

Dear Parents /carers,

It has come to our attention that a number of pupils have bought vapes into school this week. They have been encouraging each other to bring them in and have then used them in the school toilets. Those involved have now been punished and parents informed. However, I am aware the problem may be more widespread. Many pupils have said that they have tried it whilst out with friends at the park.

Today we have held an assembly with Y8 and have talked through the health risks and potential harm that may be caused through vaping, particularly if they have underlying conditions such as asthma or allergies. Many of them were quite shocked by the information and the reality that we do not know what vapes contain or what effect it can have both short and long term.

Pupils have been reminded that it is against the law for under 18's to vape and it is also against the law to smoke or vape on school premises. It has been made very clear that any future breach of these rules will result in exclusions and potentially exclude them from future trips and rewards.

We have told pupils that if they want to discuss vaping or smoking with an adult then we can find further support for them and we also have access to the school nurse service which we can refer pupils to.

I have included a link to the assembly so you can look at the information yourself and I have also included a link to the NHS website that pupils can access if they want confidential advice.

<https://jamesbateman.staffs.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Vaping-and-E-Cigarettes.pdf>

This is not something we wish our pupils to be involved in and potentially be putting themselves at risk and we hope that by sharing this information you can reinforce this with your child.

If you wish to discuss this matter further then please do not hesitate to contact either myself or Mr Champ

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/quit-smoking/take-steps-now-to-stop-smoking>

Kind regards

Mrs T Price