

Dear Parent/Carer

Electronic cigarettes/vapes

We have recently been made aware of an increase in the number of incidents in our school community where children and young people are vaping and bringing vapes into school. Whilst the number of incidents is small, the trend is rising and we would like to reinforce with our families the consequences of bringing vapes into school and also share with you some further information on vaping so that you can talk about this with your child.

What is vaping?

Vaping is the act of inhaling a vapour produced by an electronic vaporiser (vape) or e-cigarette. The vapour can contain nicotine and other substances. There have also been reports in other Local Authority areas of children and young people experimenting with THC (tetrahydrocannabinol) vaping. THC is the psychoactive compound in cannabis and is illegal in the United Kingdom.

We are aware that there have been reports of young people becoming unwell and needing medical attention after using vapes. Vapes can come in a variety of different forms, shapes, and sizes. These devices are usually very small and can be concealed on a person or blend in with school equipment, therefore they can be easily mistaken or missed. Like cigarettes, shops and other retailers cannot sell vaping items to people under the age of 18. This includes the sale of vaping equipment, including liquids and devices. It is also against the law to buy vapes on behalf of anyone under the age of 18. We are also aware that some young people are acquiring devices online or from older siblings, friends and other family members.

What is the school doing about this?

The rise in the use of vapes is not an issue specific to our school but unfortunately, a much wider problem. We are working very closely with our school colleagues at Campion, Myton, Aylesford and Southam College to educate our young people about the dangers of vaping. Parents and Carers of each school will be receiving this letter. We continue to remind students of the serious consequences of bringing a vape into school or vaping on school premises.

What can parents do?

- Know and understand the risks presented by electronic cigarettes and vapes. These risks are real and they need to be understood particularly as the availability of these products has grown significantly in a short period of time
- Talk to your child openly about these risks to ensure that they are well informed and have clear guidance that these products are to be avoided
- Get in touch with your GP if you require medical guidance regarding your child
- Get in touch with us and let us know if you have concerns

We recognise that some young people may be using vapes as an alternative to smoking cigarettes. They may also have succumbed to peer pressure or simply be curious and want to try vaping. I have shared a document produced by The National College for reference.

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring our school is a safe community for everyone.

Yours sincerely

Warwickshire Central Area Head Teachers