

Dear Students,

I hope you are all well and that you managed to have some rest and relaxation over the summer months despite all the difficulties we are facing.

Courses at UNIPOP are due to restart on 26<sup>th</sup> October and it has just been confirmed that for the time being lessons will only be online. I know that a lot of people would prefer to wait until lessons can return to the classroom, but I think if you haven't already done so you should give online lessons a chance.

Like, I am sure, many of you, I am completely new to working online and I am learning as I go along, but I have found that online lessons do have certain advantages, especially for such large groups as ours, and often there is more interaction. Many people who are reluctant to ask questions or make comments in class find it easier to do so online, either vocally or using the chat/comments function, and find themselves more closely involved than they do in the classroom.

However, some changes to the approach have to be made so for this year I have decided to add a new component to what we usually do so that the 90-minute session has a bit more variety. This year's course will include some time spent on translation, both English > Italian and Italian > English, a good practical skill to master and a good way of reviewing grammar/use of English. My plan is also to make time for a look at the day's BBC video news (the one-minute headlines) something that an online course makes more feasible on a regular basis.

I hope that you'll manage to join me this year for this new experience and that together we'll manage to make a success of it and surprise everyone, not least ourselves.

Very best wishes

Giuliana