



17th May 2024

Dear Parents & Carers

We are writing to share with you the concerns we have regarding vaping, both in the wider community and in some cases on the School premises. As with all aspects of our partnership with parents and carers, when we work together in support of the students, we are able to have a much greater impact on their attitudes, behaviour and success.

Recently, we have observed an increase in vaping incidents among our students, particularly in the school toilets.

This trend is concerning for several reasons:

Health Risks

Vaping exposes students to harmful chemicals and has been linked to respiratory issues and other long term health risks. It is also important to remember that the long-term effects of vaping are not yet fully understood. Due to a lack of regulation and easy access we are seeing a concerning increase in vapes containing chemicals more harmful than nicotine. Of even more concern is the fact that we have had a small number of incidents where vapes containing either THC or 'spice' have been used by students resulting in students needing medical attention.

Legal implications

Supplying minors with vapes is illegal, and possession of such devices on school premises contravenes our school's policy regarding illicit substances. In order to meet our safeguarding responsibilities and tackle these issues, students believed to have vapes on their person, will be asked to comply with a search using a metal detecting 'wand'. Students found with such devices or refusing to participate with the search will be suspended from school.

Disruption of learning

Vaping in school undermines the safe and focused learning environment that we strive to maintain. Unfortunately, our experience has taught us that students that vape regularly outside of school are developing habits that they find difficult to regulate during the school day, the most common side effect being – asking to use the toilet lesson after lesson, in order that they can vape within toilet cubicles.

Clearly, we are concerned about all of the above and are working hard to support students. We would ask for your proactive engagement in tackling this as this will only be successful with your support. As educators and parents, it is our collective responsibility to ensure that our children make informed decisions about their health and future. To underpin this further and to provide a safe environment, free from vaping, we are reviewing our toilet facilities, installing vape sensors into cubicles and in the longer term – developing toilets that are able to be more closely monitored.

While we are taking these steps to address vaping at school, we recognise that parental support is crucial to the success of our efforts. Schools up and down the country are facing similar issues, please be reassured that we are working hard to resolve the issues outlined, to support the students both in terms of their wellbeing and academic success. Your involvement in this matter is crucial, as is your shared understanding that the steps we are taking are in support of your children and our desire to keep them safe and healthy.

We kindly ask for your cooperation in the following ways:-

Talk to your children

Have open and honest conversations with your children about the risks of vaping and the importance of making healthy choices.

Monitor and discuss

Be aware of the signs of vaping and monitor your children's activities. Discuss the consequences of vaping and reinforce the information provided at school.

Support school policies

Encourage your children to comply with the school rules and participate in the educational programmes we are offering as part of the your child's education.

Due to the nature of the concerns, we are by no means working in isolation. The dangers of vaping form part of our PSHE curriculum and we work with numerous local and national agencies, with a view to educating, supporting, and deterring students from developing habits harmful to their physical and mental wellbeing. As a parent of school aged children myself, I know firsthand that many students share our concerns and welcome the steps we are taking.

Please see below some links to further reading regarding vaping, the surrounding health concerns and the support available.

We will continue to do our best to ensure that this national problem does not negatively affect the Warlingham School & Sixth Form College community. We will only achieve this if we work collaboratively.

Thank for your ongoing support and attention to this important matter.

Kind regards



Mr P Seward

Deputy Headteacher

[How can we stop children vaping? - BBC News](#)

[Vapes | FRANK \(talktofrank.com\)](#)

[Vaping Resource \(uhs.org.uk\)](#)