

Considerations for Flexible & Distance Learning (Blended Learning)

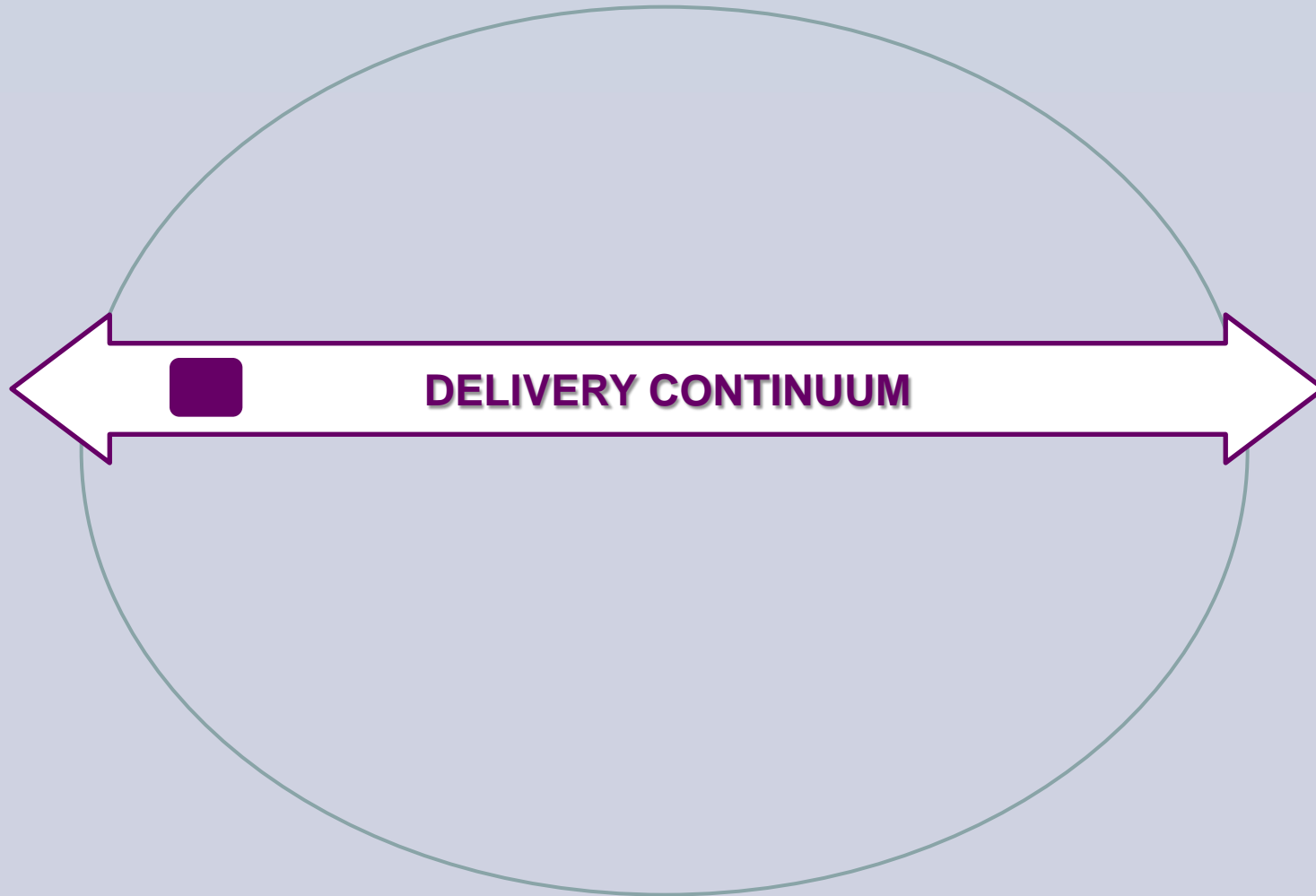
WHAT WE MEAN BY BLENDED LEARNING

F
A
C
E

T
O

F
A
C
E

C
O
N
T
A
C
T



V
I
R
T
U
A
L

C
O
N
T
A
C
T

What do we mean by blended learning?

Blended learning - a design approach whereby both face-to-face and online learning are made better by the presence of the other...

[Blended learning] offers the possibility of recapturing the traditional values of higher education while meeting the demands and needs of the 21st Century .

Garrison, DR and Vaughan ND (2008) *Blended Learning in Higher Education: Frameworks, Principles, and Guidelines*: John Wiley & Sons

What do we mean by blended learning?

The key assumptions of blended learning are:

- ❑ Thoughtfully integrating face-to-face with online learning
- ❑ Fundamentally re-thinking course design to optimize student engagement
- ❑ Restructuring and replacing traditional class contact hours [with transactional contact]

Garrison, DR and Vaughan ND (2008) *Blended Learning in Higher Education: Frameworks, Principles, and Guidelines*: John Wiley & Sons

How can an online element help support face-to-face learning?

It creates the opportunity to examine how online learning opportunities can

Enhance

Extend

and even Replace

.....traditional face to face teaching and learning

WHAT WE MEAN BY VLE

Adapted from Wilson, et al., 2006

HOW DO WE
MANAGE
LEARNING IN A
VLE ?

ARU VLE



Formal education provider



Formal education provider

Profile

Forum

Reading Lists

YouTube



Website with RSS feed

delicious

Flickr

WHAT WE MEAN BY LMS



information
academic processes



VLE



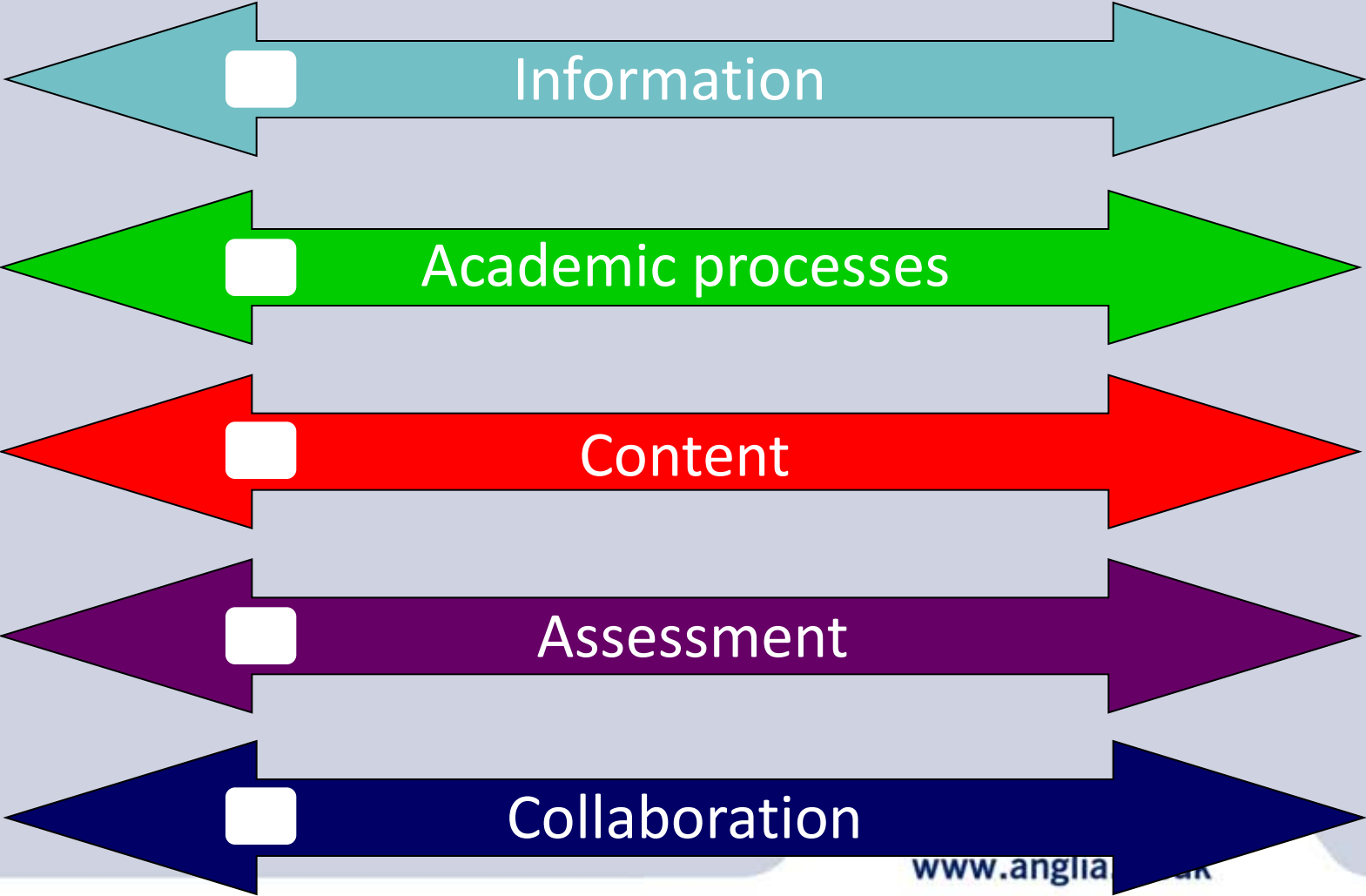
content
assessment
collaboration



BLENDING LEARNING ARENAS

Face-to-Face
only

Virtual
only



BLENDED LEARNING ARENAS

Face 2
Face

Virtual
only



- Distribution & accuracy of module guides
- Revised/reprinted info
- Getting module information to Partners
- Info to students e.g. room changes
- Other Pathway/Course information

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY LEARNING ARENAS

Face to
Face

Virtual
only



Possible Solutions

- Module booklets
(possibly presented in sections)
- Audio guides
- Video guides
- Announcements
- Use of Calendar

BLENDED LEARNING ARENAS

Face 2
Face

Virtual
only



ISSUES / CHALLENGES

- Submission deadlines
- Plagiarism information
- Assessment regulations e.g. reassessment
- Difficult to track student involvement
- Creating & maintaining student groups

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY LEARNING ARENAS

Face 2
Face

Virtual
only



Possible Solutions

- Assessment criteria & guidance
- Model examples / past work
- Submission deadlines
- Office hours (using synchronous & asynchronous means)

BLENDED LEARNING ARENAS

Face 2
Face

Virtual
only



ISSUES / CHALLENGES

- Information to students ahead of a lecture
- Information to students summarizing a tutorial
- Limited resources
- Maximising student engagement
- Copy cost of providing additional resources
- Colour printing and reusability of handouts
- Links to other reading / resources

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY LEARNING ARENAS

Face 2
Face

Virtual
only



Possible Solutions

- Handouts
- Presentations e.g. PPTs
(with / without audio)
- Podcasts, Vodcasts
- Wikis
- Online links to other reading/resources

BLENDED LEARNING ARENAS

Face 2
Face

Virtual
only



ISSUES / CHALLENGES

- Online submission
- Marking
- Feedback during the module
(formative – assessment *for* learning)
- Feedback on assessment components
(summative – assessment *of* learning),
- Submission monitoring
- Giving feedback to groups & large student numbers

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY LEARNING ARENAS

Face 2
Face

Virtual
only



Possible Solutions

- Online submission (not yet)
- Online marking
- Feedback to individuals, groups, whole class
- During module (formative)
- End of module (summative)

BLENDED LEARNING ARENAS

Face 2
Face

Virtual
only



ISSUES / CHALLENGES

- Limited opportunities
 - peer to peer student to lecturer
- Office hours
- Tracking student participation
- Allocating students to groups
- Feedback to students, from students

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY LEARNING ARENAS

Face 2
Face

Virtual
only



Possible Solutions

- Discussions
 - student-student
 - student-tutor
- Group work
- Seminars (physical & virtual)
- Feedback (tutor ↔ student)
- Blogs

How can an online element help support face-to-face learning?

To

Enhance

Extend

and perhaps

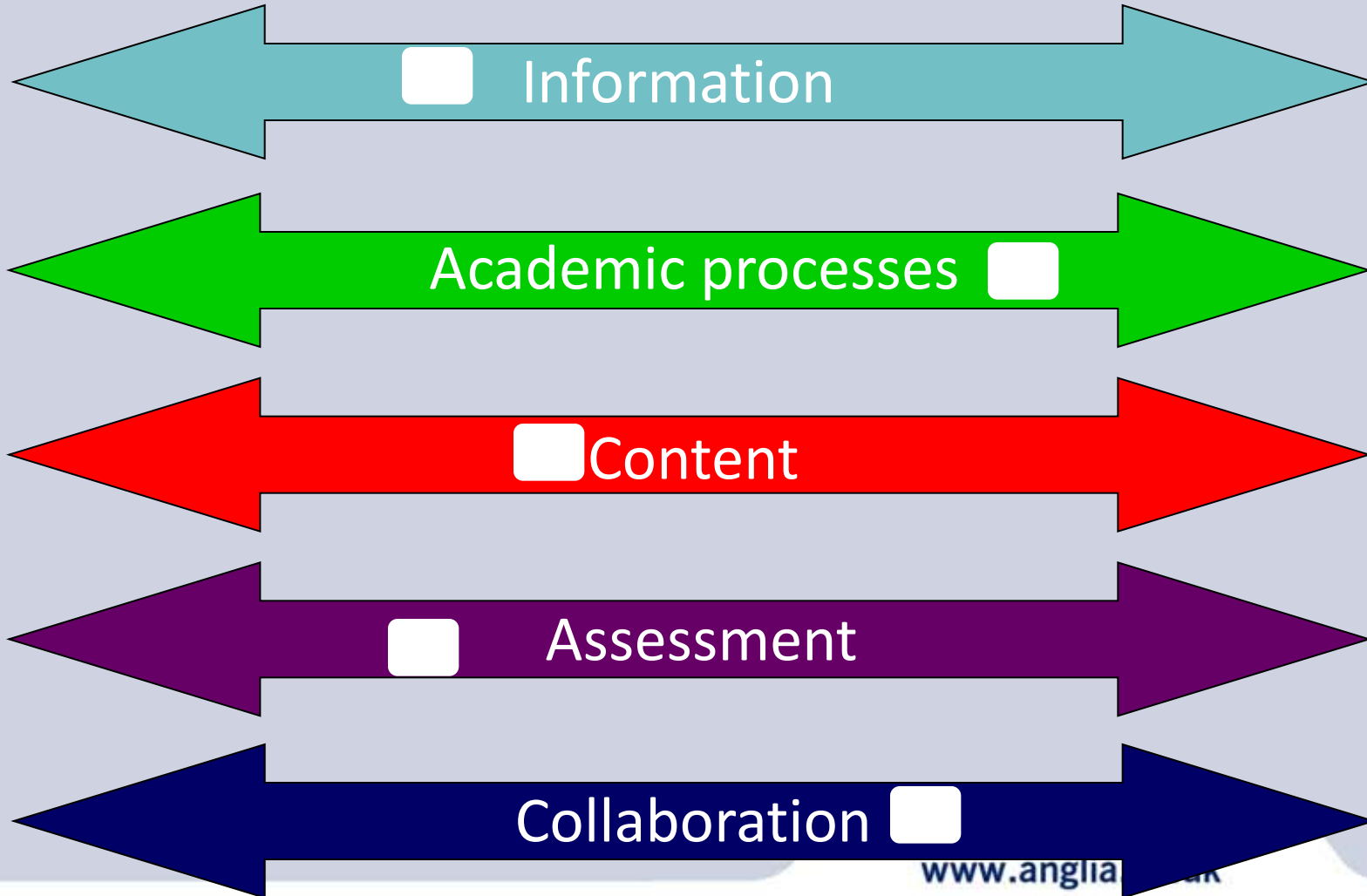
Replace

.....traditional face to face teaching and learning

BLENDING LEARNING ARENAS

Face-to-Face
only

Virtual
only



Issues to consider

- What strategy? – Faculty? Dept? Pathway?
- What NSS and other review requires addressing?
- What are the pedagogic issues?
- Targets?
- Strategies for working in tutor teams
- What can the Faculty do? How can INSPIRE assist?
- Communication