

25th February 2022

Behaviour Policy – Vaping and Gummies

Dear Parents / Carers

I am writing to inform you and seek your support with an issue that is affecting all schools and colleges nationally regarding the easy access to recreational drugs. These include vaping and "Gummy Bears - Gummies" both of which contains tetrahydrocannabinol (THC).

It is disturbing that vaping, a supposedly safer alternative designed as a means of supporting the process of quitting smoking, has become, at best an activity, and at worst an introduction to more harmful habits. Needless to say, unreputable suppliers are selling vapes where not all the ingredients are listed, and for some young people, this can affect them in many different ways, such as allergies or physical side effects. In addition, we have more recently become aware of "Gummies" which are a flavoured sweet easily purchased online but with some very serious and sometimes catastrophic side effects.

Unfortunately, a very small group learners have been exposed to a vape and a "Gummies" incident at college. For the avoidance of doubt, vaping is specifically prohibited at the college and this is stated in our Behaviour Policy and carries a serious sanction, such as a Fixed Term Suspension. We will be speaking with all our learners during their next learning for life lessons about these issues and providing them with guidance.

It is always helpful if these messages are reinforced at home, so please talk to your daughter/son about vaping and the dangers of THC Gummies and vaping, including the ramifications to their education. Please impress on them the importance of understanding the right time and place for everything. We do not want more learners to be excluded, nor do we want to have to take measures, such as locking toilets, which only upset and inconvenience the vast majority of learners who follow the rules.

Thank you in anticipation of your support.

Yours sincerely

Geoffrey Fowler CEO and Principal