



Year 8's Spring 2 Value



Critical Thinking

Critical Thinking is the process of analysing information instead of just accepting it at face value. It involves three main habits:

- **Curiosity:** Asking "Why?" and "How?" instead of just "What?"
- **Skepticism:** Not believing everything you hear or read immediately, even if it comes from a friend or a "viral" source.
- **Humility:** Being okay with the idea that your first impression might be wrong.

Our Year 8s, becoming teenagers in a modern world, can be subject to significant pressures to think and feel in certain ways. Between social media algorithms and the desire to fit in, the pressure to follow the crowd is huge. Critical thinking is the 'armour' that helps a them decide who they want to be, rather than who the internet tells them to be.

Questions/talking points for home.

- **The Influencer Check:** If a famous person you like recommends a product, do you think they actually use it, or are they just getting paid? How can we tell the difference?
- **The Viral Filter:** What's a 'fact' you saw online recently that sounded too crazy to be true? What would it take to prove it's real?
- **The Mistake Reflection:** Can you think of a time we both thought something was true but later found out we were wrong? What changed our minds?
- **The Source Search:** When you read a news headline that makes you feel really angry or excited, do you think that emotion is intentional? Why would the writer want you to feel that way?
- **The Groupthink Test:** If all your friends started doing something you thought was a bad idea, how would you tell them 'no' without losing their friendship?
- **The Future Lens:** If we make this decision today (like spending hours playing a computer game or not going to practice for your sportsteam), how will we feel about it in a week? What about in a year?

These issues are covered in some of our class readers, such as The Recruit and Day of the Triffids. See if you can spot them when we read these parts of the stories.

Don't forget to get your parents to submit examples of your critical awareness.

You will earn x5 merits!

