**Tips for staying safe on the street:**

Please try and follow the below advice on how to stay safe and feel more confident when out and about.

### Be prepared

### Plan your route in advance. Carry a charged mobile phone, some cash and tell someone where you’re going and when you get there.

### Be assertive

From the moment you step out onto the street in the morning, look assertive and act and walk with confidence. This will always make you appear in control and much less vulnerable.

### Be aware

Using a mobile phone, whether making a call or texting, wearing a hood or wearing headphones, can distract you and stop you from hearing any potential dangers around you.

### Hide valuables

Keep your valuables including your **mobile phone**, other devices and jewellery, hidden. Do not use your phone as a torch when out at night. Have a torch on you.

### Go against the flow

When walking on the pavement, always face oncoming traffic, as it will make it far more difficult for thieves to come up from behind and snatch your belongings. But still also be aware of anyone approaching from ahead of you.

### Trust your instincts

Try to avoid walking alone at night in places such as parks and side streets or any unfamiliar environment. If you have to walk, stick to busy places where is a lot of activity CCTV and good lighting.

### Make a plan

And stick to it. First off, discuss with friends what to do if something were to go wrong on your night out together, eg if one of you has too much to drink or you were to get separated. Agree on a backup plan and look out for one another.

**Plan your travel**

Get a lift from a friend/family if you can or take a taxi. Check it is a licenced taxi or a taxi company you regularly use and book it in advance to prevent waiting on the streets. If using public transport, avoid empty train carriages, empty bus stops and sit near the bus driver if possible or another passenger. If walking, try to walk home in groups of friends or family members.

### Be careful

Alcohol will reduce reaction times and inhibitions, which makes it harder to assess risks and decide how to deal with them. So keep an eye on how much you drink and never let your glass or bottle out of your sight.

### Safety in numbers

Try to travel with people you know and, where possible, stick to routes and forms of transport that others are using and avoid shortcuts in lonely places.

### If necessary, seek safety

If you are concerned for your safety, then make your way to a public place of safety and ask someone to call the police. Supermarkets can be a good place to go as they are normally open later at night and have a security guard at the front of most of stores.

**Reporting:**

If you witness, or are victim to, any discrimination or harassment at college please **report it to** **your tutor or student advice immediately**.

If you have been a victim of harassment, violence or another crime, you can contact Beacon Support (Hertfordshire’s Victim Care Centre) [https://hertfordshirebeacon.org](https://hertfordshirebeacon.org/)

If you witness, or are victim to, any form of **hate crime** please report it at <https://www.report-it.org.uk/>

