

Fake news

We would like to **celebrate** work completed by students during Character Week 2020. If you would like to, please send any photos or copies of your work to CW2020@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk

Fake news is when someone “knowingly creates, offers, publishes, prints, distributes or circulates false information in written or electronic form”.

In Malaysia, in 2018, a new law was put in place that means anyone sharing “fake news” could face a fine of up to £90,000 as well as a jail sentence of up to 6 years. But why?

Since the coronavirus began spreading around the world, fake news has also spread and in some cases it has led to dangerous misinformation. People have been told to ignore guidance or follow dangerous guidance. It is therefore very important to be able to recognise fake news and avoid it.

When people publish something without checking that it's completely right, it can make people have less trust in the media. This can have a devastating impact on people when the media has important messages to give such as how to stay safe.

Six years in prison for sharing fake news

Should passing on fake news be a crime? In Malaysia anyone convicted can now face a lengthy jail sentence or a huge fine. Some Western nations are planning their own anti-fake news laws.



Fake news are deliberate lies! It is a problem because it may encourage hate, ignorance and dangerous actions.

People only tend to share fake news because they haven't researched it or for attention because it is shocking. If people are sharing a lot of fake news, it is likely someone may see the same false information over and over again. Just because you see something all over social media doesn't make it true.

In a BBC article called “Coronavirus: The human cost of virus misinformation”, Brian Hitchens, a middle aged man from Florida explains how fake news has impacted him. When news about the Coronavirus came out, Brian and his wife believed the virus was not serious. They thought it was a hoax and no worse than the flu. They even believed it may be the government trying to control them or something to do with the 5G network. Because of this misinformation, Brian and his family did not follow advice about social distancing.

Brian realised the information he had read online was incorrect when him and his wife became so ill that they ended up in hospital. Now he is speaking to the BBC hoping others will not make the same mistake. "And now I realise that coronavirus is definitely not fake," he says, running out of breath.

The Day Newspaper Task 1

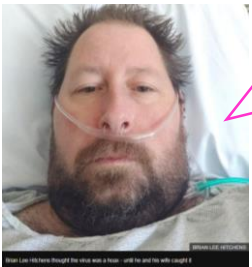
Go onto www.TheDay.co.uk and login using the details below.

Username: bishopchalloner

Password: theday

Search “*It must be true I saw it on the internet*” and select the below article. Complete the tasks at the bottom of the article. Pick and read/watch one of the “become and expert” links.

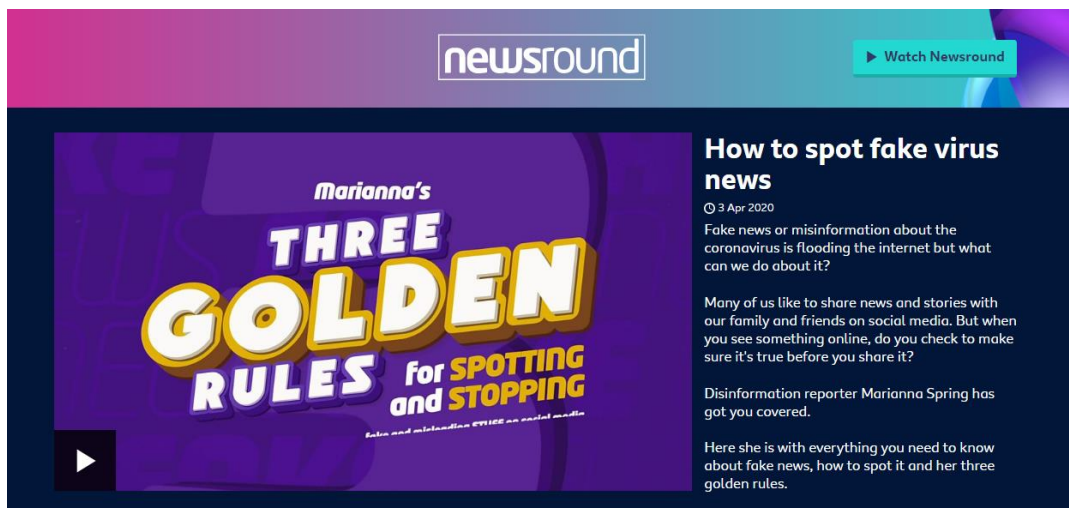
The screenshot shows the homepage of 'THE DAY' newspaper. The main headline is 'It must be true - I saw it on the internet'. Below the headline are two large images: Pope Francis on the left and Cristiano Ronaldo on the right. The article text below the images reads: 'Viral: Many posts say that both the Pope and Cristiano Ronaldo have the coronavirus. (They don't.) Can we defeat the misinformation virus? Efforts to combat the coronavirus pandemic are being undermined by fake news and scams - and it is not the first crisis to be aggravated in this way.'



Task 2

Google “Newsround how to spot fake news” or use the below link

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/52096366>



The screenshot shows a video player from Newsround. The video title is "Marianna's THREE GOLDEN RULES for SPOTTING and STOPPING fake and misleading NEWS on social media". The video content includes text about fake news and misinformation, and a list of three golden rules for spotting and stopping fake news. The rules are: 1. Check the source, 2. Check the date, and 3. Check your biases. The video also mentions that disinformation reporter Marianna Spring has got you covered.

Task...

- What are News Rounds three golden rules regarding fake news?
- How are these different to those of the right?
- Which rules are better and why?

If you are unable to see the video you may use the poster on the right to help you complete the above questions.

HOW TO SPOT FAKE NEWS



CONSIDER THE SOURCE

Click away from the story to investigate the site, its mission and its contact info.



READ BEYOND

Headlines can be outrageous in an effort to get clicks. What's the whole story?



CHECK THE AUTHOR

Do a quick search on the author. Are they credible? Are they real?



SUPPORTING SOURCES?

Click on those links. Determine if the info given actually supports the story.



CHECK THE DATE

Reposting old news stories doesn't mean they're relevant to current events.



IS IT A JOKE?

If it is too outlandish, it might be satire. Research the site and author to be sure.



CHECK YOUR BIASES

Consider if your own beliefs could affect your judgement.



ASK THE EXPERTS

Ask an adult at home, a teacher or someone who is an expert on the topic in news e.g. a doctor.