

A GUIDE TO PERISCOPE

Using live video
streaming in
maths support

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This guide has been produced as part of a **sigma** funded project into using mobile apps in maths support.

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INTRODUCTION

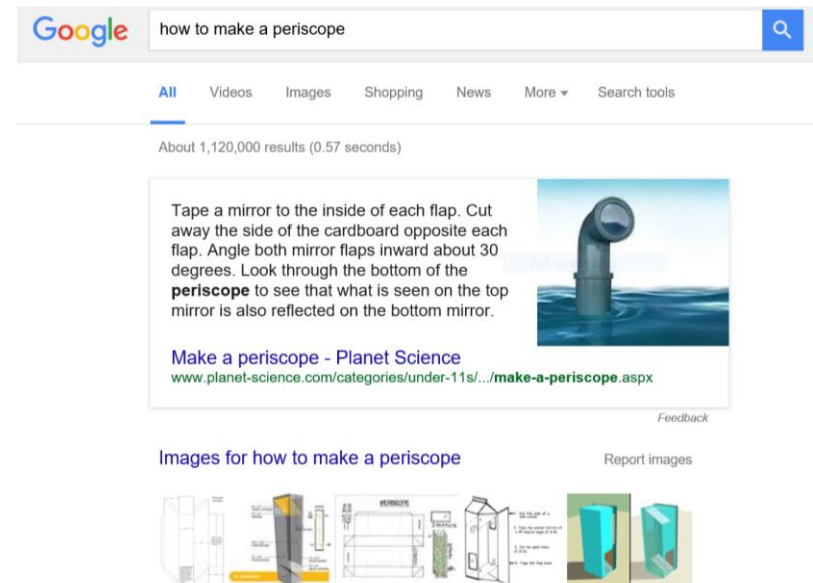
Live streaming is defined as transmitting or receiving live video and audio over the internet. From a meeting of the [Foreign Affairs Committee](#) to home webcams of the [Northern Lights](#), live streaming is an increasingly popular form of media.

Mobile streaming social media apps such as [Meerkat](#) and [Periscope](#) market themselves as the closest thing to teleportation! For organisations, live streaming apps can help to boost engagement and build trust with the audience.

In March 2015, [Twitter](#), an already popular social media platform, bought Periscope. In the first ten days of Periscope being launched, one million users joined up, making it the [fastest growing social media platform](#). Eight months after its release, Periscope won the coveted [2015 Apple iPhone App of the year](#). Facebook too has recently launched 'Facebook Live', available for verified Pages and public figures.

For those working in Higher Education (HE), it is important to keep up to date with the technology being used by students. It is easier to communicate and interact with students in the places they are already using. According to the [Ofcom 2015 Communications Market Report](#), 93% of 16-24 year olds use social media, 41% say they are 'hooked' and 34% visit social media more than ten times a day! Smartphones have now overtaken laptops as the most popular device for getting online, with 90% of 16-24 year olds owning one. Many social media experts believe live streaming mobile apps will play a major role in the future of social media and be [the next biggest shift over the next five years](#).

Periscope is the leading live streaming app and therefore the focus of this guide. The guide will explain what Periscope is, how it can be used in maths support, and how to go about using it. Periscope is relatively new and still evolving; all information in this guide is correct at the time of writing (May 2016). If you Google "how to make a periscope", you'll get instructions that involve cardboard tubes and small mirrors....



Google how to make a periscope

All Videos Images Shopping News More Search tools

About 1,120,000 results (0.57 seconds)

Tape a mirror to the inside of each flap. Cut away the side of the cardboard opposite each flap. Angle both mirror flaps inward about 30 degrees. Look through the bottom of the **periscope** to see that what is seen on the top mirror is also reflected on the bottom mirror.

Make a periscope - Planet Science
www.planet-science.com/categories/under-11s/.../make-a-periscope.aspx

Feedback

Images for how to make a periscope Report images

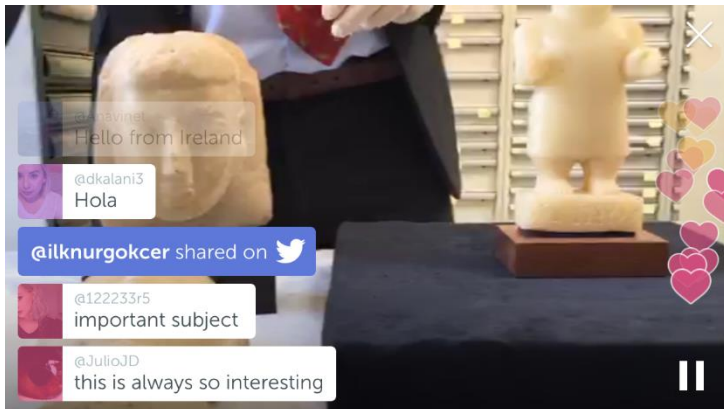
WHAT IS PERISCOPE?

Periscope is a free live streaming app that allows users to view and broadcast live “Scopes” from around the world in real time. Anyone can stream a live video through the Periscope app on their mobile device (Android or iOS) and viewers can watch these live Scopes on the app, via the Twitter app, or on [Periscope.tv](https://www.periscope.tv) (currently Chrome, Safari or Firefox browser only). Viewers can comment, ask questions, and send hearts to the broadcaster in real time.

The broadcast is automatically available to watch as a replay for 24 hours, after which it is deleted. However, you can choose to save your Scope permanently by writing '#save' in the Scope title. Additionally, you can save your Scope to your device and upload to Dropbox, YouTube, etc. Currently, there is no maximum length of Scopes, but this may change as the app develops. Similarly, there is no set maximum number of viewers. However, if there are lots of viewers (in the hundreds), only those who arrived first are allowed to comment, to avoid overloading.

There are a few different ways to view a Scope. As of May 2016, you can watch a Scope via:

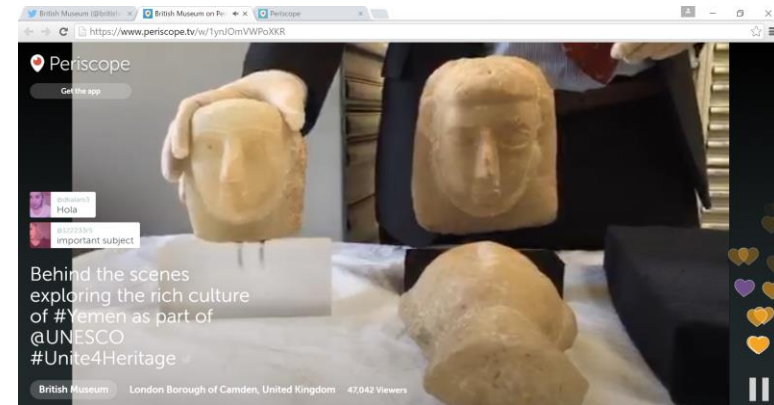
1. Periscope App on a mobile device (iOS & Android)



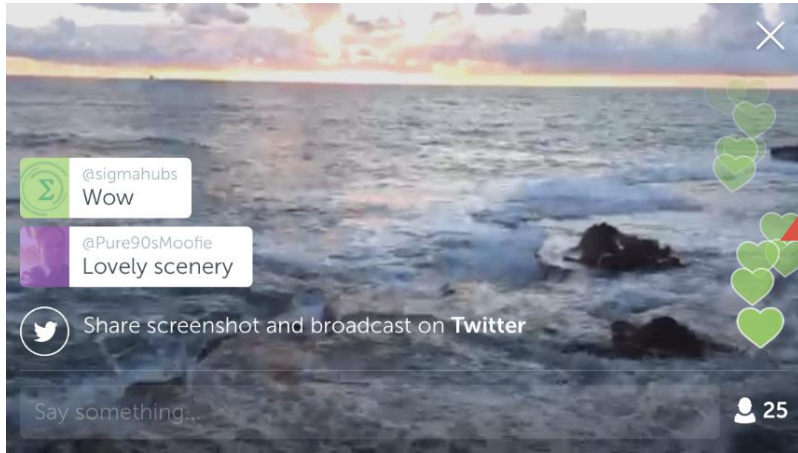
2. Twitter App on iOS & Android



3. Periscope.tv on a Chrome, Safari or Firefox browser



THE LINGO



As with all social media platforms, it is important to get to grips with “the lingo”.

- **Scope** – A live broadcast session.
- **Scoper** – A person who is on the Periscope platform.
- **Hearts** – Scopers show appreciation by tapping on the screen and giving a broadcaster hearts.
- **Replay** – Scopes are recorded on Periscope for Scopers to replay within 24 hours.
- **Follow** – Scopers follow each other. It is no different than liking a Page on Facebook or following a user on Twitter.
- **Mutuals** – When you are both following and being followed by a Scoper.

PERISCOPE IN HIGHER EDUCATION – SOME EXAMPLES

Dr Sam Illingworth, a Science Communications Lecturer at Manchester Metropolitan University, used Periscope to broadcast a reading of his poem, *The firefly's sex life has been upset* – a creative interpretation of the journal article [Illuminating the effects of light pollution on fireflies](#). A recording of the Scope is now available via [Dropbox](#).

At Leeds Beckett University, the Head of E-Learning Simon Thompson suggests using Periscope to broadcast a [virtual Q&A](#) in his blog post [Up or Down Periscope](#).

At the University of Bath, Periscope is being trialled to live stream open day lectures. Prospective students who are unable to get into lecture theatres (limited capacity) or who have clashing events can easily watch lecture broadcasts from their mobile device.

Aberdeen University has used Periscope to broadcast a live campus tour, as well as live streaming a prize giving ceremony.

PERISCOPE IN MATHS SUPPORT

One of the best things about Periscope is its simplicity. The app is free and offers an easy way to connect with students remotely. This may be particularly useful for universities operating over different campuses, or during student holidays/reading weeks. Scopers can only comment during the live broadcast, which might incentivise student to 'book in' that time to connect with maths support. Also, it is novel, and the 'fun factor' may encourage students to watch. As most students have a smartphone and/or tablet, it is very easy for them to log on from wherever they are. The Mathematics Resource Centre at the University of Bath piloted Periscope for peer tutor learning during exam revision week. In Mathematics, year 2 students broadcast a mini lecture on Coding Theory for year 1 students to watch. The pilot was a success with 66 live viewers and 55 replays. Further information will be included in the summer 2016 **sigma** newsletter.

Periscope may also work well as a promotional tool. You could live stream a drop-in help session or do 'about me' Scopes introducing everyone in the department. You could provide maths tips, do a question and answer sessions, or even broadcast yourself telling maths jokes! Periscope could serve as your own live news channel, doing a weekly round up of things happening in the department. And, because Periscope plays directly in Twitter, instead of writing 'we're currently listening to a talk by our guest speaker', you could live stream a snippet (or all) of it! Of course if you are live streaming other people, you should ask them first. Note that Periscope is not meant to be formal and polished, so have a play! If you put out a Scope that you're not happy with you can delete it immediately. Periscope serves to let students know you are friendly and approachable, while building trust and visibility.

Periscope is also being used by the **sigma** network to live stream training events for those involved in maths support. In April 2016, talks from different Universities at the Eastern England Hub networking meeting (on the theme of promotion and evaluation of maths support services) were streamed on Periscope. In May 2016, the **sigma** social media workshop at Manchester Metropolitan University was live streamed enabling virtual attendance and can be replayed on periscope.tv/sigmahubs.

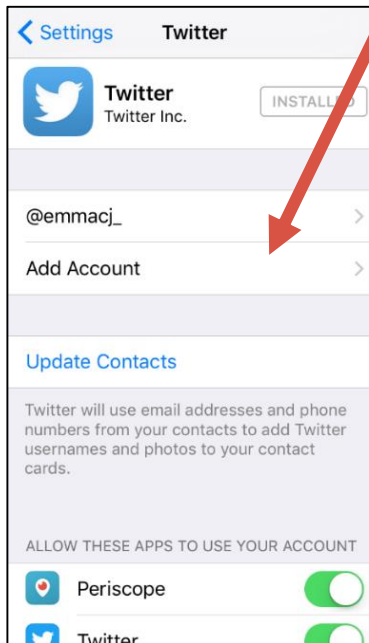
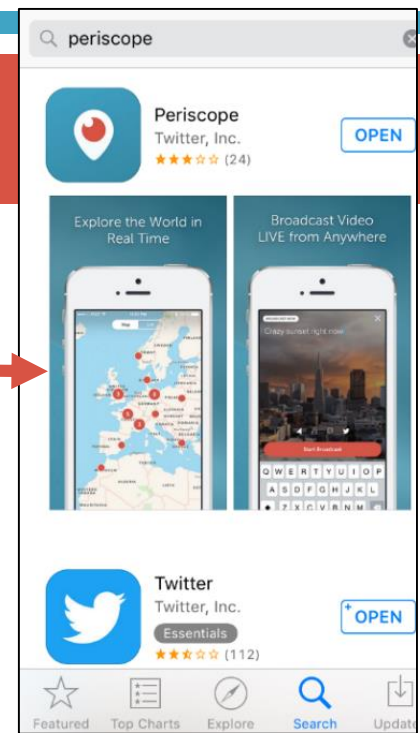
Limitations

Due to the very fast internet connection needed to stream data in real time, files encoded for streaming are often highly compressed to use as little bandwidth as possible. Unfortunately, this means that Scope quality can be poor. Additionally, Scopes can only be recorded from the app (on a smart phone or tablet), and so quality can be reduced further with a low quality camcorder and/or microphone. Periscope may not therefore be ideal for formal lectures.

HOW TO USE PERISCOPE

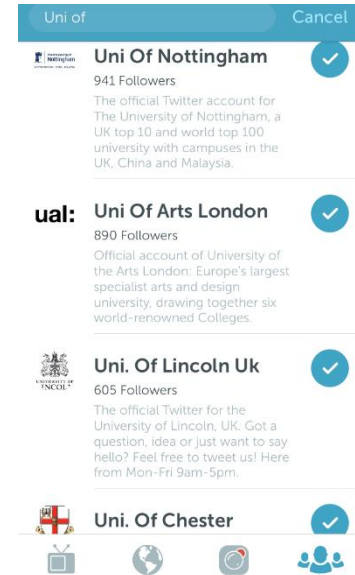
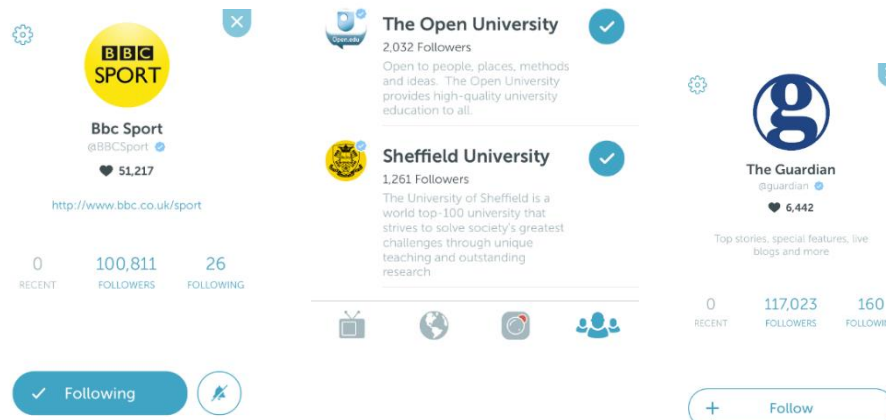
How to set up Periscope

1. Go to the app store on your smartphone or tablet and search for “Periscope” (the FREE app published by Twitter Inc.).
2. You can sign in using your Twitter account or you can use your phone number. If you want to easily make the most of the social aspect of Periscope, using your Twitter username/handle is recommended.
3. If you have more than one Twitter account (for example a personal and a professional one), you can add the additional ones using the “Add Account” function under the Twitter settings on your device.



Who to follow on Periscope

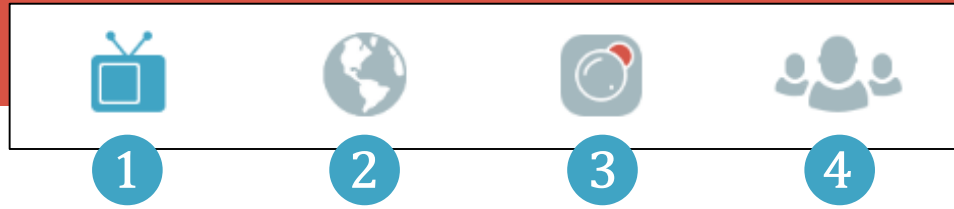
To get started, search for other HE institutions, and mainstream media. Follow them, and you'll get a notification when they are broadcasting.



HOW TO USE PERISCOPE

Tabs

There are four primary tabs in the Periscope app.

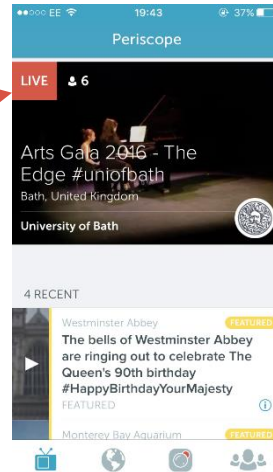


1 Current and recent broadcasts of people you follow

The first tab displays:

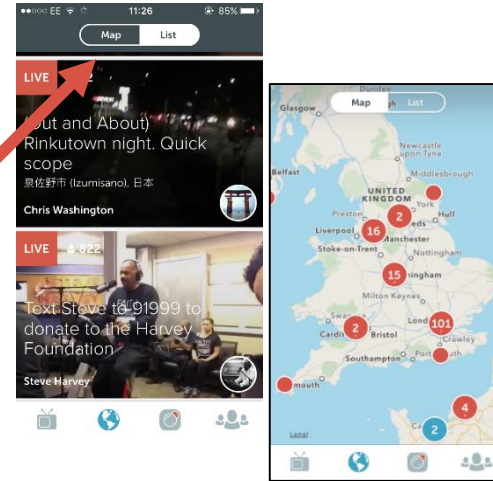
1. A list of the people you're following on Periscope who are currently "live". Touch a listing to join the broadcast.

2. A list of broadcasts from the people you follow in the past 24 hours.



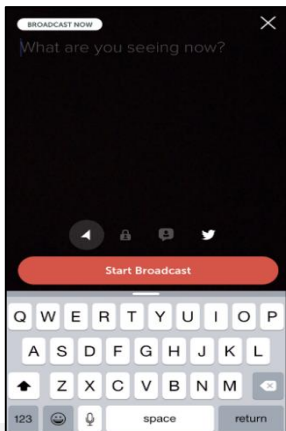
2 All current broadcasts

The second tab in the app has two views, both of which show a global list of live public broadcasts that you can join. You can flip between both the list and map views by using the selector at the top of the screen.



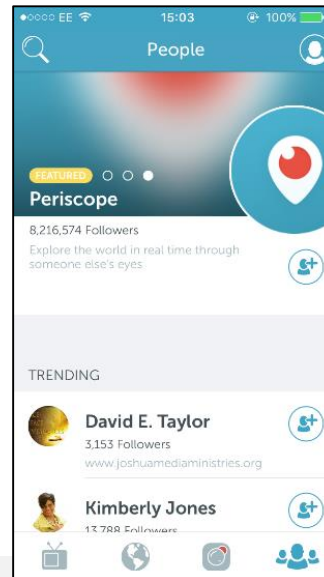
3 Broadcast booth

The third tab is your broadcast booth. Use this tab to record a Scope.



4 Search facility, profile and settings

The fourth and final tab is where you can look up accounts to follow. This is also where you access your profile and other settings (by clicking on the head in the right corner).



HOW TO USE PERISCOPE

How to start a Scope

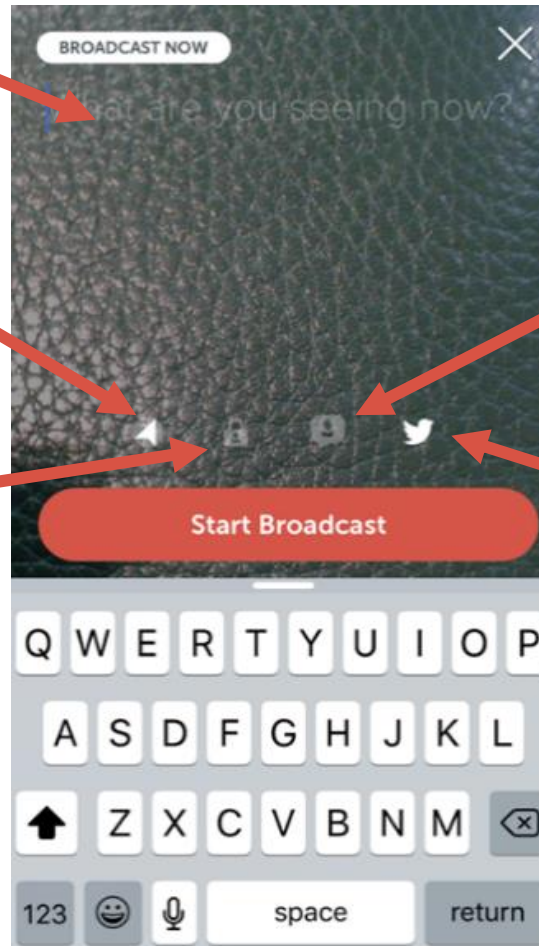
Click on the camera lens icon and create your title for your scope. The title can contain hashtags (#) to be searched on Twitter. If you want your Scope to be saved for longer than 24 hours, #save.

Turn on / off location by clicking on the arrow. This can give people your exact location down to street level!

Click on the padlock to make your scope private to your followers, otherwise it will default to public.

TIP

Make sure you have a good Wi-Fi or 3G/4G signal before you start, and Set your phone/tablet to “Do Not Disturb” before you get started so you don’t get unexpected calls mid-scope!



TIP

When you’re broadcasting swipe down to see the stop broadcast button, and double tap to reverse the camera into selfie mode.

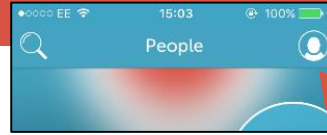
The third icon allows you to choose between allowing only your followers to comment or allowing everyone. It might be wise to only allow followers to cut down on trolls!

By clicking the Twitter icon, which is fourth along, you can instantly send your scope out as a Tweet to the Twitter community. This is recommended.

Once you’re ready tap the “Start Broadcast” button. Good luck!!

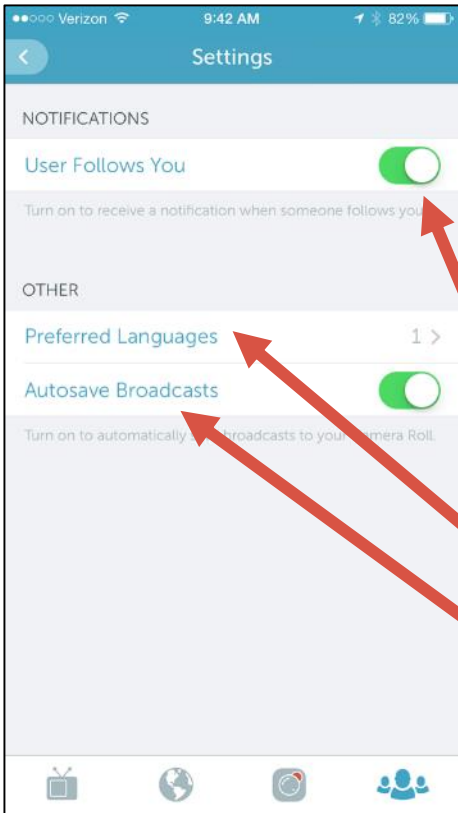
HOW TO USE PERISCOPE

Settings



To access your Periscope profile and settings, touch the little blank headshot in the top right of the fourth tab (People).

Your Periscope profile was imported when you signed in using Twitter, but you can still change the image, ID and tagline, by clicking Edit. Add your website name to profile description so people know where to find you.



Your profile shows how many hearts you've received both during your live broadcasts and during their replays. Viewers give you hearts by touching the screen while watching to show their appreciation for your broadcast.

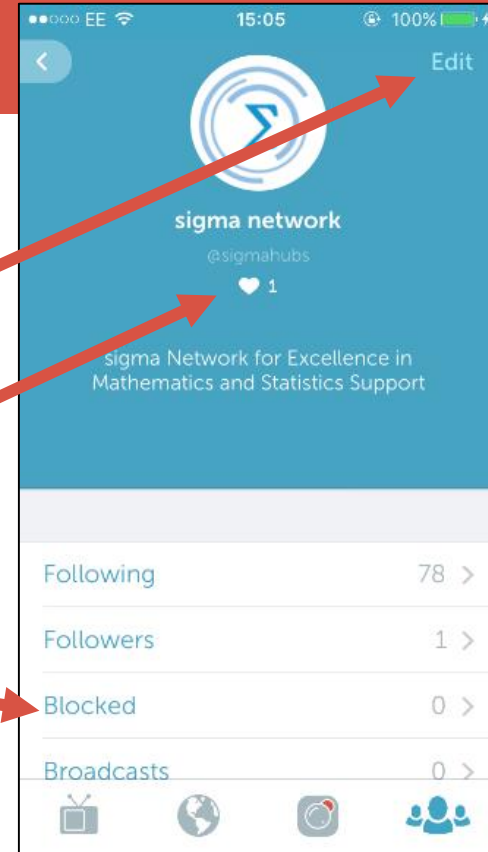
You will also see how many people you're following on Periscope, and how many people are following you.

You can block people on Periscope. You might want to block someone if they leave inappropriate comments on your broadcasts. When you block someone, they will not be able to view any of your broadcasts, chats, or hearts within the app. You'll also be unable to follow or see that person's broadcasts, chats or hearts.

You can turn on/off the notification you get when someone follows you in Periscope. You can also manage notifications (including when someone you're following on Periscope starts a broadcast) in your device settings.

The second setting on this screen lets you configure the languages that Periscope will prioritise when showing you public broadcasts.

The final setting, if "On" will save your broadcasts to your device. This is useful if you want to keep a copy, or upload onto Dropbox, YouTube, etc. You will however need to make sure your device has enough memory to store the broadcast. A tablet, rather than a smartphone, would be better in this case.



WHAT ELSE?

Before you broadcast, decide how you will prop up your device. You may need to buy a stand to ensure a smooth recording. The [Targus Mini Stand](#) is suitable for most tablets and smartphones, and is available for £6.99 from [Maplin](#).

Further Reading

<https://help.periscope.tv> – Official Periscope help centre

<http://pikemalltech.com/how-to-use-periscope-for-education> – blog post on using Periscope for Education

<http://blogs.sussex.ac.uk/tell/2015/08/18/periscope-live-broadcasting-for-teaching-and-learning/> - blog post from Sussex University on using Periscope for teaching and learning

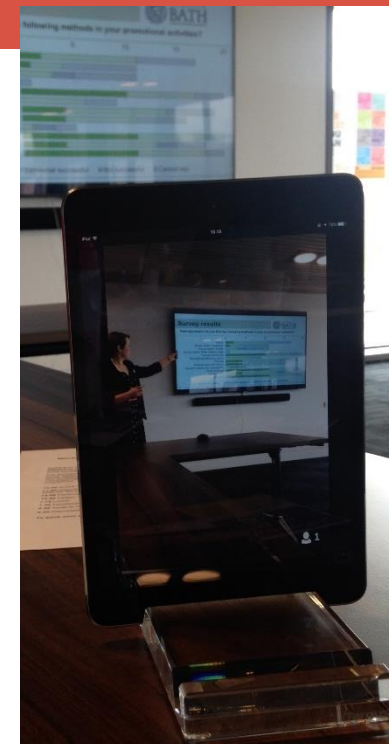
<http://socialmediaweek.org/blog/2016/04/periscope-celebrates-200-million-broadcasts-first-year/> - the most recent blog post on Periscope (April 2016) by the biggest social media news website

<http://media.ofcom.org.uk/news/2015/cmr-uk-2015/> - Ofcom's 2015 Communications Market Report

Acknowledgments

This guide, funded by **sigma** as part of a project looking into mobile apps and social media in maths support, was produced by Emma Collins-Jones in April 2016. Recognition must also be given to Cheryl Voake-Jones from the Mathematics Resource Centre at the University of Bath for editing and formatting. For more information about the Periscope pilot projects, contact Emma Collins-Jones (ecj26@bath.ac.uk) or Moira Petrie (M.G.Petrie@lboro.ac.uk).

Remember the fun of Periscope is that broadcasts are rough, ready and raw – have a go!



Live streaming a **sigma** workshop using a Targus Mini Stand