

# SITE IS LAUNCHED FOR 'FRESHERS'

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STUDENTS preparing to go to university could meet up with classmates before freshers' week thanks to a new website.

Launched by a Welsh entrepreneur, Freshties aims to bring together people with common interests in education, career development, business or leisure.

The website will allow students who are starting at the same college, university, or on the same course to meet up online and have a chat before the start of the new term.

In the next few weeks it aims to attract thousands of students preparing to go to university.

Through the database on the website students can get in touch with future classmates or future housemates before they leave home.

Creator Ashish Poddar, 37, said: "Students can find out who else will be on their course before they arrive, helping quash any concerns, share information and prepare for their next stage in life.



■ NEW LINKS Entrepreneur Ashish Poddar.

"Parents too, feel better that their child is more confident about leaving home for the first time. And it works for all types of study from sixth form to community learning."

Ashish, from Abergavenny, added: "We're breaking down social barriers, and helping individuals of all ages and from all kinds of backgrounds to make new friends and initiate real, positive changes in their lives. When people help each other, anything is possible."

The solicitor left a city law firm to return to Wales to devote himself full-time to developing the website. He has pledged to donate between 10 and 60 per cent of its revenues to a community fund that will support smaller charity projects.

He aims to have more than one million members by the end of the site's first year.

For more information log onto [www.freshties.com](http://www.freshties.com).