



Headteacher: Mrs Donna Mitchell

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Dear Parents and Carers,

In recent months we have reminded students and parents about the **dangers of vaping**, as well as explaining the consequences of bringing vapes into school. This information has been delivered in assemblies and via newsletters.

This week, we experienced an incident involving vaping on our school premises, and we feel it is imperative to bring this issue to your attention. It's a matter of great concern that affects the well-being and safety of our students. The incident that occurred was promptly addressed in accordance with our school's safety and behaviour policies. Staff swiftly supported the young person involved and gathered information leading to a permanent exclusion of another student.

As you are likely aware, vaping has become a pervasive problem in schools. Unfortunately, our school is not immune to this trend, and everyone has to be made aware of the potential dangers it poses to our students' health and overall academic environment. It is important that parents are aware that there are vapes and oils that contain THC (this is part of the cannabis plant). These have led to lots of young people across the country collapsing and having to go to hospital. Some vapes also contain other substances that are extremely dangerous.

At our request, the police came into school to speak with some of our students about the dangers of vaping and the legal consequences associated with such behaviour. We take such matters very seriously, as the safety and well-being of our students are our top priorities. However, it is crucial to recognise that this is not an isolated incident. Many schools locally are grappling with the challenges presented by vaping, and we must work together to tackle this issue head-on.

The use of electronic cigarettes and other vaping devices is not only a health concern but also a direct violation of our school policies. The long-term effects of vaping on adolescents are still being studied, but it is widely acknowledged that these devices can lead to serious health issues, including respiratory problems and addiction to nicotine.

We need your support in addressing this issue collectively. We believe that fostering open communication between parents, teachers, and students is essential to creating a safe and healthy school environment. We kindly request your assistance in ensuring that our students understand the risks associated with vaping and that they refrain from bringing such devices onto school premises. We have and will continue to do random (timely) searching of students who we suspect may have brought a prohibited item into school.

To facilitate a more comprehensive approach to this issue, we are planning educational sessions for both students and parents to raise awareness about the dangers of vaping. We hope to equip our school community with the knowledge needed to make informed decisions and promote a healthy lifestyle. Your cooperation and involvement are vital in our efforts to maintain a safe and nurturing learning environment. Together, we can make a significant impact on the well-being of our students and discourage the use of vaping devices in our community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the school. We appreciate your ongoing support and commitment to the success and safety of our students.

Mr J Wadsworth
Senior Lead for Behaviour