

Blood Cancer UK Online Community Forum - Guide to Getting Started

Categories

- General Chat
- Recently Diagnosed
- Going through Treatment
- If Treatment Isn't Working
- Caring and Supporting a Loved One with Blood Cancer
- Losing Someone to Blood Cancer
- Covid-19
- Worried about Blood Cancer
- Watch and Wait
- Life with and After Blood Cancer as a Young Adult
- Life after Treatment
- Clinical Trials
- Blood Cancer Voices – Help Shape Our Work (this is where we share any surveys, requests for feedback etc).

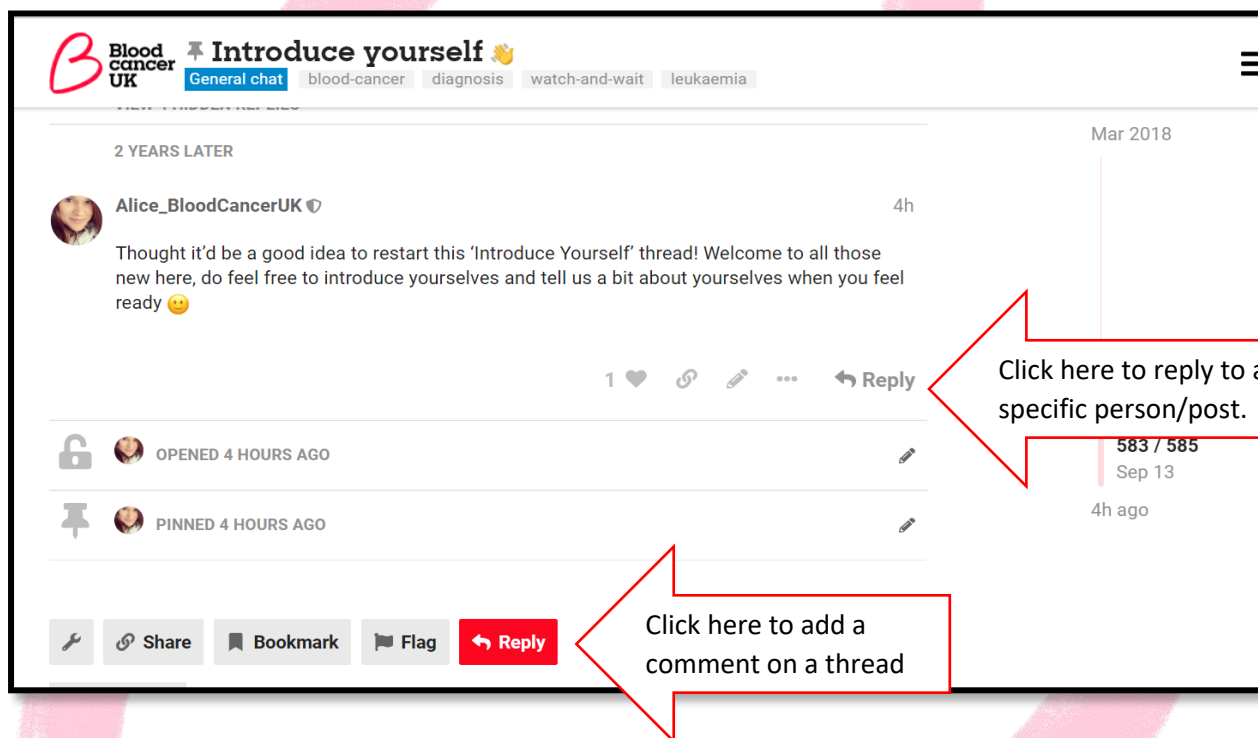
How do I set up my profile?

We are so pleased that you've registered and joined the forum. To get started, you may want to personalise your profile. The letter you see in the top right-hand corner is the first letter of your username. If you click on the letter, a dropdown menu appears – if you then click on your username, you will see the option for preferences. This is where you can change your username if you wish, or add any other details to your profile. **Please note – your user icon and username will be visible to others.** We recommend that you choose a nickname that protects your identity.

Replying to Posts

There's no pressure at all to start posting straight away but if you want to, feel free to start off by commenting in our [Introduce yourself](#) thread.

You can search the forum to see if there are relevant threads (conversations) which you which you want to join. You can search for keywords or topics via the search function at the top of the page. This will show any current threads containing similar words and themes.



The screenshot shows a forum interface for Blood Cancer UK. At the top, there's a header with the logo and the thread title "Introduce yourself" with a hand icon. Below the title are tags: "General chat", "blood-cancer", "diagnosis", "watch-and-wait", and "leukaemia". A date separator indicates "Mar 2018". A post by "Alice_BloodCancerUK" is shown, dated "4h" ago. The post text says: "Thought it'd be a good idea to restart this 'Introduce Yourself' thread! Welcome to all those new here, do feel free to introduce yourselves and tell us a bit about yourselves when you feel ready 😊". Below the post are interaction icons: 1 heart, a link icon, a pencil icon, a three-dot menu, and a "Reply" button. A red callout box points to the "Reply" button with the text "Click here to reply to a specific person/post.". Below the post are two pinned posts: "OPENED 4 HOURS AGO" and "PINNED 4 HOURS AGO". At the bottom of the screenshot is a navigation bar with icons for "Share", "Bookmark", "Flag", and a red "Reply" button. A red callout box points to this "Reply" button with the text "Click here to add a comment on a thread".

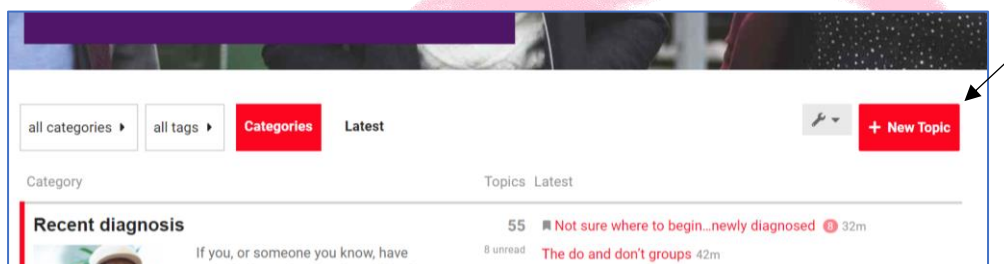
I am Concerned about Privacy

It is understandable that whilst our members are keen to reach out to other, there may be concerns about privacy. We recommend you take care with personal information and what you share about yourself, such as contact details, photos, your full name etc. You may wish to use a nickname as your username.

Maintaining boundaries is important. If you're ever concerned that a forum member is crossing boundaries, i.e., by becoming dependant on you for support, contacting you excessively, behaving inappropriately, please contact the Blood Cancer UK support team on 0808 2080 888 or support@bloodcancer.org.uk in the first instance. You can also contact Alice Randall, Senior Digital Support Services Officer, at arandall@bloodcancer.org.uk

How do I start a topic? And when?

Start a topic any time you want. If you search for a topic and can't find what you're looking for, feel free to start a new one! You can start a topic from the forum homepage by clicking 'new topic' on the right-hand side of the page. A task bar will pop up at the bottom of the page. You can then choose which category you think is most relevant to your topic.



To avoid lots of topics being created which are discussing the same thing, if you create a topic that is already existing, and the content is duplicated, we may merge them both into one topic. This hopefully makes the forum easier for people to use!

Notifications

You will see a red notification symbol appear on your profile picture to tell you that you have a notification. This may be to tell you that someone liked your post, someone has replied to a post of yours or that you have been mentioned in someone's reply.... Clicking on your profile picture will bring up the list of notifications. You can use this to turn your notifications on and off as you prefer.

What is a Blood Cancer UK Forum Support Volunteer?

Blood Cancer UK Forum Support Volunteer are some of our wonderful volunteers who, like you, have also been affected by blood cancer in some way. They are trained to provide online support and help us to keep the community forum safe and supportive.

What should I do if I see an inappropriate post?

We want the forum to be a safe, welcoming place for everyone. Blood Cancer UK Staff & Forum Support Volunteers will be moderating posts on the forum. However, you may see a concerning post before we do. This can include content such as: posts containing offensive language, requests for financial assistance, or someone giving medical advice – please do flag these posts so we can take any necessary action. To flag a post, click on the three little dots below the post and click the flag icon, or alternatively, get in touch with support@bloodcancer.org.uk. If you feel you would like more information about what sort of things need to be flagged, please do feel free to have a look at our Terms of Use – <https://forum.bloodcancer.org.uk/t/community-forum-terms-of-use/4>

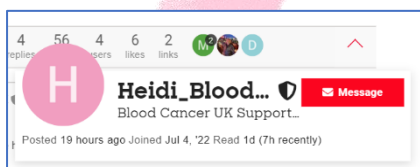
I am concerned about a fellow forum member, what should I do?

If you do become concerned about the welfare of one of our forum members, we would strongly encourage you to flag the post if you can, and contact the Blood Cancer UK support team on 0808 2080 888 or at support@bloodcancer.org.uk

Though rare, an experience like this can understandably be very tough, so if you did feel like talking anything through after it has been flagged, the Blood Cancer UK Support Team are only ever an email or a phone call away.

How can I send a direct message to another forum member?

You can do this by clicking on a user's name or profile picture, this will bring up this popup below, and you can send a message here. Just click on the red message button and begin typing your message. Once you're ready to send it, just click the red message button again. We ask all members to follow our terms of use and not send abusive or rude messages to members, or to send private messages soliciting for money or medical advice.



How do I edit a comment I have posted?

So you have posted a comment on a thread and you wish to amend it? No problem at all, just click on this little pencil icon and you will be able to edit your comment. All you need to do after that, is click "save edit" when you're happy with the changes.

Thank you for taking the time to read our Guide to Getting Started

That's it from us for now! We hope this guide has been helpful to you and look forward to hearing from you on the forum! If you have any questions or comments, then please don't hesitate to get in touch with the Support Services Team on 0808 2080 888. We're available Mondays 10am-7pm, Tuesdays to Fridays 10am-4pm and Weekends 10am-1pm. You can also email us at support@bloodcancer.org.uk