Internet Safety Advice

1 How do you spot fake news?

The story – what are they trying to say? Is it an ad or a joke? Look to see if you can find the same story somewhere else

The author – is it someone's opinion or a fact? Real news will most likely have a link to the writer's details, but if there's no author, dig deeper

The website – are there spelling or grammar mistakes? What's the URL? Check the address bar at the top – most trusted URLs end with ".com", ".co.uk", ".net", ".gov", ".org", ".mil" and ".edu"

The date – is the story recent or old? It could be outdated or a copy of something that happened years ago. Computer programs called bots post anytime and often, so be wary of this.

2 We all love a competition, but what should we look out for before entering online?

Get a prize by sending money - Some scams ask you to send money for a prize you've won in a competition you didn't enter. Don't do this.
Social media or email quiz - Fake competitions and quizzes can be found on social media or by email. Even if it's shared by a friend it could be a scam.
They want personal or financial details - never give any details about your bank accounts. And be careful if you're asked to give your address or contact details.
Sign in to social media - Be careful if you're asked to sign in to your social media. This can give out personal details that could be used for identity theft.
Unknown site - Scams will try to take you away from safe sites. Don't click on any links.

3 How do you know the website you're are purchasing from is keeping your payment details secure?

Look for the closed padlock image - This tells you that the link to the site is secure. You can find it in the address bar. A secure site will also have https:// at the start of its address. But remember, these do not mean a site is genuine.

4 How do you know website is genuine?

It's best to check the site address to make sure the name is genuine. Also look for bad spelling and grammar and if a site looks odd in any way. A genuine site should have contact details and a business number to call. Look at reviews to see if any scams have been listed for the site. And if you're still not sure, type a site's web address directly into the address bar at the top of your screen.

5 What is the best password to use to protect myself when online?

create passwords using three random words. You just put them together, like 'coffeetrainfish' or 'walltinshirt'.

You can choose words that are memorable but should avoid those which might be easy to guess, such as 'onetwothree' or are closely related to you personally, such as the names of family members or pets.

Check using this link to see if you're email address has been compromised. If it has just change your password and you're good to go.

https://haveibeenpwned.com/

The golden rule with the internet, as with most things in life, is remember, if it looks too good to be true, it probably is!

If you want anymore tips on how to stay safe online see the links below:

https://www.ageuk.org.uk/information-advice/work-learning/technology-internet/internet-security/

https://www.moneyadviceservice.org.uk/en/articles/shop-safely-online

https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zwfm8hv

https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/a-z-of-fraud/phishing

https://www.equifax.co.uk/resources/identity-protection/how-to-spot-and-avoid-romance-scams.html