

What do we mean when we talk about current affairs?

‘Events of political or social interest and importance happening in the world at the present time.’

“To consult the news is to raise a seashell to our ears and to be overpowered by the roar of humanity.” -
- Alain de Botton

- Do you follow the news? Why or why not? Where do you get your news from?
- Why might it be important for young leaders to be informed about current affairs?
- What leadership traits can you develop from an understanding of current affairs?

Task one:

One reason reading the news is important is because, outside of our own worlds, it gives us a perspective on what is going on in the world. Look over a copy of a newspaper from this week - it can be a free paper such as The Evening Standard or the Metro. Can you separate the important stories into local, national and international news?

What makes news newsworthy?

Why are things considered to be news?

The Guardian newspaper suggests that news is ‘newsworthy’ for 4 possible reasons.

- **Where** the event occurred: if an event happened within the area covered by the newspaper it is more relevant to its readers.
- **When** an event occurred: an event that has just happened is more newsworthy than one that happened a week ago.
- **Who** is involved in the story: a story is more likely to be reported if the person involved is well known or if it involves large numbers of people.
- **News Sense:** a term used by journalists to describe a gut feeling about what makes a good story that will interest the reader.

Is the news always trustworthy?

The expression ‘fake news’ has become increasingly important in the past few years, as the way that people get their news has changed. Instead of just reading newspapers now, many people get their information from the internet, and as we know, anyone can create and upload content online. Therefore we need to be far more suspicious about the things we are reading.

Task two:

Watch this video <https://www.bbc.co.uk/academy/en/articles/art20180307163518942> on fake news and consider:

- What’s so bad about fake news?
- Is it dangerous?
- Why? How can we challenge it?

The best way to challenge fake news is to check our facts carefully with other sources.

Seniors Extension: How neutral is our news?

As well as real and fake news, we need to be aware that the information sometimes presented as facts have a lot of biases in them.

Task three:

Choose an article from a **broadsheet** newspaper and consider what information is being given beyond who, what, when, where and how the event happened. Are there statistics, pictures or language choices that are trying to get you to think or feel a certain way?