

# SURVIVING IN... ONLINE COMMUNITIES

As a student you will be joining new forums, group pages, message boards and online communities, some led by tutors, Student Union or fellow students.



Right behaviour in the right place. What is ok to share with friends on Facebook may not be appropriate with a tutor on a group page.

Familiarise yourself with the code of conduct in the online communities you use. It can be so easy to be blocked.



Consider the impact of your conduct beyond yourself, on those around you and on the wider organisation to which you belong.

"Got the lucky pants on tonight" share with....

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> friends	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> uni
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> family	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> everyone!
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> colleagues	<input type="button" value="POST"/>

Remember, you can't say what you want just because it is the internet. UK criminal and civil law still applies. If your behaviour is illegal, it will attract police attention.

It's a fine line between banter and abuse and difficult to gauge, especially on Spotted pages or memes. Avoid getting drawn into lad culture behaviour, trolling or mob pressure.

Self-control will not only protect others but will reduce your vulnerability and raise your reputation within that group.

Blocking, or not responding, removes the fuel to online abuse. Report abuse aimed at you or others, this benefits the online community as a whole.



If you need support or advice contact Student welfare or use the links overleaf.

# USEFUL CONTACTS AND LINKS.....

If you are feeling  
distressed  
turn to Samaritans

**[www.samaritans.org](http://www.samaritans.org)**

or if you can't cope, Papyrus **[www.papyrus-uk.org](http://www.papyrus-uk.org)**

Reporting abuse on Facebook -

**[www.facebook.com/safety/tools/](http://www.facebook.com/safety/tools/)**

Reporting abuse on Twitter -

**[www.support.twitter.com/forms/abusiveuser](http://www.support.twitter.com/forms/abusiveuser)**



Have you seen our other top tips?



SOUTH WEST  
**GRID**  
FOR LEARNING