



Dear Parent / Guardian,

Information regarding e-cigarettes / vaping

We want to bring to your attention the worrying trend amongst a few peoples in school. We are taking this issue very seriously due to the negative health effects vaping can have and the negative affect it can have on a pupil's learning. This letter aims to:

- Inform you of the issue;
- Give you access to information and resources;
- Alert you to the consequences if your child vaping on school property

What is vaping?

Vaping is the act of inhaling a vapour produced by an e cigarette or electronic vaporiser (vape). The vapour that is inhaled usually contain nicotine, which is highly addictive, and many other chemicals which are potentially harmful. Some vapes even contain cannabis oil! The liquids that are inhaled are often flavoured and can even smell fruity. Some vapes are marketed with sweet like names and come in attractive colours.

Health concerns

The aerosol from e-cigarettes can be damaging to a person's health, particularly the developing bodies of adolescents. It can contain harmful chemicals, including nicotine; ultrafine particles that can be inhaled deep into the lungs; flavourings such as diacetyl, a chemical linked to lung disease; volatile organic compounds such as Benzene which is also found in car exhaust fumes and heavy metals such as nickel, tin and lead which can build up to toxic levels in the body over time.

There has been a significant increase in underage vaping over the last couple of years. Vaping is illegal to under 18's. Research shows that the adolescent brain is far more susceptible to addictive substances and this ultimately leads to an unnecessary and potentially harmful distraction from the child's learning.

Our first and foremost concern is pupil health and safety. Pupils who are using these devices are inhaling nicotine and other harmful chemicals thinking it is safe. Pupils purchasing and using these vapes, particularly those from the internet, risk inhaling higher levels of nicotine than cigarettes. Nicotine is addictive and can harm brain development in adolescents. There is also the risk of other illegal substances and even more dangerous substances in some of these vapes.

HEADTEACHER:

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How the school has responded,

There has been a significant amount of publicity about the concerns with underage vaping. At Ysgol Cwm Brombil we have installed vape alarms as a deterrent in toilets around the school. These allow us to identify pupils that are vaping and impose consequences as well as provide support for what is, essentially, an addiction to nicotine.

Consequences for a child found vaping on school site and / or bringing a vape onto the school site.

Smoking (including the smoking of e-cigarettes / vapes) is against the law for young people under the age of 18, and, as our policy states, smoking is prohibited throughout the school premises. This includes school buses.

Pupils caught vaping will receive an afterschool detention in the first instance, an internal exclusion if they are caught a second time and a third time will result in an external exclusion from school.

The e-cigarette / vape will be confiscated and the child's parent / carer informed. The parent / carer may collect the e-cigarette / vape in the following week. Under no circumstance will they be returned to the child themselves. If the e-cigarette / vape is not collected within a week it will be safely disposed of.

Further information.

https://e-cigarettes.surgeongeneral.gov/documents/SGR_ECig_ParentTipSheet_508.pdf

<https://www.totallywicked-liquid.co.uk/vaped/a-parents-guide-to-vaping/>

<https://www.bhf.org.uk/information-support/heart-matters-magazine/news/e-cigarettes>

<https://www.cancerresearchuk.org/about-cancer/causes-of-cancer/smoking-and-cancer/is-vaping-harmful>

We appreciate your support on this matter

Yours faithfully,

Mr E Thomas.
(Deputy Headteacher)

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