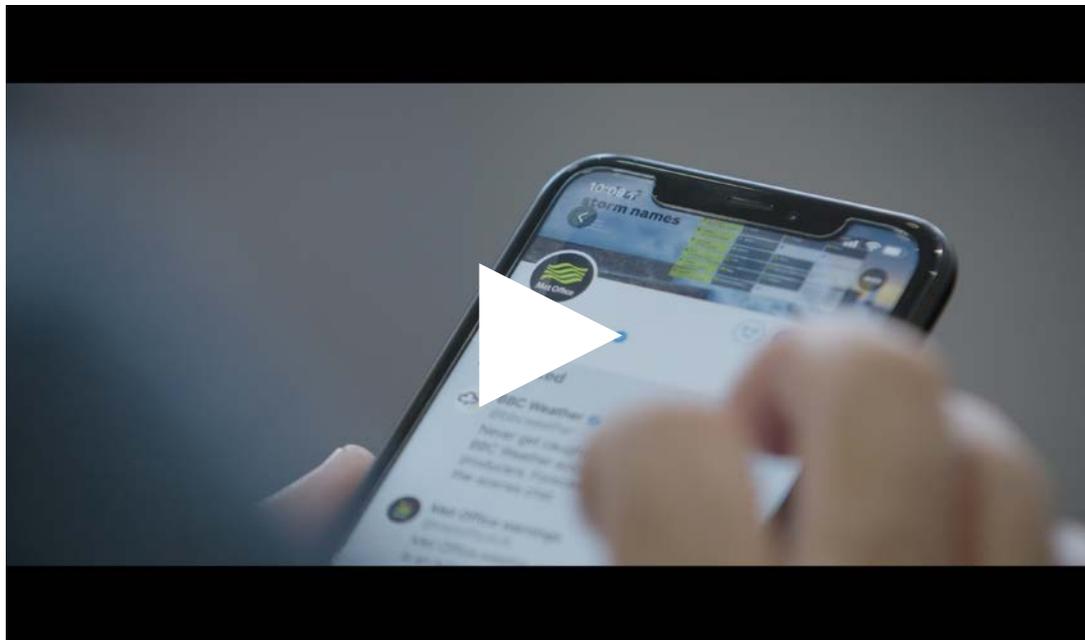




Forecasting fact-busters



How can we make and communicate predictions about weather?



Case study: To name or not to name a storm?

This weekend was forecast to be wet and windy and the Met Office issued yellow wind and rain warnings for some parts of the UK. These warnings highlighted the impacts the weather could bring, such as the potential for disruption to transport or power supplies.

However there can often be a fine line between whether a storm should be named or not and on this occasion, the low pressure system did not meet the criteria to become a named storm.

Despite this, some news articles began to be published giving the storm a name. Some news outlets called it a 'Storm from hell' and said 'Britain was due to be battered' by the storm.

Case study: Quiz!

1. What weather warnings did the Met Office issue?
2. Did the Met Office name the storm?
3. What factor determined whether or not to name the storm?
4. How did some of the media report the forecasted weather?
5. What could the impacts be of misrepresenting weather forecasts in the media?

Case study: Quiz! (Answers)

1. What weather warnings did the Met Office issue? **Wind and rain**
2. Did the Met Office name the storm? **No**
3. What factor determined whether or not to name the storm?
The low pressure system didn't meet the criteria
4. How did some of the media report the forecasted weather?
'Britain battered by...', 'Storm from hell'
5. What could the impacts be of misrepresenting weather forecasts in the media? **People are given inaccurate information which can scare them and possibly cause them to take unnecessary action. This can then mean they don't believe or act on future real weather warnings**

How do different media outlets portray weather?



Create your own weather report



Find out more at
www.metoffice.gov.uk/schools

