

Writtle University College Guide to Keeping in Touch with Home

We're sure you'll make a lot of new friends on campus while you're living and studying with us at Writtle College, but you will of course want to keep in touch with your friends and family back home. Fortunately there are some great ways to keep in touch for less – and some of the best ways are completely free.

Using the Internet

Everyone in Writtle College accommodation has internet access, and this opens up a lot of great ways to keep in touch with people anywhere in the world. If you're not living on campus you can buy broadband access by visiting <http://www.cable.co.uk>.

The simplest way to keep in touch via the internet is to use email or a social networking site like Facebook to send and receive messages. The only downside to this is it can take a while to get a reply so it's hard to feel like you're having a real conversation. A much better way is to use Skype to make calls over the internet.

You and anyone you want to call will both need to visit the [Skype website](#) to open a free account and to download the software. Once you've installed it on your computer you can send and receive voice and video calls for free, whenever you like. Bear in mind that you need a fast Internet connection to make video calls so if you're having problems try switching to a voice call instead.

If the person you're calling hasn't got a computer or access to the internet you can use Skype to call their landline or mobile phone, but you will have to pay to do so. You can do this by paying for your calls as you go, by paying in advance for a specific number of minutes to a particular country, or by subscribing to a monthly call plan. The monthly calling plans are the cheapest option. For Norway and the rest of Europe choose the "Unlimited Europe" package, or for Japan and Korea choose the "Unlimited World" package.

Using a Telephone

Calling international numbers from a mobile phone can be very expensive. Try to avoid it whenever possible until you've had chance to call your mobile operator to ask them for advice on the cheapest way to call your chosen country.

If they can't offer a cheap way to make international calls you can use a Tesco International Calling Card to call most countries for a greatly reduced rate, including Japan, Korea and Norway for 2p per minute or less!

You can buy a card in any Tesco shop, but it's probably easier to buy one from the [Tesco Calling Card website](#). When you do all of the details will also be sent to you as a text message so they'll always be handy.

When you want to call abroad you'll first need to dial an access number. If you're calling from a landline use the Freephone number which begins with 0800. If you're calling from a mobile you may be charged to call 0800 numbers, so call your mobile provider to find out. If you are charged for 0800 numbers you should instead use the London number which begins 0207 as this will count as a national rate number and will be covered by your inclusive minutes, or deducted from your Pay As You Go balance.

Once you're connected to the access number you'll need to enter the card's PIN number followed by the number you wish to call. The cost of the call will then be deducted from the card, along with a small connection fee. You'll need to top up your clubcard online or in a Tesco shop when the credit has been used up, or after 3 months has passed since your last top up.

(Please note that international calling cards are available from a large range of UK providers. We don't directly endorse the Tesco card, nor can we be held responsible for the level of service that you will receive).