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Headteacher: Mr J Shaw
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Wednesday, 12th November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Subject: Working Together: Community Safety Update

As part of our ongoing commitment to student safety, we wanted to update you on some community safety work being undertaken with partner agencies and share practical ways you can support your child's wellbeing.

We are particularly concerned about community safety and antisocial behaviour concerns that are **occurring outside of school, in and around Hull and the East Riding**, which could impact the wellbeing and safety of some of our students, particularly those in Years 9, 10 and 11.

What We're Doing

Like many schools, we work closely with external agencies, including Trading Standards and the police, to address issues that can affect young people. We're currently working with these partners on several matters, including:

- **The illegal sale of vaping products to minors:** it has been brought to our attention that certain local shops have been selling vaping products and illegal cigarettes to minors. This is against the law, and we have passed on our concerns to Trading Standards for investigation and action.
- **Inappropriate use of social media** platforms to target young people, such as using platforms like Snapchat to circulate contact details and target young users.
- There have been **reports of drug dealers using social media platforms**, like Snapchat, to circulate contact details and target young people to buy and sell drugs.
- **Antisocial behaviour in specific community areas**, which police and local councils are addressing. There have been reports of recurring antisocial behaviour, including large groups congregating, lighting fires, vaping, and drug use, particularly in the areas of Snuff Mill Lane and the Sports Pavilion (formerly known as William Gee).

We want to reassure you that these matters are being handled through the appropriate channels, and we're confident in our partnership approach. We encourage all members of our school and the local community to log any antisocial behaviours that they are aware of by calling 101. Logs of antisocial behaviour allow the local policing team to build a picture of which areas require more support.

You can also report concerns of illegal trading, such as selling prohibited items to minors, via this link: <https://www.hull.gov.uk/legal-advice/trading-standards>.

Education Action

In school, we cover these vital topics through a Personal, Social, Health, and Economic (PSHE) education curriculum. Drug education typically involves lessons on the risks of substance misuse, including alcohol and tobacco, often utilising factual information and facilitating class discussions.



Online safety (or e-safety) is integrated through computing and PSHE lessons, teaching students about privacy, cyberbullying, responsible social media use, and recognising online risks, such as grooming or misinformation. In some year groups, drop-down days are used to address key issues affecting our students and the local community, utilising experienced staff within the school and external agencies.

How You Can Help

As a school, we share safeguarding information weekly through the 'Safeguarding Savvy' section of our school bulletin. This includes emerging safeguarding issues affecting young people locally and nationally, with advice on how you can support your child. We encourage you to read our school bulletin every week.

Your support at home makes a real difference. We encourage you to:

Stay Connected

- Have regular, open conversations about where your child is going and who they're with, considering the appropriate use of location-sharing apps, ensuring you always know their location.
- Agree on clear expectations about when they should be home.
- Maintain regular contact with your child when they are not at school or home.

Support Healthy Choices

- Discuss the health risks associated with vaping, particularly unregulated products.
- Help your child understand how to make safe choices. Please see the attached link for further guidance on talking to your children about [vaping](#).
- Engage in honest discussions about the immediate and long-term dangers of vaping. Emphasise that the liquids used in illegal or illicit vapes are **unregulated and can contain dangerous, unknown substances** that pose severe health risks. We have included some further information for you on this subject at the end of this letter.

Stay Engaged Online

- Take an interest in your child's online activity.
- Consider your child's activity on their mobile phone, paying particular attention to group chats and social media platforms (especially Snapchat and WhatsApp), as criminal elements frequently exploit these platforms.
- Have conversations about staying safe on social media.
- Help them understand how to recognise and avoid inappropriate contacts or content.

Know the Signs

- Be aware of changes in behaviour, mood, or friendship groups.
- If your child regularly asks for money without a clear explanation, have a conversation about it.

- Trust your instincts: if something concerns you, explore it. These can be warning signs that they may be under pressure or involved in risky behaviour.

We're Here to Support

We are committed to providing a safe learning environment and will continue to work closely with the police and local agencies to tackle any concerns directly. If you have any information or concerns you wish to share confidentially, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Pastoral Team.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,



Mr Shaw
Headteacher
Kelvin Hall School

Talking to your child about vaping



Know your facts, start to talk....

It's good to talk and the more openly you can discuss vaping, the more likely your child will be able to come to you if, for example, their friends are pressuring them to try it or they've started vaping and want to give up.

It's a good idea to **know your facts**, and read about vaping so you can talk to your child about the risks in a balanced, informed way. There's no need to bombard them with info, just make sure you know what you're talking about.



Risks of vaping

Many young people who vape did not smoke cigarettes before they started vaping. But young people who vape are more likely to start smoking cigarettes than those who never vape.

- Vapes can contain nicotine and may quickly become harmfully addictive for young people.
- Nicotine addiction can affect young people's concentration and impact their ability to learn and study.
- Nicotine withdrawal can disrupt sleep and may cause headaches. It can also affect their mental health and mood.
- The long-term effects of vaping are still being researched. It's thought vapes can have a negative impact on the health of the heart and lungs, but at the moment there isn't enough evidence to assess this.
- Other harmful, illicit substances can be added to vapes such as Spice, Pine or THC. Sharing vapes could lead to young people inhaling these substances without realising.
- Disposable vapes have a negative impact on our environment due to their lithium batteries and hard to recycle components, and the increasing frequency in which these products are littered or thrown in the bin.

What to do if you think your child may be vaping

10 Top Tips

Spotting the signs

- Sweet smells like fruit or bubble-gum
- They're more moody, jittery or irritable than usual
- They're thirsty all the time
- They're coughing more than usual
- They're getting headaches
- You find a vape in their room or pocket
- Increased spending/requests for money

Tip #1: Stay calm

If you suspect or find out that your child has been vaping, you may well feel upset or angry. But try to stay calm when you talk to them about it, as shouting and accusing them never gets you anywhere. If you need to let off steam, try talking to a friend or family member first.

Tip #2: Don't panic

Many of the signs of vaping are also textbook signs that your child is growing up and as part of that process is experimenting with some behaviours and trying out some risks. So, don't put two and two together and make five.

Tip #3: Address the issue

If you find out that your child has been vaping it's important to address it and have a discussion with them.

Tip #4: Pick your moment

Pick a good moment when you've time for a proper discussion. For example, if you've just found vapes in their room, wait until you've calmed down before talking to them.

Tip #5: Look for 'teachable moments'

If a story about vaping comes up in the news or a programme you watch, or you walk past a vape shop, you could ask them what they think. Then make sure to listen to what they have to say and talk about it calmly and openly. Giving your child a lecture is unlikely to get you anywhere!

Tip #6: Plan what to say

Knowing the facts and sticking to your script could stop the conversation turning into an argument.

Tip #7: Try to stay positive

Try not to blame your child or to talk about worst case scenarios. Instead, focus on how you can support them.

Tip #8: Focus on their behaviour

It may help to talk about how your child is behaving rather than focusing on vaping. If they've been irritable or tired you could start by saying you've noticed this and then ask if there's anything they'd like to talk about.

Tip #9: Listen to what they have to say

Encourage your child to talk about why they feel the urge to vape. Understanding this could help you to support them. For example, if they say it helps them feel less stressed, you could help them find other ways to calm down. If they feel pressured into it, you could help them find ways to say no.

Tip #10: Put yourself in their shoes

Growing up is hard, and young people are under a lot of different pressures. Try to remember what it was like when you were a teenager and show that you're on their side and want to help them, not have a go at them.

For further information
on vaping please go to
www.pha.site/vaping



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Find us on:

