

Headmaster's Assembly

27 January 2015



Gossip

“Casual or unconstrained conversation or reports about other people, typically involving details which are not confirmed as true”

- Idle talk, hearsay, tales
- Malicious gossip, whispering campaign, smear campaign



Why do we gossip?

Psychological functions of gossip

- **Networking** – comparing yourself with others and learning about other people's behaviour
- **Influence** – self-promotion
- **Alliances** – to bond with others and sometimes as a tool to isolate those who are not supporting the group



Why do we gossip?

Physiological response

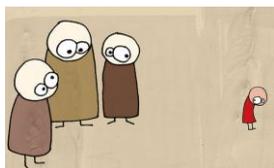
Gossiping boosts levels of positive hormones like serotonin, reducing stress and anxiety



The downside of gossip

Gossip ...

- Excludes
- Ruins reputations
- Pulls rank
- Is morally questionable
- Creates herd mentality



Gossiping and social media



We think we are still hanging over the garden fence



