

If you're a keen reader, then this is a perfect way for you to do something you enjoy and stay in touch with your friends! It's also an opportunity to discover new authors and try something outside of your literary comfort zone. If you're registered with your local library, you can sign up to [BorrowBox](#) to borrow an eBook, meaning you don't have to spend lots of money buying each book.

# Online Book Club

## Here's what to do:

### 1. Plan the logistics

- Are you going to set a limit on the number of people that can be involved?
- Are you going to invite specific friends or put a general call out on social media?
- How often are you going to 'meet'?
- How much will you charge people to take part? You could either ask for a one-off donation to join, or a smaller donation for each discussion they join
- You should pick the first book. You should then think about how you will decide who picks the book each week. Whoever picks the book should be in charge of leading the discussion that week.
- What platform will you use to host your discussion? Google Hangouts, Facebook Messenger and Zoom are just a few of the options!

### 2. Set up a [Virgin Money Giving](#) page linked to our [Coronavirus Resilience Appeal](#) for members to donate their entry fee to

- We're challenging you to set a fundraising target of £150 overall. If this seems a bit daunting, it could be achieved through multiple challenges!
- You can ask people who don't want to be involved if they'd still be willing to donate.
- We would advise not posting the meet-up link on your page as this will be public, but make sure to send it to all participants!

### 3. Reach out to people to get involved

- We've written a few template posts below if you're stuck. Whilst you should be sensitive to the fact that some people will have financial concerns at the moment and won't be able to donate, there will be others who are spending less on socialising and commuting and therefore will be feeling more able to be generous at the moment - and will be keen to find things to do to fill their evenings!
- Don't forget to let them know what the first book will be, add a link to your donation page and to the video discussion, and let them know when the first meeting will be.

### 4. Enjoy!

Above all this is meant to be a chance to have fun and bring people together, so make sure to enjoy it!

### 5. Let us know how it went

We'd love to hear about your event, so please email [fundraising@studentminds.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@studentminds.org.uk) to let us know! If you get any pictures (or screenshots!) we'd love to see them.

# Promote your event – templates

## Facebook Post

I'm setting up an Online Book Club in aid of Student Minds! Student Minds empowers students and members of the university community to look after their own mental health, support those around them and create change. I've chosen to support them because *[it's a cause that's close to my heart and with many of their fundraising events being cancelled recently, I'm particularly keen to support them]*.

If you're looking for things to do in the evenings, please get involved! To join, I'm asking you to make a one-off donation of [*£20*] which will all go to Student Minds. You can make the donation at [*virginmoneygiving.org.uk/myfundraiser*]. If you don't want to take part, but would still like to help me support Student Minds, I would be very grateful for any donations you are able to give!

The first book we'll be discussing is [*The Handmaid's Tale*] and the first discussion will be on [*Google Hangouts*] on [*Sunday 12th April*]! Let me know if you want to get involved!

Thank you!

## Tweet

I'm setting up an Online Book Club in aid of @StudentMindsOrg. We'll be discussing [*The Handmaid's Tale*] on [*Sunday 12th April*]! Please join me in helping them to transform the state of student mental health. Find out more at [*virginmoneygiving.org.uk/myfundraiser*].

## WhatsApp Group Message

Hey everyone!

I hope you're all well and safe. I wanted to ask if you'd like to get involved in something I'm doing. I'm setting up an Online Book Club in aid of Student Minds! To join, I'm asking you to make a one-off donation of [*£20*] which will all go to Student Minds. All you need to do to sign up is donate [*£20*] at [*virginmoneygiving.org.uk/myfundraiser*]. The first book we'll be discussing is [*The Handmaid's Tale*] and the first discussion will be on [*Google Hangouts*] on [*Sunday 12th April*]! Let me know if you want to get involved – I'd love to have you all in the group!

## Description for your online fundraising page

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If you're looking for things to do in the evenings, please get involved! To join, I'm asking you to make a one-off donation of [*£20*] which will all go to Student Minds. If you don't want to take part, but would still like to help me support Student Minds, I would be very grateful for any donations you are able to give!

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Please let me know if you want to get involved!