

A VIEW FROM... ITALY



Head of school **Livia Brienza** (far left) and Cambridge IGCSE Coordinator **Emma Mando** (left) from Istituto d'Istruzione Superiore Via Salvini in Rome were interviewed by **Alessandra Varriale** (right), Schools Development Manager for Cambridge International Examinations in Europe



Istituto
d'Istruzione
Superiore Via
Salvini, Italy

AV **What Cambridge programmes do you offer?**

LB/EM We offer Cambridge IGCSEs in English – Second Language, Maths, Physics, Biology, Geography and Latin. Soon we will also teach Cambridge International A Levels in Maths and English Language to ensure that our students acquire a strong competence in these subjects and to improve their chances of getting into the best international universities.

Why did you become a Cambridge school two years ago?

We wanted to develop bilingualism, which has great benefits in terms of international relations and language awareness. We believe that a bilingual programme is an engine for reform and a challenge to revisit pedagogical methodology, practices and strategic plans. We were the first state school in Rome to offer programmes that develop subject knowledge and new language skills at the same time.

How did you implement Cambridge IGCSE alongside the Italian curriculum?

We devised a 'blended curriculum'. First we compared the national and international curricula to identify essential topics and to plan the order of

delivering concepts. Then we developed a long-term plan for the next two to four years.

In the classroom we are supported by native English speakers who are also subject experts. They are given guidance by Italian teachers, qualified in the subject, on how to explain key concepts in the second language.

The process has been long and complex, but our success was due to involving the whole school, from subject teachers to administrators. Plus, Cambridge has played a fundamental role by answering all our queries.

How has your Cambridge regional team supported you?

Your expertise positively influenced our professional learning and helped in the implementation of our bilingual programme.

Were parents supportive of the introduction of Cambridge IGCSE?

Parents had been asking for bilingual education in state schools for a long time, and our project of blending Cambridge programmes with national requirements was immediately popular. It was the long-awaited answer to their demands and a way of enabling their children to develop as global citizens.

What makes you proud about your school?

We are proud of the constant cooperation between teachers, parents and students, which has allowed us to teach bilingually. The growing number of students asking for enrolment is the best reward for the hard work of the teachers. ■



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