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27 March 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

In our ongoing commitment to ensure a safe learning environment for students and staff, I would like to draw your attention to an important matter concerning the prohibition of specific items on our school premises.

Schools in Leeds have been advised by West Yorkshire Police to send out the alarming information about the increase in vapes with illicit content that has resulted in children needing hospital care across Leeds and West Yorkshire. The vapes do not appear to have any signage to suggest there is illicit content, for example a picture of a vape titled "Purple Haze" was shared with schools but had no other distinguishable features.

Earlier this term we spoke with all year groups to remind them of the school's Behaviour Policy – particularly in relation to banned items including vapes. We informed students of the items which are prohibited in school, and the sanctions which may be applied for bringing these items into school. We also strongly advise students that, should anyone become aware of, or have concerns that, a student is in possession of a prohibited item in school (or on their way to and from school), it is everyone's responsibility to report this to a member of staff immediately.

Our Behaviour Policy is underpinned by our three principles of Be Kind, Try Your Best, Follow the Rules and our Safeguarding and Child Protection policy is underpinned by our desire to keep our students safe. We are exceptionally proud of our students and take our responsibilities to them very seriously. In line with this, we recognise the importance of reminding all students of the importance of being vigilant and reporting anything they may see as a concern.

In most cases the application of common sense will easily determine what should not be brought into school. However, the school Behaviour Policy (see attached), contains a list of prohibited items. This is not an exhaustive list.

Sanctions under the school Behaviour Policy may be applied to any student found in possession of any prohibited item or any item that the school deems to be unsuitable and dangerous. Possession of a banned item is a 'Level 5'. This is the highest level of sanction meaning a student can receive sanctions up to and including a suspension or permanent exclusion. In line with this policy, it is the school's legal right to search for and confiscate dangerous items. The school also reserves the right to inform West Yorkshire Police.

We value the power of working in partnership with parents/carers and I am sure given the information I am sharing with you from West Yorkshire Police raises our joint awareness of the dangers of vapes. There is a clear need to enforce significant sanctions for any students carrying a vape onto school site. Please take the time to read over the Behaviour Policy attached so that you can have informed conversations with your child about the information we have provided. Do not hesitate to contact school should you have any concerns or questions.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully



Mr D Mangan
Deputy Headteacher/Designated Safeguarding Lead

