Help getting started with Twitter

Twitter's own 'Help Center' is very useful for getting started on the social networking platform.

https://support.twitter.com/groups/50-welcome-to-twitter/topics/204-the-basics/articles/215585-getting-started-with-twitter#

Twitter have their own glossary which is useful too:

https://support.twitter.com/articles/166337-the-twitter-glossary#

Main things to remember

Hashtags = #

Hashtag

A hashtag is any word or phrase immediately preceded by the # symbol. When you click on a hashtag, you'll see other Tweets containing the same keyword or topic.

From <https://support.twitter.com/articles/166337-the-twitter-glossary#>

E.g. #bda #dietitian #somethingcompletelyrandom

Mentions/replies = @

Mention

Mentioning other users in your Tweet by including the @ sign followed directly by their username is called a "mention." Also refers to Tweets in which your @username was included.

From <https://support.twitter.com/articles/166337-the-twitter-glossary#>

Reply

A response to another user's Tweet that begins with the @username of the person you're replying to is known as a reply. Reply by clicking the "reply" button next to the Tweet you'd like to respond to.

From <https://support.twitter.com/articles/166337-the-twitter-glossary#>

@juvelagf @insertnamehere @stephenfry

Retweets (RT)

The act of sharing another user's Tweet to all of your followers by clicking on the Retweet button.

From <https://support.twitter.com/articles/166337-the-twitter-glossary#>

Top Tips

Avoid Confrontation and Big Risks
If using Twitter for professional purposes, it's a good idea to keep it as professional as possible (e.g. no linking to daft articles, retweeting unrelated jokes or anything that may offend people or look unprofessional) - this might sound obvious but is often forgotten and can get people into trouble!

Having said that, it's nice to add a little bit of personal value/humour too, just keep it in check.

Use Twitter Regularly
Frequency - Twitter works best when you are actively using it, preferably on daily basis. This can be retweeting other people's posts, replying to other people's posts and making your own posts.

Keep it Relevant
Follow relevant companies/people. The more you do this, the better your twitterfeed will look and the more content you will see that appeals to you.

As mentioned earlier, do keep the content you post and share as related to your intended purpose as possible.

This doesn't mean be a mindless drone - you can still show your own personality, just try to think 'would I want people to know I follow this person/think this opinion/etc.' and common sense will tell you whether to do it or not!

Golden Rule: Twitter is there to be enjoyed - its main purpose is to help spread information and to make or strengthen connections with people, NOT solely for self/business promotion (only the big, obnoxiously famous celebs can use it for this purpose and even then you'll notice)

So, enjoy!