

30<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Dear Parent/Guardian

## Vapes and Snus

Schools across the country are seeing a significant increase in the use of vapes and nicotine products. This trend mirrors the social problem we are facing, with more young people than ever trying these products, and the Brymore community is no different.

I am writing to you to share my concern about the increasing use of these products, specifically vapes and snus, within our school community. This issue, and its consequences, have occupied a substantial proportion of the school leadership team's time in the last few months. We are aware, through re-entry meetings following a significant number of suspensions, that a proportion of these products are being made available to boys at school through various means, and that a number of boys that have been caught in possession of these items are holding/storing them for their friends and peers.

As a school, we will maintain our strict and consistent line on dealing with these products if students are found using, or in possession of these items on the school site or whilst representing the school. As Headteacher, an important part of my duty is to keep students safe. I am not willing to ignore or pretend that we are immune to this issue - that would be an easy option, but your son/s deserve our full efforts to tackle this issue. Students will continue to be informed that possession, the use of these items, dealing, the holding and storing of these vapes, or the asking of others to hold and store these items will result in suspension. In addition to this we will also:

- Continue to provide education around the dangers of the use of these products through PSHRE lessons, tutor time, personal development and assemblies
- Work with individual students and families to support and signpost to external agencies for help
- Increase CCTV coverage around the site and monitoring by staff
- Introduction of detectors in line with our searching/screening policy

All of this information has been shared with the boys in assembly this week. I have also asked **ALL** students to clear their lockers by the end of Friday to allow us to sweep the school site, check for any of these prohibited items being stored on the school site and then remove and dispose of them. This should ensure that the site is clear and provide us with the knowledge that anything found from next week onwards has been intentionally brought into our community. Staff will support this process with an extended tutor time and during Friday Activities. An amnesty will take place on Friday afternoon, where students will be allowed to hand in any prohibited items found within their lockers with no action taken against them. Any items found on site next week and beyond will be dealt with as set out above. We are aiming to reallocate some lockers so that they are arranged by year group, but in the first instance, the majority of students will return to their allocated locker on Monday morning. I would ask all families to support us by checking your son/s bags over the weekend and remove any prohibited items that may be found within it, as well as encouraging conversations where this might be the case. Please also ensure that boys are prepared for next week by only bringing items into school to support their learning, as well as ensuring that all boys have appropriate keys/padlocks for their individual locker. Again, this will be supervised during Monday morning tutor time.

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I know that all families believe and respect the Brymore school values and ethos, and that you all want our school to be a safe environment that allows everyone to achieve their very best. I have been delighted with the support of families since I joined and would ask that you all support us by reiterating these messages to your son/s. Together, we can ensure a safer environment for your son to learn in free from peer and social pressures.

I hope that the links below are helpful to families in re-iterating these messages.

[Vapes | FRANK](#)

[Vaping: A guide for young people and parents | Catch22](#)

[Advice for parents worried about a child or teenager vaping](#)

Thank you once again for your support in this matter. If you wish to contact the school to discuss any concerns, worries or questions that might arise please use the safeguarding email in the first instance.

[safeguarding@brymoreacademy.co.uk](mailto:safeguarding@brymoreacademy.co.uk)

Yours faithfully



Stefan McHale  
Headteacher