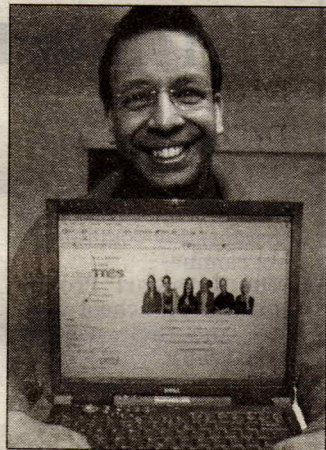


# Website unites learners



**Ashish Poddar**

A PIONEERING electronic community of students from across the country was the brainchild of one Gwent man.

Ashish Poddar, 35, from Abergavenny, initially set up the website, [www.studentties.com](http://www.studentties.com) to help students facing decisions about university.

Mr Poddar wanted to provide a safe arena where people could discuss their concerns with others facing the same decisions.

He said: "I thought back to when I was applying for university and how useful it would have been to have been able to talk to others considering applying for the same course."

Now the site has now grown to include all students, from those taking NVQs and modern apprenticeships to AS-level and mature students.

It provides users with a searchable discussion forum where they can look up current students of a particular course or institution, those who have applied for a certain course or institution or those who are just thinking about applying.

The site also includes magazine-style features and advice on all aspects of student life.

Mr Poddar said: "It's a great way for people to meet others from different backgrounds.

"It is a great way of encouraging people who might otherwise be too shy or nervous to get involved."

Registration on the site is currently free, after which users will be charged a subscription fee of £5.

For further information visit [www.studentties.com](http://www.studentties.com)