

- **App Updates August 2018**

-

- **Instagram - Anti-bullying filter:** Instagram announced on 1st May that they now have an 'anti-bullying' filter on the app. The new filter hides comments containing attacks on a person's appearance or character, as well as threats to a person's well-being or health. The filter will also alert Instagram to repeated problems so they can take action on the user if necessary.
- **Instagram - In-app payments:** Instagram is rolling out in-app payments for products and services directly through the app. It will operate under the same rules as Facebook Payments, which state if you are under the age of 18, you can only use Facebook Payments with the involvement of a parent or guardian.
- **WhatsApp - Age restriction change:** Due to the new terms and conditions and updates to the privacy policy in May, users could only access their messages once they have confirmed that they are 16 or older (previously 13+). The changes were effective from 25th May.
- **Snapchat - Unskippable adverts:** The app is testing 6 second unskippable adverts in its 'Discover' section. At the moment, the unskippable ads do not appear in a users stories or personal snaps, only in the commercial section.
- **YouTube - Music Streaming service:** YouTube launched a music streaming service on the 22nd May in 5 countries including the U.S. The service costs around £7.40 p/m. The service is said to come to Europe "soon".
- **YouTube Kids - Proposed updates implemented:** YouTube Kids announced a change to their app which would mean people (not computers) would check videos and decide if they will be available for children to watch on the app. This change came into effect on 10th May, creating a safer platform for children to view videos.