***Family relationships on social media***

Social media. It doesn’t matter where you are in the world; you always seem to be within reach of it. With new technology meaning your exact location can be pinpointed and published online in seconds; how do you feel about your every movement being made visible for the world (and possibly your parents) to see?

With general globetrotting becoming a student’s rite of passage, we all seem to know someone who is mountain climbing in Tanzania or relaxing on a beach in Thailand. And how do we know this? Well, apart from some pre-trip bragging, you and everyone else on social media can flick through the photos and be alerted to the changes in location as your friends travel the world. So, is this a good thing?

After all everyone loves to see what their friends are getting up to, even if it does make us jealous! Furthermore it’s great to know our friends are safe on their travels; this means of communication has allowed parents everywhere to breathe a sigh of relief when that all-important status change indicates an eagerly awaited arrival.

Yet there lies The Big Problem: it is now within your parents’ power to know everything about your social life. Who you’re friends with, where you’re going, where you’ve been, who you were with… Maybe you don’t want your parents to know absolutely everything that you did on that weekend camping trip to Cornwall! Parents have caught up with this internet sensation, and are making up for lost time too. How many of you have received friend requests from mum, dad, aunties and uncles? Accepting means the shroud of mystery surrounding your social life is lifted. Rejecting opens up a Pandora’s Box-full of awkward questions as to why you don’t want to publicly befriend your mum or dad.

Security settings are key to ensuring your every movement isn’t broadcasted to the world. You can choose who sees your photos and your profile to avoid those awkward conversations with your parents. When was the last time you checked your settings? Because as much as you think you want everyone to know where you are and what you’re doing all the time while you travel abroad; where your parents are concerned, perhaps you don’t need to reveal every single detail.