

A new risk to young people...

It has come to our attention that some young people across the UK have started to use a product called snus. The reason that it is coming to the attention of schools is that young people (as well as adults) are experiencing unpleasant short term side effects that include vomiting, headaches, racing heart and dizziness. However, there are significant long term health impacts too.

It is a form of pouch that is placed between the top lip and your gums that contains nicotine and a range of other chemical stimulants.



It has short and long term health impacts...

What is snus?

Snus is a banned substance across the EU, Australia and New Zealand amongst others. It is also banned in the UK because snus as a brand contains tobacco and these are banned. The original Snus is a Swedish tobacco product. It became popular with professional footballers but problems are now emerging with its use:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/football/66849376>



The concept has recently been developed by other companies without tobacco, making their sale legal, but which contain a range of other chemicals and stimulants including nicotine.

We already know of students in school who have been unwell following the use of these products and one student described the experience as "like putting a bag of fire under my lip - it felt like it was going to dissolve my teeth and gums."

Any snus-like product in the possession of a student will be handled in the same way as vapes or cigarettes and will result in a period of suspension.

False eyelashes and make-up

We have experienced greater numbers of girls coming to school wearing false eyelashes. These are not allowed in our uniform policy (neither are make-up, filled-in eyebrows etc.)

This message is to inform you that we will be take a firm line with make-up and false eyelashes so that you have time to address any issues. From next week (Monday 25th March) if any student is wearing false lashes, they will be instructed to remove them. If the young person is not able to remove them, parents will be called to collect their child from school to get the eyelashes removed.

If false eyelashes cannot be removed by the student, parents will be called to collect their child to have eyelashes removed.



The high standards of behaviour and presentation are one of the reasons that you will have chosen Balshaw's for your child and I know that you will support the school in upholding its standards and maintaining the policies that you have agreed to support in sending your child to Balshaw's.