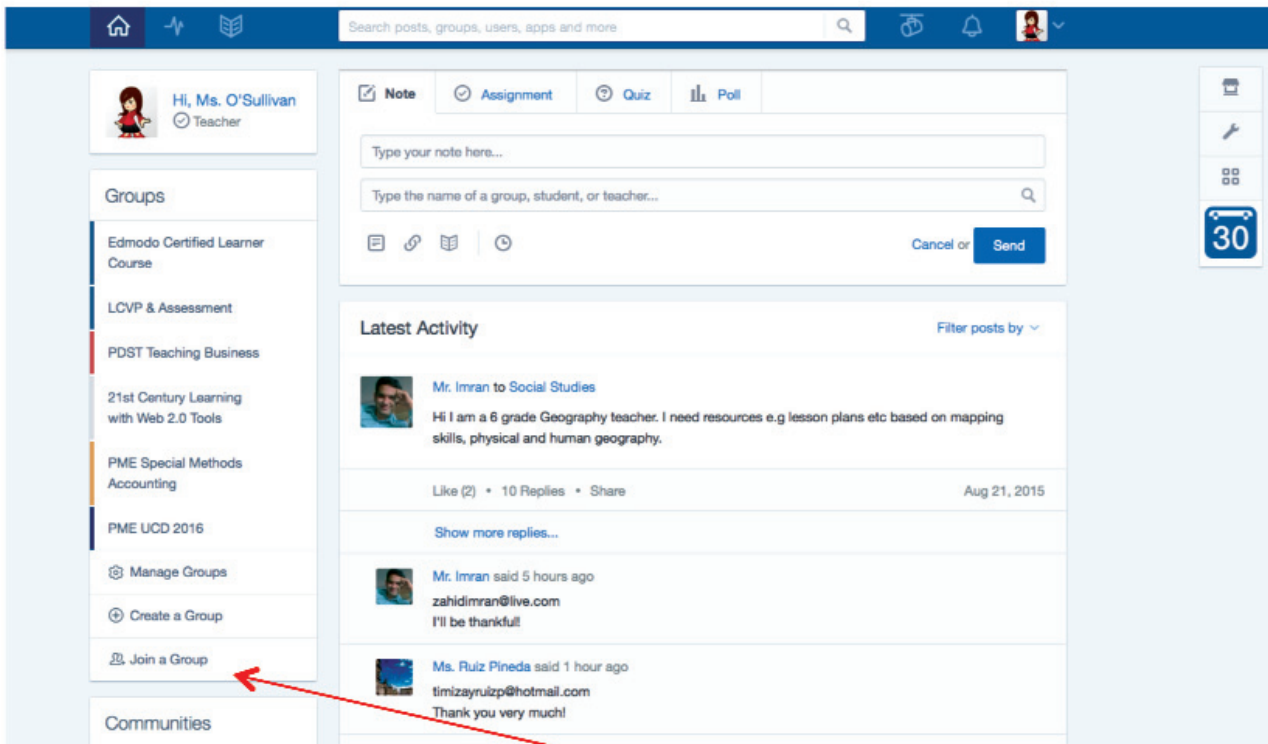
Enter your details, including the grades you teach. Most post-primary teachers teach a range of grades, e.g. 7 – 12. If you don't see your subject in the drop down list, select “All”.



The image shows a "Set Up Your Profile" form. It has two progress indicators at the top: "Update Your Teacher Profile" (with a green circle) and "Set Up Your Classroom" (with a grey circle). The form is divided into two main sections. The first section, "Tell us your name", includes a "Title" dropdown menu, and input fields for "First Name" and "Last Name". The second section, "Tell us what you teach", includes a "Grade" dropdown menu with an "or Range" option, and a "Subject Area" dropdown menu. There is also a "+Add Subject" link. To the right of these fields is a placeholder for a profile picture with the text "10 MB Maximum Size" and a blue "Upload a New Photo" button. At the bottom right of the form is a "Next Step" button. Red arrows point from the text above to the "Grade" dropdown and the "Subject Area" dropdown.

You will automatically be brought to the “Home” screen. When you initially sign up and log on, this will be empty, but as you join and create groups and join Edmodo communities, this will fill up with updates each day.

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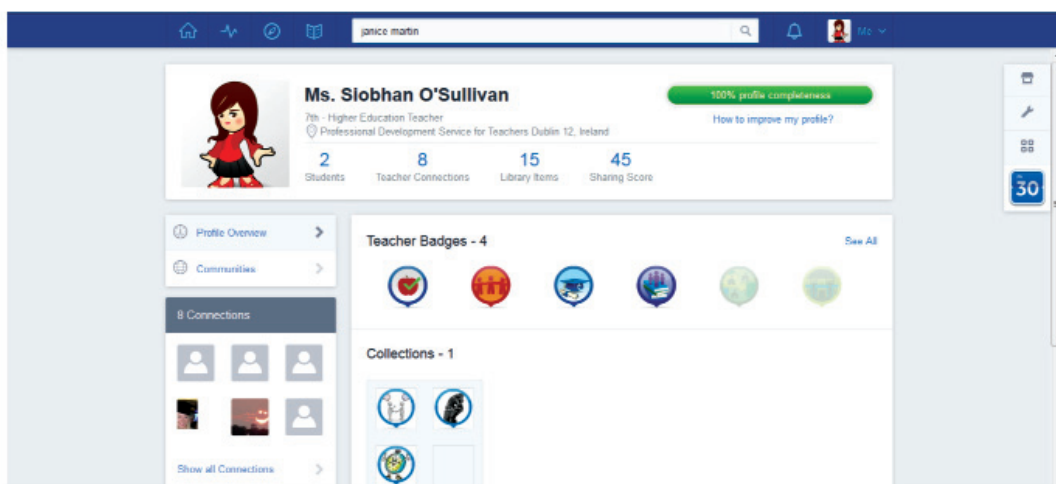
Joining a Group

You will begin by joining a group that has been set up for you. Click on “Join a Group” in the “Groups” tab on the left-hand side of the screen. Enter the join code given to you by the instructor. As a member of a group, you can answer polls, take assignments and post to the group wall (if the teacher gives you permission). The group that has been set up for you will allow you to share and exchange ideas with other teachers throughout Ireland.

Another group you may wish to join is “Edmodo Teachers Ireland”. Click on <http://tinyurl.com/edmodoireland> to request permission to join.

Building your Profile

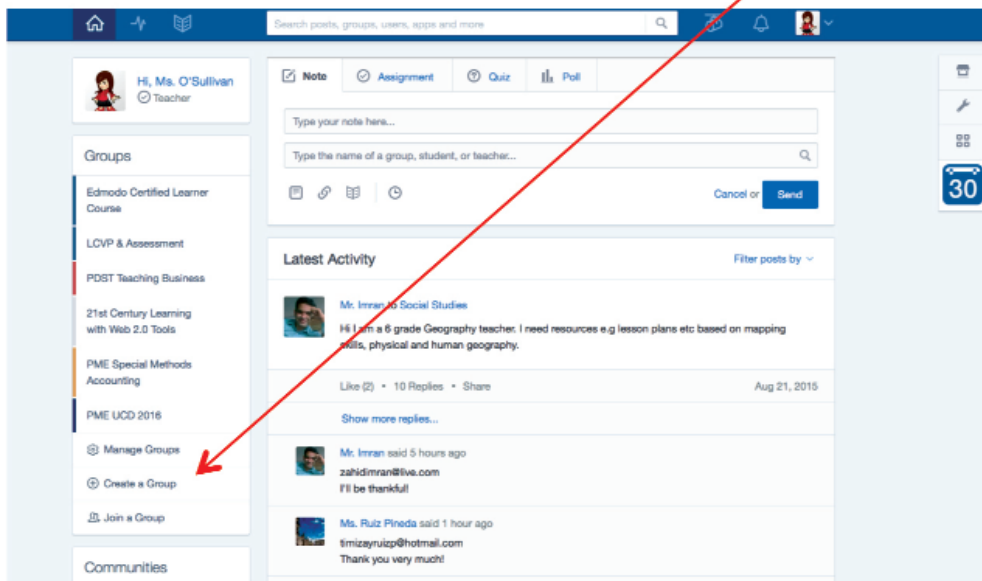
Improve your profile on Edmodo by adding a photo (or avatar) of yourself, connecting with other teachers you know, creating groups that your students join, uploading commonly used files to the library and joining professional learning communities on Edmodo.



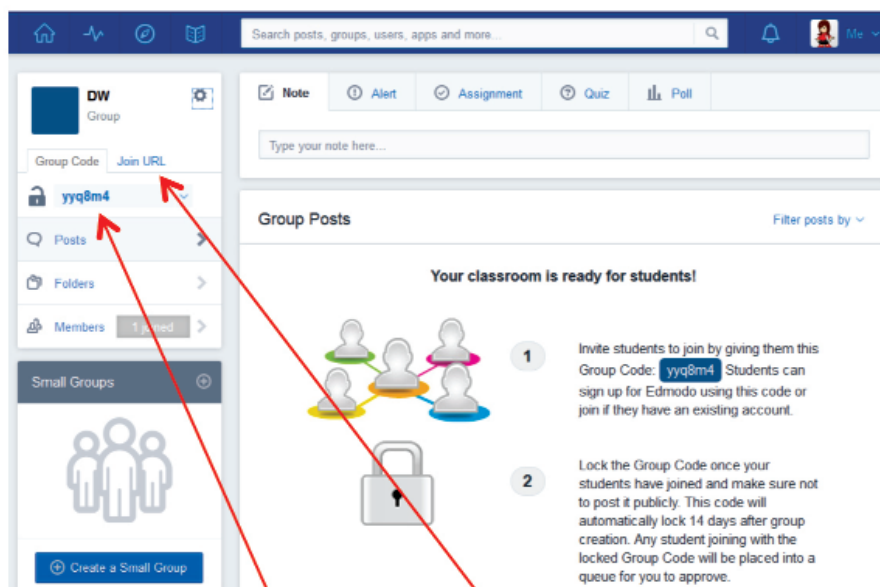
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Creating a Group

You will set up separate groups for each class you teach. Click “Create a Group” in the “Groups” tab on the left-hand side of the screen.



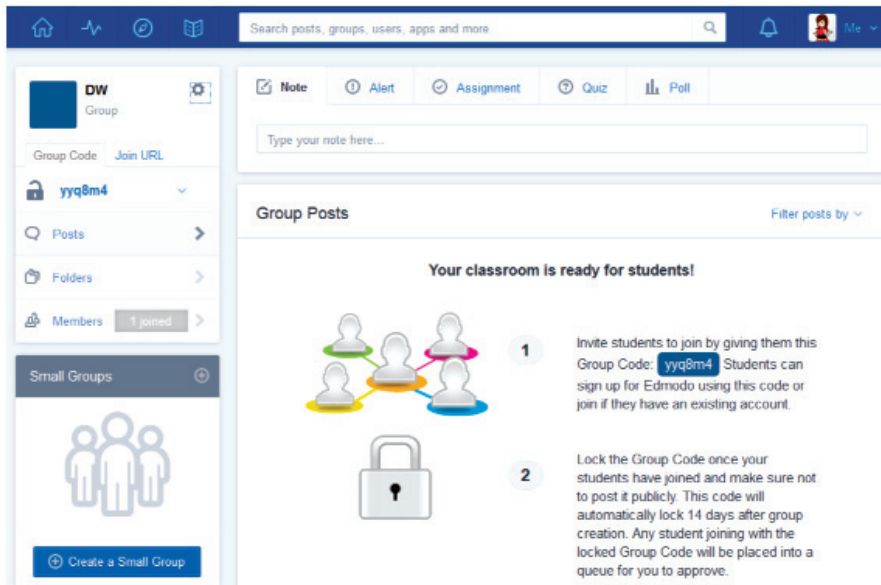
Name your group. Tip: don't say 1st Year Business Studies, as next year they will be 2nd years and you will have a new group of 1st years, which will be confusing. A good idea is to name the class after the year they enter the school or the year they will complete their exam, e.g. 1st years who joined the school in 2015 could be called “Business Studies 2015” or “Business Studies class of 2018”. Select a grade (this follows the American grade system, you may select a range, e.g. 7th – 9th would be equivalent to Junior Cycle, TY is 8th grade and Senior Cycle would be 11th – 12th). Subject area: select “All” and then click “Create”.



Students will need to have the “Group Code” to join your group. This code is only valid for 14 days. After this, students will no longer be able to join the group using this code and will have to use the “Join URL” instead, which you will find if you select the second tab.

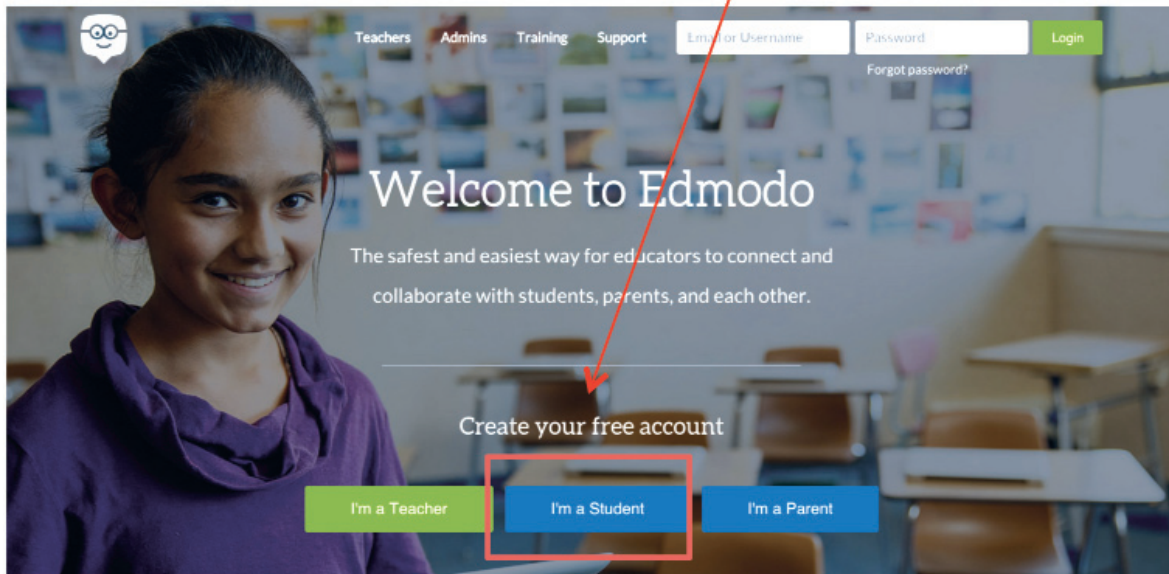
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When you have created groups for your classes, you can share the “Group Code” with your students and have them sign up for Edmodo.



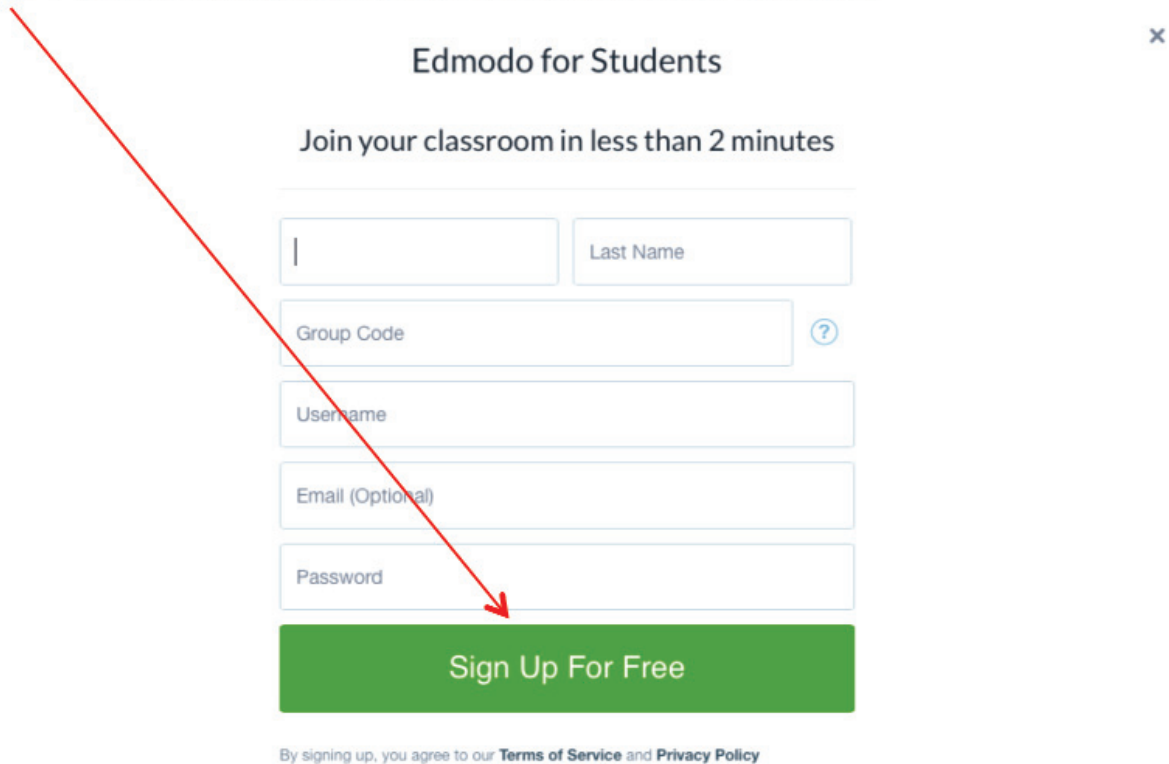
Joining as a Student

Students go to <https://www.edmodo.com/> and click on “I’m a Student”.



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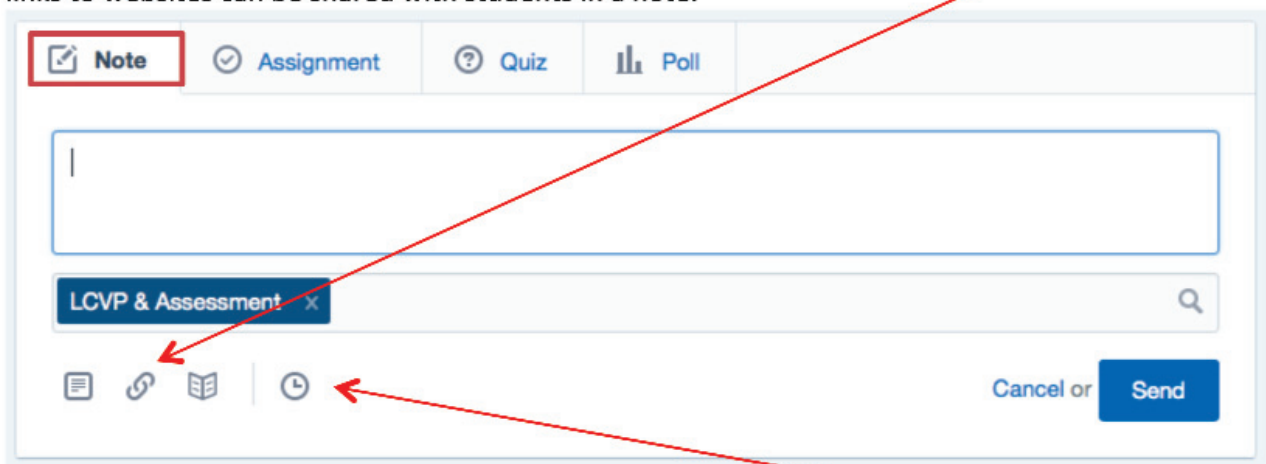
They will need to enter their group join code and their own details in the spaces provided, then click “Sign Up”.



The image shows the Edmodo sign-up interface for students. At the top, it says "Edmodo for Students" with a close button (x). Below that, it says "Join your classroom in less than 2 minutes". The form consists of several input fields: a first name field, a last name field, a group code field with a help icon (?), a username field, an email (optional) field, and a password field. A green "Sign Up For Free" button is at the bottom. A red arrow points from the text above to the "Sign Up" button. Below the form, there is a small text line: "By signing up, you agree to our Terms of Service and Privacy Policy".

Posting on Edmodo

There are a number of options when posting on Edmodo. The first option is to upload a “Note”. This could be a discussion question which students will answer. This is a good way for students to show what they know about a topic. They can search previous posts to revise a topic. Class debates can be started using the “Note” feature. Students can’t privately post to another student, all responses are viewable by everyone who is a member of the group. Files (notes/presentations) and links to websites can be shared with students in a note.

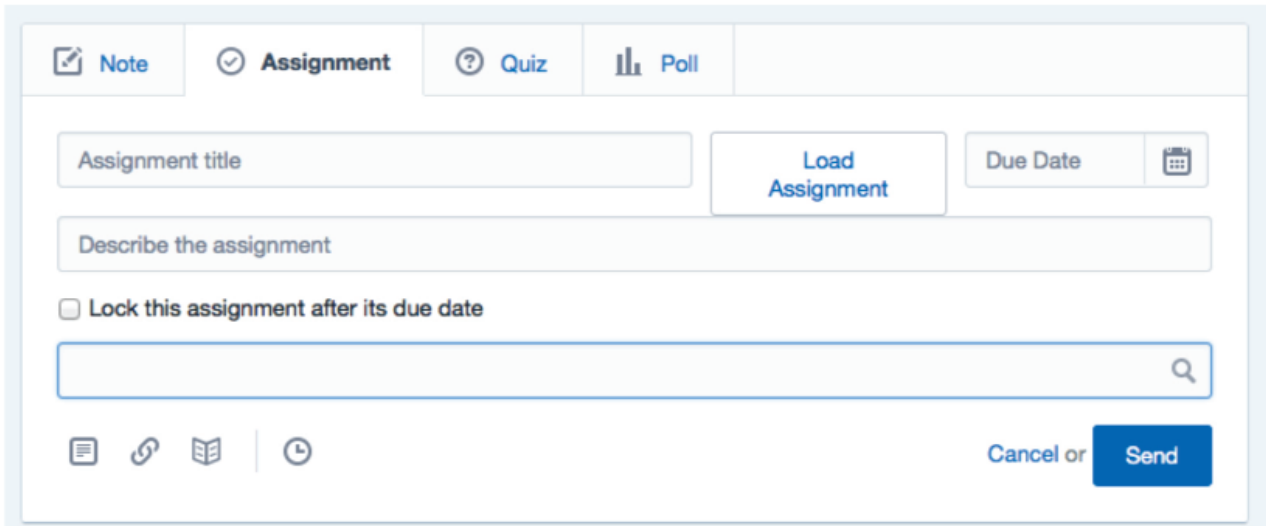


The image shows the Edmodo posting interface. At the top, there are four tabs: "Note" (highlighted with a red box), "Assignment", "Quiz", and "Poll". Below the tabs is a large text input area. Underneath the text area is a search bar with the text "LCVP & Assessment" and a search icon. At the bottom, there are four icons: a document icon, a link icon, a book icon, and a clock icon. A red arrow points from the text above to the clock icon. To the right of the icons are "Cancel or" and "Send" buttons.

If you wish to send the note at a scheduled date and time, you can select the clock icon.

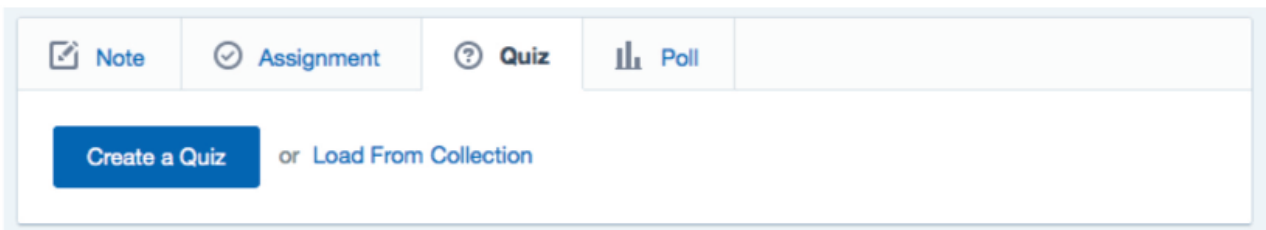
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An assignment can be given a title and description for students as well as a due date. This is ideal for setting homework. Once an assignment has been created, it can subsequently be re-used with other classes. This is useful if you frequently give similar projects to your first year students, e.g. designing a poster on “The Clever Consumer”.



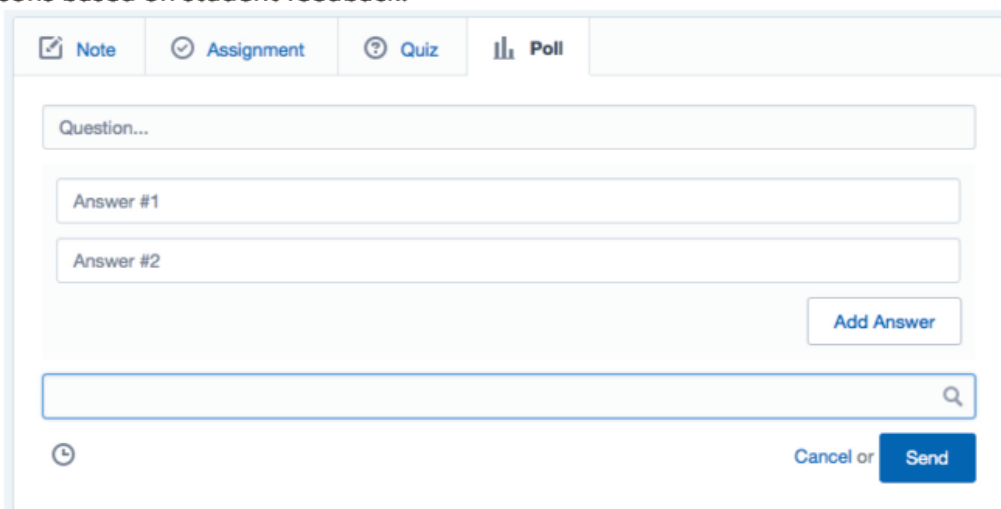
The screenshot shows the Edmodo interface for creating an assignment. At the top, there are four tabs: Note, Assignment (selected), Quiz, and Poll. Below the tabs, there is a form with the following elements: a text input field for 'Assignment title', a 'Load Assignment' button, a 'Due Date' field with a calendar icon, a larger text area for 'Describe the assignment', a checkbox for 'Lock this assignment after its due date', a search bar, and a bottom row with icons for document, link, book, and clock, along with 'Cancel or' and 'Send' buttons.

Quizzes/tests can easily be created using the “Quiz” option. These quizzes/tests are mainly self-correcting and allow a time limit and a range of question types, e.g. multiple choice, true/false, matching, fill in the blank and short answer. While “short answer” questions are not self-correcting, the teacher can easily grade these questions quickly and assign a mark for them. Records of student grades can be kept in Edmodo or exported to a spreadsheet (see overleaf: Tracking Student Progress). Previously created quizzes can be easily loaded and re-used with different classes.



The screenshot shows the Edmodo interface for creating a quiz. At the top, there are four tabs: Note, Assignment, Quiz (selected), and Poll. Below the tabs, there is a form with a 'Create a Quiz' button and a 'Load From Collection' link.

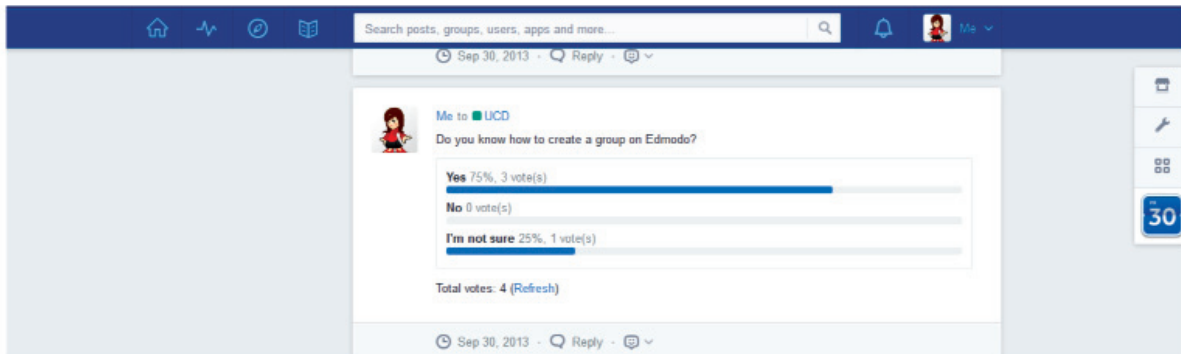
The poll option facilitates instant feedback from students and is a useful Assessment for Learning (AFL) tool. It can also be used to gauge student understanding of a topic (traffic lighting) or to plan future lessons based on student feedback.



The screenshot shows the Edmodo interface for creating a poll. At the top, there are four tabs: Note, Assignment, Quiz, and Poll (selected). Below the tabs, there is a form with the following elements: a text input field for 'Question...', two text input fields for 'Answer #1' and 'Answer #2', an 'Add Answer' button, a search bar, and a bottom row with a clock icon, 'Cancel or', and 'Send' buttons.

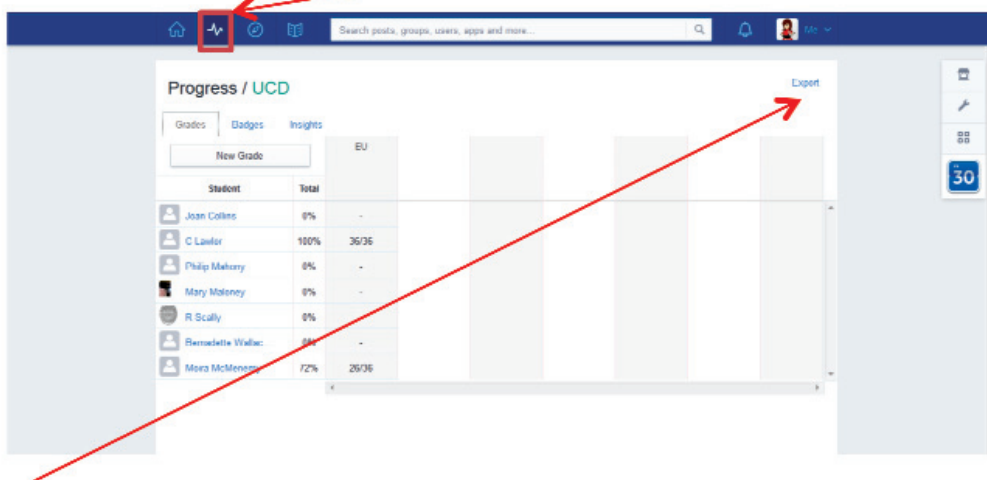
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See an example of feedback from a poll.



Tracking Student Progress

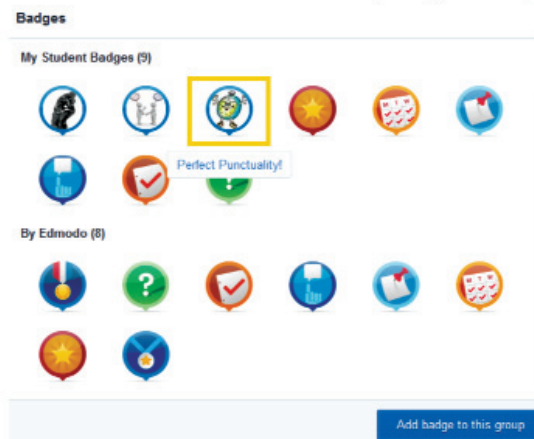
Student progress can be easily monitored by clicking on the "Progress" icon.



Clicking "Export" will allow you to save this information in an Excel spreadsheet. Click on an individual student to enter their grade, percentages are automatically calculated.

Click on the Badges tab.

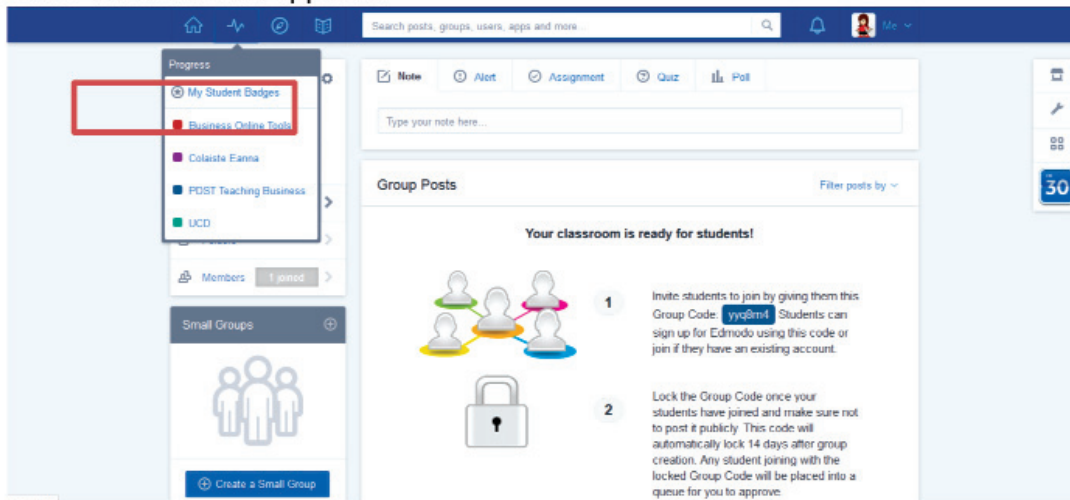
Badges can be awarded to students to reward them for work, effort, etc. Edmodo has eight pre-loaded badges, e.g. good question, hard worker, participant, perfect attendance. Teachers can easily create their own badges to reflect their own student/subject requirements.



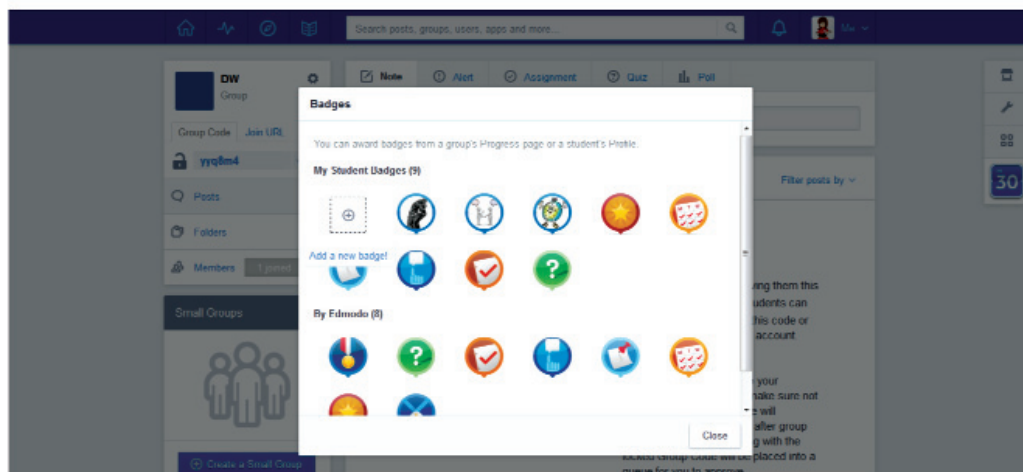
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Creating a Badge

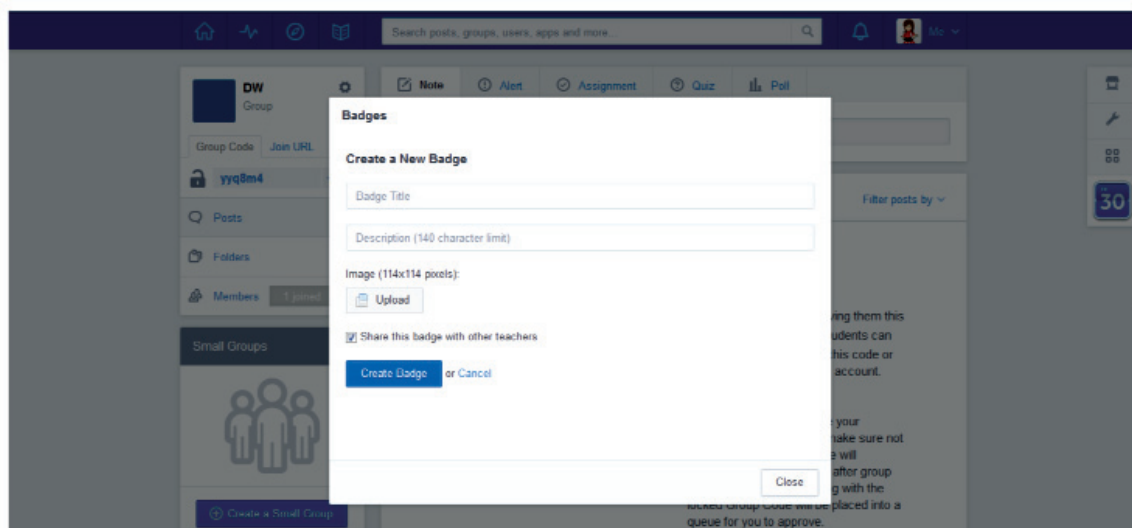
If you would like to create your own individual badges, select “Progress” and click “My Student Badges” from the menu that appears.



Select “Add a new badge!”.



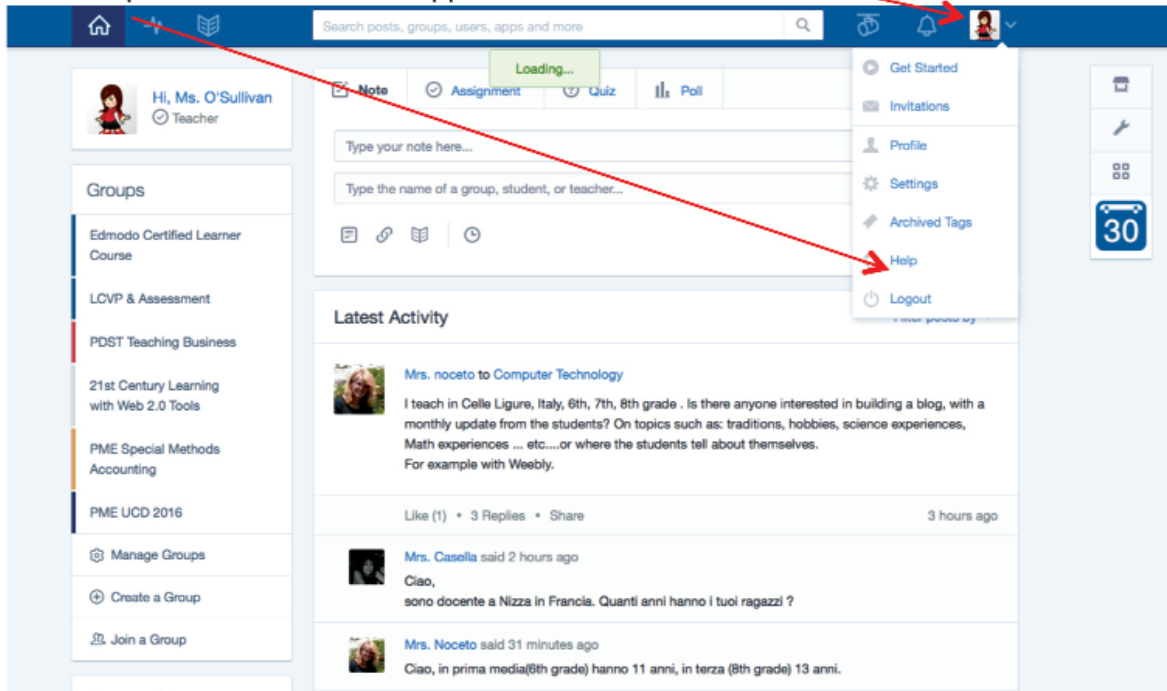
Name the badge you wish to create, give it a brief description and then upload a suitable image. When you have completed this, click “Create Badge”.



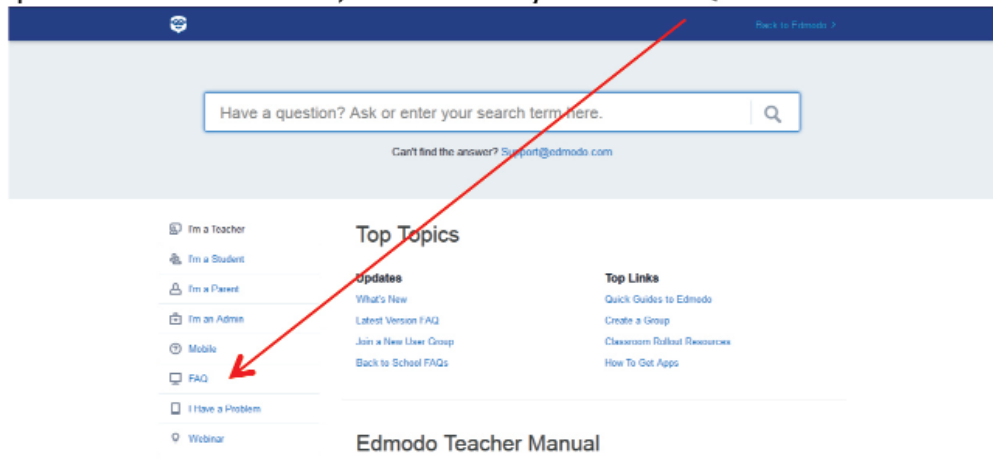
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Edmodo Support

Edmodo support is available 24 hours a day. Click on your icon on the right hand side of the screen and click "Help" from the menu that appears.



Type your question in the search box, or alternatively read the FAQs.



Useful Links

Video Tutorials for using Edmodo	https://support.edmodo.com/hc/en-us/sections/200910884-Video-Tutorials
Digital citizenship	http://blog.edmodo.com/2012/09/19/download-the-digital-citizenship-starter-kit-from-edmodo-common-sense-media/
Edmodo Blog	http://blog.edmodo.com/
Edmodo Help Centre	https://support.edmodo.com/hc/en-us
Teacher Training	https://www.edmodo.com/training#self-guided
Teacher Resources	https://support.edmodo.com/hc/en-us/articles/205008324
Ideas for using Edmodo	https://support.edmodo.com/hc/en-us/sections/200910104-Lesson-Ideas
How to get started	http://www.scribd.com/full/52581150?access_key=key-mae4go653bbr23s94co
Parent Resource	http://www.slideshare.net/scheeler/edmodo-parent-presentation



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