



Stoke Damerel
Community College

Dear Parent / Carer(s)

Important information for ALL parents

Stoke Damerel Community College, like many other schools across the country, has seen a recent spike in incidents involving student vaping. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the issue, provide some facts and where you can get support, as well as alert you to possible repercussions if your child engages in vaping on school property. We take this issue very seriously due to the negative health effects vaping can have on our students and often find that our parents/carers may not be aware of the risks around vaping. The increase in vaping prompted us to do more research and we want to share our findings with you.

- **In the UK, the proportion of 11 to 18-year-olds who vape doubled between 2020 and 2022.** That figure has continued to rise – particularly with the frequent portrayals of vaping as cool and fashionable on social media platforms.
- The vapour can contain nicotine, which is highly addictive, and other substances which are 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, bubblegum, lemonade and cookies.
- Inhaling any substance is not risk-free
- 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.
- Like cigarettes, **stores 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 adults such as family members. **It is also an offence for anyone to purchase vapes for anyone under the age of 18.**
- Many young vapers simply aren’t aware of the habit’s potential pitfalls – but with risks including unregulated products, toxic ingredients and future nicotine addiction.
- There has been a rapid increase in our community for adding a substance that is thought to be THC liquid or other synthetic derivatives to vapes.
- THC oil is a thick, sticky yellow / brown liquid chemical from the cannabis plant.
- **THC is illegal in the UK**
- **Students can overdose on THC** very easily as it is inhaled causing them to become unwell and needing medical attention or hospitalisation - this could happen to your child!
- [Link to government website here](#)



Community College

Vaping is prohibited in our behaviour policy, and will be subject to sanctions.

Possessing, handling, providing and using a vape containing THC on our school site is a serious breach of our behaviour policy and a 'line in the sand' that the school and governors will not tolerate. **THC is an illegal substance that is not permitted on the school site.**

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 which we do through our PSHE programme and assemblies. We encourage you to have a conversation with your child about this topic, and to contact us if you are concerned about your child. If your child needs some support or wants to discuss this with someone in school, please direct them to the safeguarding team. If you require any support to stop your child from vaping there are many links on the internet, including [this one](#).

I hope that you can support us to educate young people in this serious health concern.

Kind regards

Anita Frier
Headteacher