



**Bexley Grammar School**  
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Dear Parent / Carer,

I'm sure you're aware of the problematic issue of young people vaping, something that we flagged in our school newsletter some time ago. Unfortunately, the concern has only grown in schools across this and neighbouring boroughs and I write to update you with the school's position.

A recent communication from the Metropolitan Safer Schools Team pointed out the following facts, which I would encourage you to discuss with your children:

- The legal age for vaping or smoking cigarettes is 18
- It is an offence to sell a vape to a child under 18
- There are many unregulated products being brought into London and sold to children
- Evidence suggests that some of these vapes may contain high levels of addictive drugs such as 'spice' or THC, the psychoactive chemical found in cannabis
- The majority of regulated vapes contain high levels of nicotine, increasing the likelihood of user dependency
- The long-term health effects of vaping are very much unknown

As a school, our view is that bringing a vape or vaping materials into school is prohibited, regardless of age, in the same way that bringing alcohol or tobacco would be. Students found to be carrying these materials, or vaping in school, will be sanctioned (the length and type of which is at the discretion of the school depending upon the circumstances of the behaviour).

The school has recently been using sensory equipment to detect vape usage and we have found this to be extremely effective. I hope, however, that our students are mature and sensible enough to avoid making the mistake of vaping when under 18 at all, regardless of whether it is on school premises (particularly salient to those who are over 18).

If you have concerns that your child may be vaping or would like more information about vaping please see this link [Vaping | Childline](#).

Thank you in advance for your support in keeping our young people and school community safe.

Yours sincerely,

H J Gilmore  
Headteacher