

6th February 2023

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Principal: Lorraine Taylor

Dear Parents and Carers

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the issues around vaping amongst young people which is becoming a growing national trend, give you resources if you feel your child is involved in this kind of behaviour, as well as alert you to possible repercussions if your child engages in vaping on the Hartshill Academy site.

We take this issue very seriously due to the negative health effects vaping can have on pupils. We find that pupils are frequently not aware of the risks around vaping and parents may not recognise the signs, or the devices themselves. You may be familiar with vapes that emit a plume of smoke, this is not the case with many devices on the market now. There are some examples of different vapes below. Many are disguised as other common devices. Some can 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.



Vaping is the act of inhaling a vapour produced by an electronic vaporizer or e-cigarette. The vapour can contain nicotine and other substances which is concerning. The liquids that are vaporised 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. The flavours are designed to be appealing to young people and the marketing often supports this.

Like cigarettes, it is a criminal offence to sell an age-restricted product to someone who is underage. Where we become aware of premises selling vaping devices to anyone underage, we will report this to Trading Standards.

The Surgeon General reports 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. Pupils may not be aware of the harmful effects of vaping.

Vaping is prohibited in our Behaviour Policy, which aligns with the Home Academy Agreement that all pupils and parents/carers sign on arrival at the academy. Possession of items relating to vaping, or vaping on site will lead to severe sanctions, and interventions with pupils, as well as parents being informed, or even invited in for meetings. Items confiscated will be held on site until they can be collected by a parent or carer, since they are age-restricted; we will reiterate the legal requirement for children not to be in possession of them.

We hope you find this letter informative and understand our concerns about this potentially harmful issue that is growing amongst young people. We encourage you to have a conversation with your child about this topic.

Finally, I have also included the link below if you wish to know more.

[Quick facts on the risks of e-cigarettes](#)

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Lorraine Taylor

Principal