

Are you easily fooled by fake news?

Last week, our Year 9 students took part in a thought-provoking media literacy workshop with Dr Ann Goeth, our resident Research Fellow.



Matilda Reen, Sophia Kanbour and Juliet Maroun during the workshop

In today's world, we're constantly surrounded by media – from social media and TV to newspapers, ads and viral videos. With all these voices competing for our attention, how can we tell what is real and what isn't?

At Meriden, we believe it's essential to equip our students with the critical thinking skills to engage with the media thoughtfully and responsibly. We want our girls to become empowered citizens who can make informed decisions in all areas of life.

During the workshop, the Year 9 girls learned how to analyse and evaluate the reliability of the news they encounter every day. They explored ways to distinguish between facts, opinions and biased information, and brainstormed strategies for combating the spread of misleading news.

With the help of Meriden's "fake news" checklist, the girls were challenged to identify which of two websites was offering fake content.

Then, they put their skills into practice by creating their own pieces of "fake" news. From over-the-top headlines to outrageous claims and doctored photos, the students masterfully crafted attention-grabbing posts, fooling their readers with wild stories like: "Bubble tea causes cancer!", "Eating 30 potatoes a week helps you lose fat", as well as "Brushing your teeth can lead to jaw deterioration!"

Through this fun and creative exercise, our Year 9 girls honed their ability to recognise fake news and learned how to stop its spread. They may have tricked a few of us with their wacky stories, but they also gained valuable tools to navigate today's media landscape with confidence.

Dr Ann Goeth
Research Fellow



Indraani Paheerathan and Chanel Ozturk