E-Safety Newsletter

Digital Dusting Challenge

The term digital dusting refers to the process of cleaning up your presence within the online world. This is like spring cleaning in the digital world.

What can I do?

There are lots of ways you can help tidy up your online presence below are a few along with the reason you would do this.

1. **Deactivate and delete any online accounts you don't use anymore**

Unless you delete an account your personal data will remain within the digital world. The content of this data will vary depending what you have signed up to however, this can often include personal information such as your name, email address, mobile number and even your home address! We often hear about data breaches in the news and online systems are big targets due to the value of personal data in the modern world.

2. **Look through, assess and delete your old posts**

Although you should always consider what you are posting before you post online, it's also important to think about what you may have posted in the past. People's opinions change and you become more mature so don't let something you posted in the past come back to haunt or embarrass you.

3. **Remove any unknown contacts**

The internet is an excellent place to connect with people and can be a really powerful tool. It is however, important to look at who we may be connecting with. Look through your friend's lists and contacts and think carefully. Do you really know who they are? Do you still connect with them? Do you want them to be able to see what you post online? If not it is a good idea to remove them.

4. **Go through your privacy settings**

Online platforms including social media often change their privacy settings and it's not always clear what and when these changes have taken place. This can lead to your posts suddenly having a much larger audience than you initially intended. It is important to protect yourself in the online world and ensure that your privacy settings are set up carefully and checked at regular intervals.

You can find lots of useful information and safety advice on lots of online platforms via the link below.

www.saferinternet.org.uk/safety-tools

Taking the Digital Dusting challenge is an excellent way to help keep you, your data and your reputation safe.