

# Online Safety News

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## Omoggle, Looksmaxxing and 'Mogging'

A platform called Omoggle and a trend known as 'mogging' or 'looksmaxxing' is gaining attention among young people, and it raises some serious safeguarding concerns.

It connects users through random live video calls and even rates people based on appearance – creating a high-risk environment for children and teenagers.

### What Omoggle actually is:



#### The Platform: (18+)

- Users open the site and connect their webcam
- They are instantly paired with a complete stranger online
- No meaningful age verification – anyone can access it. It is not a safe platform for anyone under 18.

#### The 'Mog Battle'

- An AI scans both faces and measures symmetry, jawline and "canthal tilt"
- It declares one person the Mogger (winner) and one the Mogged (loser)
- In just a couple of clicks, your child's face is being ranked against a stranger's by an AI

#### The Leaderboard

- There is a public ranking system visible to all users
- Rankings run from "Molecule" at the bottom to "Chad" and "Slayer" at the top
- Young people are actively competing to climb this leaderboard based on their looks

### What are the risks?



- ⚠️ It rates children's faces with AI – with no transparency around what happens to that biometric data
- ⚠️ It's public, gamified and competitive, losing isn't private, it sits on a leaderboard
- ⚠️ It uses live webcams with strangers, with all the risks of explicit content and predatory adults that comes with
- ⚠️ It reinforces appearance-based hierarchies, at the age when self-worth is most fragile
- ⚠️ It normalises manosphere vocabulary, turning words like "Chad" and "Mogger" into everyday language
- ⚠️ Screen recording means your child's image could be captured and shared without their knowledge

### What To Do



- Talk openly about the risks of speaking to strangers online
- Reinforce expectations around privacy, behaviour and consequences.
- Keep devices in shared spaces where possible
- Use parental controls and ensure correct age settings and limits.
- Encourage your child to speak up if something feels wrong

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## Exam Season

### Who is 'helping' your child revise?

We are in exam season now and this is an important message even if your child isn't sitting their official exams just yet.

**Social media is flooded right now with 'Grade 9 hacks', guaranteed topic predictions, and shortcuts to top grades.**

A recent SaveMyExams/ITV study found:

**68% of students use educational social media influencers for schoolwork**

**64% don't check whether those accounts are run by qualified teachers**

It's worth a check-in with your teen on who they're actually following and trusting with their learning.

#### Red flags to watch for



- Anyone guaranteeing Grade 9s if you 'just follow these steps'
- Topic predictions from people who've never taught, examined, or know the difference between exam boards
- 'Straight-9's' claims with no evidence — paired with unrealistic schedules (10+ hours a day), or the opposite ('one 45-min video for a Grade 9!')
- Diet and energy hacks to 'push through' last minute cramming sessions.

## Instagram Instants

Instagram has just launched a brand new app called Instants — and it works almost identically to Snapchat. Photos are sent, viewed once, and disappear within 24 hours.

### The Problem With "Disappearing" Photos

- Photos can only be viewed once and disappear within 24 hours — but disappearing does not mean gone
- Screen recording, third-party apps, or simply photographing the screen with another device means any image can be captured before it vanishes
- Once an image leaves your child's phone, they have no control over what happens to it. We cannot stress this enough.

#### What You Can Do



##### If your teen has Instagram: (13+)

- ✓ Set up Family Center supervision on your teen's Instagram account
- ✓ Keep Sleep Mode on, which blocks Instant between 10 PM and 7 AM by default.
- ✓ Know that you'll get a notification when your teen downloads the standalone Instants app, but only if supervision is already set up.
- ✓ Important catch: that alert does NOT trigger if your teen just uses Instants inside the regular app.

#### Two quick questions to ask

- Does the person they are following have teaching qualifications? Have they actually taught (or examined) the subject?
- Do they understand the difference between exam boards and mark schemes, specifically for this year? The content covered can differ and some students are revising content they don't need or potentially missing out topics they do.

There are some excellent resources and individuals online supporting teens through this time but we need to choose carefully. Many offer lots of free support tutorials alongside paid for options.

This is the time when 'guaranteed hacks' look most appealing. Make sure the advice your teen is following is from someone qualified — and someone who genuinely cares about supporting them where they are.

**Good Luck to everyone sitting exams (and the families and teachers supporting them)**