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Providing academic support and improving transition into university life through Facebook groups

Day 1 – Parallel I (12.00-12.30)

In this talk we will present an overview of the initiatives undertaken within the Student Learning Service (SLS) in order to ease transition into the numerate disciplines at the University of Glasgow. We will discuss how we make use of social networking tools in order to communicate with students and support virtual Peer Assisted Learning type activities. In particular, we will show how we are using Facebook groups as a mechanism for students to support each other both academically and socially, and explain how we have introduced pre-entry support and offered advice for new entrants in the College of Science & Engineering using these groups.

We will also discuss how our real and online groups complement each other: for example we have a thriving SLS knitting group which meets weekly and has a lively Facebook group, and we host regular mathematical film showings which we advertise by setting up Facebook events and sharing them via our Maths Facebook groups.

We will end by giving examples of student comments and feedback, and outlining our plans for the future.

This session will be co-presented by Caelum Davies, a student at Glasgow University who has first hand experience of these groups.