



Hazelwick School

An Academy

Headteacher: Ms A Fearon BA (Hons) MA NPQH

Chair of Governors: Mrs R Bowron

Dear Parent/Carer,

As a school, we continue to address all safeguarding issues with our whole school community, including staff, students and parents/carers. The use of e-cigarettes and vapes has increased enormously across society in the last 2 years and this use, and the associated risks, has subsequently arrived into schools both nationally and locally over the past 6 months.

As you are no doubt aware, it is illegal for vapes and associated vaping products to be sold to any person under the age of eighteen. It is also illegal for these products to be purchased for someone under the age of eighteen. For further information about the regulations, law and guidance around vaping, please see the Government website page link: [E-cigarettes and vaping: policy, regulation and guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/e-cigarettes-and-vaping-policy-regulation-and-guidance)

There have been a number of cases recently both locally and nationally of young people having very serious reactions to chemicals found in vapes. These reactions have required medical intervention and hospitalisation. There are also reports of THC (tetrahydrocannabinol), the active ingredient in cannabis, being present in vapes and causing significant health issues for young people. There are also concerns about addictive substances and addictive behaviours being linked to vapes and their use.

What we are doing

Having seen a significant increase of vape use in school, all students in Years 9-11 have been spoken to about the risks and legalities. The site is being searched regularly to find vapes and e-cigarettes that may be being hidden. Where there are reasonable justifiable concerns that a student may have a product on them, we are following our Behaviour Policy and the student's belongings are being searched. We have been very clear with students that, in order to keep our school community safe, we will strongly sanction any student that is found to be vaping in school and those in possession of vapes or associated paraphernalia. The sanction will normally be suspension from school.

What can you do?

If you believe or know that your child is using vapes, please speak to them about the legalities around vaping and the associated dangers. Whilst there is currently limited data, it is thought that there are also health and wellbeing implications associated with vaping. Please consider exploring this further with your child where appropriate. As vapes can be purchased online, it may also be worthwhile being aware of any online orders your child may make. We would be grateful if you would also reinforce the school's message and sanctions regarding vaping in school.

We appreciate that this news may cause concern for some parents/carers and students and we would like to stress that this is a very small minority of students that are involved in vaping. However, due to the prominence of this concern both locally and nationally, we wanted to ensure that the whole community was aware of the risks and the actions we can all take to support our students.

Many thanks in advance for your support with this matter,

Mr D Leadbitter Mr M Chalmers
Deputy Headteacher Deputy Headteacher