



8 November 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Vaping

You may already be aware that across the nation, there is a growing trend amongst young people to experiment with 'vapes' or e-cigarettes, and young people are even becoming regular users and addicted.

Vapes are commonly promoted as 'harmless' in comparison to traditional cigarettes, and this makes them all the more appealing to teenagers. Also, the increase in the number of shops that are not only selling and specialising in vapes, but offering them in a wide array of 'appealing' flavours has meant that vaping has become an increasing trend amongst younger people across the country.

Vaping and e-cigarettes come under the same laws as smoking; it is illegal to sell any tobacco products to someone under 18. It is also illegal for someone else to buy vapes, e-cigarettes or any tobacco products for someone who is below the age of 18. **This therefore means it is illegal to sell vapes to under 18's, and illegal for someone else to buy them for a child below the age of 18.**

This law exists to prevent young people from getting addicted to nicotine and to protect their health. The long-term effects of smoking clearly show that it increases the chance of getting lung cancer. Whilst the longer-term health effects of vaping and e-cigarettes are less known, there are some clear side effects and they still contain nicotine which is highly addictive.

Unfortunately, vaping is beginning to spread into schools across the country. As vapes are illegal for under 18's, they are therefore a prohibited item under our behaviour policy.

We expect our students to say 'no' if they ever see this kind of behaviour. We will be undertaking random bag searches if we have any suspicions of vape use or possession. Sanctions will be put in place for anyone caught in possession of a vape, e-cigarette or any tobacco related products.

We are always grateful for any information provided from yourselves as to where children may be obtaining such illegal substances, and will always pass on any information to the Police if we are aware of any shop selling such materials to under 18's.

Yours sincerely,

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