

Ref: DKI/CLO

24th January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you may be aware, on Thursday 18th January, we held a 'Personal Development Day' designed around the theme of 'Healthy Minds, Healthy Bodies and Healthy Relationships.' A critical part of our work in the academy is to support students to make sensible choices by informing them of the dangers that they could face outside of the safety of their homes and our academy.

Unfortunately, there have been some concerning reports from other schools in the Barnsley area, from the police and from the local authority's youth support services, about vapes that are being sold illegally to teenagers that contain dangerous substances. In some cases, this has led to the hospitalisation of children who have collapsed at home and inside of school buildings. This has not happened in our academy, and we will continue to be vigilant, to search students suspected of carrying vapes and confiscate any that we find.

As a result of these reports, we chose to place a great deal of focus on the topic of vaping and substance misuse during our personal development day. In these sessions, our students were given the facts about vaping and informed of the dangers involved. As always, our students were highly engaged in this and have responded maturely. However, we know that the issue of vaping remains a serious concern and kindly ask that all parents remain vigilant and have conversations about this with your children at home.

To support with these conversations, I have attached with this letter a short presentation with some facts about vaping on that you may wish to use. The most poignant messages are also listed below:

- It is illegal to sell vapes to anyone under the age of 18 in the UK.
- The short-term health effects of vaping are coughing, headaches, dizziness, and sore throats.
- The long-term effects of vaping are unknown

We hope that you can appreciate that we share the same concerns with yourselves about the safety and wellbeing of your children. If any has any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us via info@dartonacademy.org.uk

Your faithfully,

Mr D Kilner

Assistant Principal