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Dear Parent/Carer,

As many more students gain access to Internet Enabled Devices as they get older it becomes more important to keep students safe. As part of looking after children it is important to know where they are both physically and virtually. The virtual world is far more difficult to observe for most parents.

This email is designed to help those parents who may not be as skilled with their devices as they would like.

Initially it is important that your electronic devices are secured from malware and possibility of hacking. To this end, please ensure that all devices have a security program installed. It is possible to buy a licence that will allow you to cover many devices in your home including phones, tablets, and computers.

Companies that provide security software:

- McAfee
- Bitdefender
- Norton
- NordVPN
- Kasperksy
- Avast
- Sophos
- Total Defense

The companies shown are not in a particular order. Ensure that every device that can connect to the internet has a version of the software on.

Online Safety:

To keep your child safe online here are some pages with hints and tips.

Internet Matters main pages:

https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/

This page from the site shows links to how to add set up devices with parental controls generally. Please note that the "location" advice is for the meta data on images only.... leaving location trackers on for the Operating System allows you to "find my phone" or similar and is a different option.

https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/e-safety-checklist-getting-your-kids-tech-devices-set-up-safe/

Site showing how to add parental controls to most consoles or games:

https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/gaming-consoles/

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This page from the site shows how to limit access to social media:

https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/social-media/

General Advice:

If you believe that your child has circumvented the controls, bear in mind that the router (box at the wall) logs all web address to which all the devices have gone. The admin username and Password are on the box (It is an exceptionally good idea to change the password to avoid being hacked btw – there are only a few default passwords).

Still concerned? If you have a Windows machine then there is a file "index.dat" that can be read and is very difficult to remove, delete or alter, that shows every website the machine has visited for months or years afterwards.

index.dat is generally found in your user profile directory: \Location Settings\Temporary Internet Files

So long as you can view hidden and system files, your file search should be able to find it.

Also, there are several index.dat viewers available online. Simply search for "read contents of index.dat".

Thinkuknow:

A useful site to help parents and students understand the perils of the internet is "Thinkuknow". This is a site produced that partners the Police and Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre. It contains age suitable material for all age groups including parents and carers.

https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk

If you have any concerns that are not addressed by the above then please contact Mr Curtis through the school email address he can help with Windows and Android issues of security although knowledge of Apple products is rather sparse (the general rules apply the same to both groups, however)

Kind regards,

Graeme Curtis
ICT Teacher