TOP TIPS FOR STUDENTS LIVING IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

Are you living off-campus within the local community? Have a look below for some handy tips and advice on how to be a good neighbour.

PARTIES AND NOISE

- No excessive noise at any times. If you are planning a party give your neighbours at least one week of notice and agree a reasonable end time to the party. You might also consider inviting your neighbours to join you!
- Remember there is absolutely no right to party. Everyone is entitled to quiet enjoyment of their property; this can be enforced with civil action where necessary and disciplinary action will follow from the university if independent statutory evidence is secured.
- There is a common misconception that you can make as much noise as you like until 11pm. Music played loudly and frequently at any time of the day could be considered to be a nuisance if neighbours cannot hear their own radio/TV at a reasonable level. However, loud music, which is played frequently in the early hours of the morning and causes sleep disturbance is more likely to be viewed as statutory nuisance.

BE TIDY

- Be responsible for ensuring you keep your home and garden free from waste.
- Make sure you know who is responsible for these jobs - your landlord or you as tenants.
- Remember shopping trolleys should not be brought back to your property as this is an offence and you can be fined for this.

DOCTOR / MEDICAL SUPPORT

- Don't wait until you need a doctor before registering! Check with the Health Centre (Founder's East 1st Floor) to see if you're in their catchment area.
- If you're not, they can advise you on your nearest surgery.

BE SAFE

- Try not to walk home alone after dark, stick to well-lit main roads and stay alert - unplug your iPod while you are walking so you are aware of your surroundings at all times.
- You can pick up a free personal safety alarm and other personal safety products such as Alcotops from Founder's West 170. Even in a safe area like this we think it is good practice to minimise risk by carrying a personal safety alarm with you.

SU SSHH! (SILENT STUDENTS, HAPPY HOMES)

- If you live within a 3 mile radius of the campus you can use the Students' Union SSHH! bus which runs every function night during term time.
- Tickets can be purchased from the SU reception - consider buying an annual pass so you never need worry (and it is a great financial saving over the year!)

UTILITY BILLS

- Don't let arguments over paying bills affect your friendships!
- Agree how your household bills will be paid / split between you.
- All tenants’ names should appear on the bills where possible.
• Meter readings should be recorded when you move in and vacate the property.

**HOME SECURITY**

• Insure your possessions against damage and theft. Pick up an application leaflet from the Students' Union.
• Make sure you keep windows and doors locked when you are away from the property - even if it is only for a short period as this is when opportunist thieves could strike.

**RUBBISH & RECYCLING**

• Runnymede Borough Council operate a fortnightly recycling collection and a fortnightly black bin collection for those items of household waste that can't be recycled. Food waste is collected each week.
• Check when your collection day is www.runnymede.gov.uk / 0800 052 0067 or by asking your neighbours!
• Also look at our Refuse & Recycling web pages for more information.

**BE A GOOD NEIGHBOUR**

• Introduce yourselves when you move in to help establish a positive relationship. Keep in touch with them throughout your time in your house and talk to them if any issues arise.
• Make sure you are following the expectations of our Be A Good Neighbour strategy and don't create a nuisance by way of your behaviour.
• Ask the Community Wellbeing team for further advice if you need it - call 01784 443394 or email community@royalholloway.ac.uk.

**TV LICENSE**

• Your TV is not covered by your parent's licence so make sure you apply for one. You can face a fine of up to £1000 if you are found watching TV without a current licence. For further information visit www.tvlicensing.co.uk/students/

**STUDENTS WISHING FOR GUIDANCE IN THIS AREA ARE ADVISED TO SPEAK TO:**

**Community, Wellbeing & Student Outreach, Support & Advisory Services**
Founder's West, 1st floor, room 170
E: community@royalholloway.ac.uk
T: 01784 443394

**Advice & Support Centre, Students' Union**
SU Building, 1st floor
E: advice@su.rhul.ac.uk
T: 01784 276700

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Support & Advisory Services (Welfare & Wellbeing)
Updated August 2015