Breaking the ice

Icebreakers

Icebreaker games are a way to get you and the year 7 students feeling confident with working and talking together.

You could make the games more fun by doing them in a bigger group with other Communication Leaders.

Chinese whispers
You know this one... Stand in a circle. One person starts by whispering a message that is passed around the circle. The last person needs to say the message out loud. Has it stayed the same? What’s changed?

Repeating introductions
Sit or stand in a circle. A Communication Leader starts the game by saying a fact about him or herself. Then, the next person in the circle has to repeat that fact, as well as saying their own fact. Try to get round the circle – you can help each other out if anyone forgets the facts!

Sit down if...
Stand in a circle. One person starts by saying something like 'sit down if you have a pet spider', at which point everyone who has a pet spider sits down. If you really think about your question, this can be a really good way to get to know people!
**Trust walk**
One person wears a blindfold while the other person is in charge of giving instructions. The instructor hides an object somewhere in the room and gives clear instructions to the person in the blindfold to help them find it. You could try adding in a few obstacles for them to dodge to make it even harder...

**Group story**
Sitting or standing in a circle, tell a story taking turns to say one sentence each. Where does the story go...?

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**Who or what am I?**

This game helps to develop lots of important communication skills for everyone involved; listening, understanding, describing, clarifying; using questions... the list is endless!

**What do I need?**
Picture cards (or you can find your own).

**What do I do?**
- Ask a year 7 student to choose a picture and make sure they don’t show it to anyone else.
- They need to describe the picture as other people in the group try to guess what it is! You can help by asking questions like: what does it look like? What do we do with it?
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What’s going on?

These pictures are great conversation starters. Maybe someone in the group has visited a country where they’ve seen a Buddha? They can also sometimes start debate and discussion, which are great ways to practice your communication skills.

What do I need?
What’s going on? pictures.

What do I do?
- Use the ‘what’s going on?’ photos, or you can find some more silly pictures on the internet!
- Put the pictures upside down on the table and take turns to choose a picture.
- Look at the pictures together and talk about what’s happening.
- Questions you could think about are... Who’s in the photo? Why is it funny? Has anything like that ever happened to you?

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