

9 January 2023



Dear Parent/Carer

Concerns regarding young people vaping

We are becoming increasingly concerned about the number of disposable vapes and e-cigarettes that we are seeing used by young people throughout the country. We worry about the unknown potential long-term damage caused by the chemicals in the vape and the additional potential risks in vapes bought directly from sellers who are prepared to break the law and sell to young people.

As vaping is a relatively recent habit, there is insufficient evidence to determine its long-term effects. We do know, however, that most vapes contain nicotine, heavy metals, formaldehyde and substances called volatile organic compounds. Nicotine is an addictive, stimulant drug; many of the other chemicals are known to cause cancer.

The legal age for the purchase of vapes is the same as tobacco, eighteen. Sellers must only sell products that meet specific regulations. Inevitably, an additional risk to young people is the sale of potentially less safe vapes by disreputable sellers.

As a school, we treat students caught vaping, or in possession of a vape, in a similar way to if they are caught smoking or with smoking materials. This includes being caught on the journey to and from school and times when students are wearing school uniform. We would always want to educate, but the likely consequence would be an internal exclusion or suspension.

I hope that we can work together to help our students make informed and healthy choices.

Yours faithfully

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Deputy Head of School

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