

Our Ref: AMC/708.DLY

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Dear Families

In recent weeks national media has highlighted the increasing concern about young peoples' access to and use of vaping products. A number of our parents have already approached us asking for help for their children. In response to this, we want to give you resources and information, as well as alert you to possible consequences if a child engages in vaping on the school site.

Vaping is inhaling a vapour produced by an electronic vaporizer or e-cigarette. The vapour can contain nicotine and other substances. Vapes come in many different flavours and are sweet have names such as cinnamon roll, marshmallow, grape, strawberry, bubble-gum, lemonade and cookies. The flavours are designed to be appealing to children and the marketing often supports this. You may be familiar with vapes that emit a plume of smoke, this is not the case with many devices on the market now. Vaporizers or e-cigarettes come in all different shapes. Some look like a thick pen, a stylus for an iPad, a flash drive, or a small flask with a round chimney coming off the top. Some are disposable whilst others require a refill. The devices are very small and can easily be hidden on a person or blend in with normal backpack or pencil case items. Like cigarettes, it is a criminal offence to sell an age-restricted product to someone who is underage. Unfortunately, young people are finding access to such products is increasingly easy.

Students may not be aware of the harmful effects of vaping. Vaping is prohibited in the school Behaviour Policy, just as cigarettes are, and are treated just as seriously. If you have concerns that your child might be using the devices mentioned and would like to talk to anyone in school please contact your child's Head of Year in the first instance, where support can be discussed and advice offered.

Finally, to help you identify these devices I have included an advice sheet for parents to help you understand what these devices look like. Talk with your teen about e-cigarettes: A tip sheet for parents can be found at: https://e-cigarettes.surgeongeneral.gov/documents/SGR_ECig_ParentTipSheet_508.pdf

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

A McLellan

Andy McLellan
Assistant Headteacher