

COMPUTING · GRADES 5–6

# Spotting Scams

Don't get tricked online

## What is phishing?

PHISHING is when scammers send fake emails, messages or websites that LOOK real — to trick you into giving away passwords, money, or personal info. They're surprisingly common — the average adult gets several phishing attempts every WEEK. Knowing how to spot them is a real-world life skill.

## Six red flags

- URGENT pressure — 'Act NOW or your account will be closed'
- Asking for your PASSWORD by email or message (real companies NEVER do this)
- Promises of FREE prizes, money, or 'inheritance' from a stranger
- Bad spelling or grammar in something pretending to be from a big company
- A link that goes to a weird URL — hover to check before clicking
- Asking you to keep something SECRET from your parents — this is always wrong

## What to do if you spot one

1) DO NOT click links. 2) DO NOT reply. 3) DO NOT enter passwords. 4) Tell a trusted adult. 5) Delete the message. 6) If you DID click — change your password right away and tell your adult. You're not in trouble. The scammer is the one in the wrong.

