



## Wath Academy

07 February 2023

Dear Parents / Carers,

Following recent communications with the Police regarding concerning activity in the local community around vaping we are writing to parents to raise awareness of this issue.

In recent years there has been rise in under 18s vaping nationally. There are significant risks associated with vaping including; Asthma, lung disease and scarring, damage to organs, EVALI and potential further addictions. Young people are able to buy e-cigarettes or vape pens easily and we are aware that some people in the Dearne and Wath area are selling these products both over Snapchat and in local parks to young students.

More recently young people across the country are mixing vape liquid with Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) which is a psychoactive compound found in marijuana. This is a significant concern and in some cases is having adverse effects on those using it.

Worryingly there is a developing trend in the area where young people are buying e-cigarettes without knowing what liquid has been put in them. We are aware of instances of young people in the area have been very ill and in some cases hospitalised as a result of smoking a vape.

We have recently delivered assemblies to KS4 year groups and will be doing the same with other year groups over the coming weeks. We would urge parents/carers to speak to their children about the risks associated with vaping but also the dangers of smoking a vape without knowing the content. We feel it is essential parents are aware that young people are being contacted on social media by strangers offering to sell them products which they cannot legally buy. In particular Snapchat is being used by sellers to contact students under a 'buy and block' agreement where once a student has bought a product they block each other so the buyer cannot be traced.

For the reasons above and for the safety of all students we take bringing any form of e-cigarette onto the academy site as a very serious offence. Students doing so will be sanctioned accordingly.

If you have any concerns regarding your child using vapes please contact their Pastoral Year Leader.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mr Ransome  
**Principal**