It has come to our attention that some MHPS students are using Instagram at home. This is concerning as the legal age for a user to create an on-line Instagram account is 13 years of age or older. What is more concerning is that whilst using Instagram some children are uploading photographs of themselves, unaware of the consequences of on-line social networking.

Instagram allows people to take and edit photos using a smartphone, a tablet such as an iPad, iPod etc and then share the photos instantly with friends online. As photos are sent from mobile devices such as tablets/iPods etc parents may have difficulty in monitoring children’s usage of these devices as they are not in one specific location such as the family living room.

A few things you need to know:

- Photos can be shared widely in a matter of seconds.
- Anyone signed into Instagram can view photos on a public user profile. If the private setting is turned on, anyone who wants to see your photos will have to send a follow request, at which point it can be either approved or ignored.
- Facebook owns Instagram.
- Instagram is able to gather information about how you use it and may use this information to provide reports, personalised content, ads or other forms of marketing.
- Instagram is able to share your information from tools like cookies, log files and device identifiers and location data with third-party organisations and may share certain information such as cookie data with third-party advertising partners.

We recommend that you ask your child if he or she is using Instagram and check their profile.

Recommendations:

- Don’t post photos of children in school uniform, swim wear etc or in compromising situations/positions.
- Don’t use real names as your username.
- Only follow people you know personally. (This can be tricky, because user names are sometimes “Gymnast456” for example.)
- Never share any personal information about yourself eg where you live and what school your child attends.
- Don’t use geolocation services near personal landmarks, namely, home and school as this allows others to know the exact location from where you’re publishing your photo.

See the link below for more information regarding Instagram safety and how to set options on your child’s account

https://www.facebook.com/help/instagram/contact/181588051994297#!/help/instagram/