# Wellbeing & Counselling Tips Healthy Relationships



# **Quality not quantity**

It can be easy to feel like you're unpopular if you don't have loads of friends but a couple of really healthy, intimate and trusting relationships are far more valuable than lots of relationships with no depth.

## **Talk effectively**

Communication is the cornerstone of a sound relationship. When you communicate only through action, the message can become distorted or misunderstood.

## **Own your feelings**

When arguing use "I" statements so you can explain how the other person has made you feel rather than "you" statements which makes the other person feel threatened and blamed.

#### **Maintain boundaries**

A healthy relationship involves feeling respected, autonomous and cared for. If any of these are missing you may not be in a healthy relationship. You can speak to a wellbeing advisor for advice on this.

#### Keep your life balanced

Other people cannot meet every need and a healthy relationship involves time away from each other with friends and family. Remember alone time is also important and it's ok to ask for this in a relationship.

#### Loneliness

Lots of people can feel lonely at university. You can try to connect to others and form relationships by joining societies run by the student union or looking for meet-up groups near where you live.

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