

Our ref: ljm/AAL/Correspondence

10 January 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Vaping

In recent months there has been increasing concern nationally over the numbers of young people vaping including in school. This has led to many schools making changes to how schools educate young people, appropriate policy and has seen the government making plans to change the laws to protect young people from the dangers that vaping creates.

At the City of Leicester College, we feel it is important to share with you the most recent information around vaping, especially affecting children, the protective measures we are putting in place to educate and support our students in school. We recognise the issue of vaping can be worrying for parents/carers and so we want you to feel well-informed and also confident in supporting your child to stay safe.

The Laws on Vaping

The law is changing on June 1st, 2025, to ban all disposable vapes in England. Whilst it is currently illegal for anyone under the age of 18 to buy a Vape in England, the government recognises that the attractive packaging and the fruity flavours are encouraging young people to vape and since the pandemic usage amongst teenagers has significantly increased. Furthermore, vape manufacturers often mask the health risks of these products and this adds to further risk for children. Vaping has many negative effects on a young person's health, such as causing breathing problems, lung injury as well as affecting organ development. Most vapes also contain nicotine which is highly addictive.

Vapes Containing Illegal Drugs

Through our partnership with the police, drug and alcohol agencies and neighbouring schools, we know that refillable vapes are being sold on the street that are laced with illegal and harmful cannabinoid substances known as THC (a form of cannabis) or Spice, and these are being targeted at young people, most concerningly young people may not always be aware of what they are vaping due to sharing vapes, a recent study in the summer of 2024 suggested that worryingly 1 in 6 confiscated vapes in schools contained traces of spice. These products often create harmful reactions and have been known to cause sickness, extreme anxiety, cardiac arrests and even loss of consciousness, among other symptoms.

Our Protective Measures

At TCOLC, the health and well-being of our students is of utmost importance to us. Therefore, we have strengthened our approach towards supporting and educating children around the dangers of vaping. However, your role in reinforcing these same messages at home is equally important.

In this past week, we have delivered assemblies on the risks and dangers of vaping to students, adapting the information we share and the strength of our message to ensure it is age appropriate. To further reassure parents, we actively teach students about the risks and dangers of vaping and drugs through our TCOLC Character and PSHE curriculum. For those students that require targeted support, we use our pastoral team and use agencies such as Turning Point.

In terms of sanctions for students vaping in school, we have taken this opportunity to remind students of our expectations: if a student is found to be vaping, in possession of a vape, or suspected of vaping – for example in a locked toilet cubicle with another student – then they may be searched, home will be contacted and a high level sanction will be issued. You can find out more information on our response to misbehaviour and searching and screening in our [Behaviour Policy](#).

Further Guidance

Finally, should you wish to find out more information about vaping and how to support your child, I have attached the following links which give more guidance: <https://www.talktofrank.com/>, https://digitalmedia.hhs.gov/tobacco/educator_hub/about/for_parents and <https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/publications/talking-your-child-about-vaping>. Our students also have access to a resource called The Hive, which they can access through their school Teams account, this contains a wide range of resources designed for students on aspects of health and personal development. Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

Amy Lidbury
Assistant Headteacher (Pastoral)