

21<sup>st</sup> November 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you are all well. Farlingaye High School, like many other schools, has seen a recent spike in incidents involving student vaping. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the issue, give you resources if you feel your child is involved in this kind of behaviour, as well as alert you to possible repercussions and sanctions if your child engages in vaping on school property. We take this issue very seriously due to the impact on other students around school, the negative health effects vaping can have on our students and often find that our parents are often not aware of the risks around vaping.


Vaping is the act of inhaling a vapor produced by an electronic vaporizer or e-cigarette. The vapor can contain nicotine and other substances which is concerning. The liquids that are vaporized come in many different flavours and might even smell fruity. For example, many of the flavours of these liquid concentrates, or 'vape juices', are sweet and even have names such as, cinnamon roll, marshmallow, grape, strawberry, bubble gum, lemonade and cookies.

Vaporizers/e-cigarettes come in all different shapes. Some common styles we see 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. The devices are very small and can easily be hidden on a person or blend in with normal backpack items or hidden elsewhere. Like cigarettes, shops cannot sell vaping items to people under the age of 18. However, students report that they purchase the devices online or buy from older siblings, friends, or other family members.

Unfortunately, we are seeing groups of students gathering in school toilets at lunchtimes, or sometimes even multiple students hiding in the same cubicle. This can then impact on students, especially from younger year groups not wanting to use the toilets at break/lunch. We are being proactive and visible in terms of visiting toilets, clearing students etc. and have clear sanctions in place. We also undertake bag searches when we find students engaged in the behaviours detailed above. As per my letter and assemblies regarding "Elite Behaviours" within our school community, we are asking all students to demonstrate these elite behaviours and ensure this doesn't happen and all members of our community are able to go to any toilet at break/lunchtimes without any concerns.

If a student is found with a vape or vaping, it is confiscated and the student will be placed in Internal Suspension until 4.25pm. We have spoken at length to the local police and they have asked us to dispose of any single use vapes. If the vape is refillable, we label the vape and at certain times throughout the year, the police have said they will come in and randomly test the liquid found within. If needed, the school and police would then follow up on anything found – at this stage they have only found flavoured vape refills.

Reports show that nicotine is addictive and can harm brain development, which continues until about age 25. We know that using nicotine may make it harder for school related tasks such as learning and concentration. Students may not be aware of the harmful effects of vaping. We hope you find this letter informative and understand our concerns about this potentially harmful issue. Our goal is to work with parents to help support our students in making positive decisions for themselves and their future.



We encourage you to have a conversation with your student(s) about this topic. Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards

J Lampard  
Assistant Headteacher