

13<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Dear Parent / Carer

We are growing increasingly concerned by the number of students who have access to vapes and the fact we have seen more of our young people with vapes in school over the past few weeks. We therefore wanted to write to you to highlight some of the issues parents /carers need to be aware of.

### **Vapes are banned items in school**

It is illegal to sell vaping products to anyone aged under 18 or to buy vaping products for anyone under 18. As such, vapes are banned items in school and anyone found with one is subject to sanctions in line with our behaviour policy. Within our policy, we are clear that a student found in possession of a banned item (vape), whether they have used it or not, will receive a sanction. **Any student caught vaping on the school premises will receive a suspension.**

Please note that sanctions will also apply to any student vaping as they leave the school site or outside of the school gates.

### **What is vaping?**

- Vaping is inhaling vapour into the lungs from an electronic device - nicotine is present as a water-based vapour.
- Vapes are colourful, with lots of flavours and are therefore attractive to young people, and are low cost compared to smoking.
- There are different names for vaping devices, such as vape pens, cigalikes, tank systems and mods.

### **What do e-cigarettes and vaping devices look like?**

- E-cigarettes and vape devices come in several forms. While some resemble tobacco products, others resemble household objects like USB devices, pens, highlighters and chargers.
- Disposable vapes are most common, they require no charging and are readily available in shops.
- Some vape pens are small and easily concealed while others look like highlighter pens, so it might not be easy to identify what they are.

### **Why should I be concerned if my child is vaping?**

- Vaping, although billed to be safer than smoking, could be harmful and dangerous to young people. Almost all vape liquid contains nicotine, which is addictive and harmful to adolescent brain development.
- Some of the oils and liquids in vapes contain harmful chemicals that can damage the lungs.
- As vapes have become cheaper and more available this is a real concern for the health of our students. Cheap imitations are also being imported - they are not regulated so the contents of them is unknown, which again raises concerns over the potential effect of the chemicals they may contain.

### **Where can I go for support or to find out more:**


The following websites provide helpful information to support you as a parent or carer in raising this important issue with your child:

- ASH (Action on Smoking and Health): <https://ash.org.uk/fact-sheets/>
- Kids Health: <https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/e-cigarettes.html>

We will continue to educate our students about the legality of vaping and the potential risks outlined above and would encourage you to do the same.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Suddes'.

Ms J Suddes