

## Cross-curricular – Technology

### 1 Write the answers to these questions.

- 1 Are you a member of an online community?  
YES?  
Which one(s)?

How long do you spend there? \_\_\_\_\_  
What is the attraction for you?

NO?

Why not? \_\_\_\_\_  
Would you like to be? \_\_\_\_\_

- 2 Do you ever post comments online? Why/Why not?



### WORD BOOSTER

#### Match the words and definitions.

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| 1 morose   | a something interesting because it's new |
| 2 sullen   | b derogatory term for expert             |
| 3 dubious  | c boring because it's ordinary           |
| 4 novelty  | d gloomy                                 |
| 5 mindless | e unwilling to talk to anyone            |
| 6 mundane  | f unsure                                 |
| 7 geek     | g without any point to it                |

### 2 Read the webpage. Do you know anyone like these people? Who?

### 3 Read the webpage again carefully. For questions 1–8, choose from the people (A–D). Each person may be chosen more than once.

Which person ...

- enjoys the sense of identity that the online community gives him/her? \_\_\_\_\_
- considers the majority of online comment quite trivial? \_\_\_\_\_
- expresses an interest in joining an online community? \_\_\_\_\_
- has lost his/her initial interest? \_\_\_\_\_
- points out his/her lack of high-tech knowledge? \_\_\_\_\_
- believes that interacting with certain online communities can benefit a person's development? \_\_\_\_\_
- feels that there is no practical alternative? \_\_\_\_\_
- goes online for reasons other than social networking? \_\_\_\_\_



### Social lives online

The Internet plays an enormous part in people's social lives today, so we thought we'd ask YOU to let us know what you feel about the value of social networking sites and other online communities.

#### A [Jacky141]

Quite honestly, I'd be lost without the online contact I have with other people interested in my own pet hobby – politics! We discuss politics online at all hours – sometimes I'm up all night, typing, thinking, scrolling, debating. It's marvellous. The people I link up with are from all over the world – people I'd never get the chance to meet in real life, all offering different views based on different experiences. Other people I know link up with people just as I do, but with different interests. I couldn't live without my virtual social life!

#### B [Roseanna2]

My son's online community is through the game *World of Warcraft*. Not quite the same as a social networking site or online discussion group I know, but for him it's really like being in another world with loads of new friends where you can do everything and anything you've ever wanted to do. Last week someone hacked into his account and he couldn't get back into the game – he was absolutely devastated. It shows how much it means to him. At first I was a bit dubious about him spending so much time on his computer, but actually I think it's been very good for him. Having an avatar and learning to negotiate with others can be very character building and as long as it doesn't take over his physical social life then I'm all for it. I might get involved myself – it looks fun!

#### C [StuMacT]

I'm sorry, but I just don't get it. OK, I'm sixtyish and coming up to retirement but I keep up to date with the latest technology and I can find my way round the Internet quite happily. In my opinion, it's a wonderful source of information and I'm always Googling something or other. What I can't understand is the attraction of these social networking sites. I did try going on Facebook and for a while I suppose it was a bit of a novelty but after a bit I just got fed up with all the junk that's on there. I mean, you have to wade through tons of mindless gossip to find any interesting comments. Why is it that people want to tell the world about the most mundane moments of their lives? Give me a break!

#### D [loutheregir14]

For me, social networking is the best possible use of the Internet. It's by far the best way to keep in touch with people – I'm sure that without it I would have lost contact with loads of people because there just aren't enough hours in the day to get to talk to everyone you really want to. It's easy to do – I'm not a computer geek or anything and even I can tweet on Twitter or update my Facebook page! It's free, it's convenient. It's difficult to explain but I suppose it's like being part of a group without having to organise things. I'm not at all a needy type of person but – it sort of makes you feel 'needed' if you get what I mean? Hey, what's not to like about it? Long live social networking!

### 4 Write your own comment to post on the website.

What do you think is the value of social networking sites and other online communities?

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